



# 2025 ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

## STUDENT AFFAIRS CONCENTRATION (HISA)

We offer graduate preparation programs for those seeking advanced training to work in student affairs and higher education environments, as well as researchers seeking to study higher education and students. We seek to advance justice and equity for all students in our work.

### Master's Program

The master's program offers a thesis and non-thesis option; this is a 40 credit program (average completion is 2 years). Unique features include the Counseling/ Intergroup Dialogue Practicum and the Seminar Paper (M.Ed.) or Thesis (M.A.).

### Ph.D. Program

The doctoral program is approximately a 66 credit program (average full time student completion is 4-5 years). Unique features include training in research, methods, and opportunities to engage in research with faculty.

## ADMISSION CRITERIA

We seek purposeful well-balanced professionals who are serious scholars and committed practitioners. Master's students ordinarily have a 3.0 or higher GPA, strong references, research interests, and goals that fit the program's focus. Doctoral students have a high Master's GPA, focused research interests, successful experience in practice, and a compelling vision of their scholarly interests. We also seek students who demonstrate a commitment to diversity, equity, and justice in higher education.

- Use your personal statement to show us more than your résumé. We appreciate reflection on meaningful personal or professional/academic experiences (something that expanded your intellectual curiosity or has informed the person you are today, including social identities such as race, class, gender, or sexual orientation, to name a few). Master's personal statements should be 3-4 pages double spaced, and Ph.D. statements should be 4-5 pages.
- Doctoral students are expected to have a Master's degree in student affairs, higher education, counseling, or a closely related field.
- When submitting references, Master's and Ph.D. applicants should include at least two recommendations from professors or faculty members who can attest to their potential for graduate level education.
- Master's students are expected to register for classes full-time. We accept both full-time and part-time Ph.D. applicants.
- GRE is NOT required.

## KEY FEATURES OF OUR STUDENT EXPERIENCE

- Teach undergraduate and/or co-teach graduate courses
- Engage in internship at one of the 30+ colleges in the local area or at the University of Maryland
- Work in higher education professional offices with significant responsibilities
- Experience national professional association headquarters in Washington, D.C.
- Network in a strong national community of graduates and friends on the campus and across the U.S.
- Conduct original research



## IMPORTANT DATES

December 3, 2024  
Deadline to apply for Fall 2025  
admission

February 2025  
Admission decisions are made by the  
middle of February

Preview Days for admitted students  
will take place early March  
2025

## PLANNING A VISIT

If you are interested in a virtual visit,  
please send an email message to our  
program graduate assistant at [SAGrad-GA@umd.edu](mailto:SAGrad-GA@umd.edu).

Admitted students will be invited to  
visit campus for Preview Days.

## ASSISTANTSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS

Admitted students are invited to the Preview Program. Employers review résumés, students review job descriptions, and both send in preference lists. Interviews are scheduled. Over 50 assistantships were posted in the 2024 session—please do not apply for assistantships prior to notification of admission.

- 12-month assistantship remuneration is a minimum of \$35,074 plus tuition remission and health benefits.
- 9 and 9.5-month assistantships are also available with varying packages

Some Ph.D. admitted students may be recommended for fellowships by the faculty. If admitted, it is your decision whether to enroll full-time or part-time; we encourage you to be full-time if you can manage it. Check the web page for more general information on assistantships.

## OUR CONNECTION TO THE UMD HIGHER EDUCATION CONCENTRATION

The Student Affairs (HISA) and Higher Education (HIED) concentrations work collaboratively toward joint research opportunities and course offerings. Be sure you explore the Higher Education concentration if that is of interest to you. Higher Education and Student Affairs are part of the same program (Higher Education, Student Affairs, & International Education Policy program) but each concentration requires separate applications.

## OUR DRIVING PRINCIPLES

### EQUITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL STUDENTS

□ We seek to advance equity and justice for all students. The inequality that influences how students get to college does not end when they enroll. As a community, we seek to fight for more equitable and just higher education institutions and environments.

### UNDERSTANDING WHAT IS, PUSHING FOR WHAT COULD BE

□ Through our curriculum, we work together to understand the complexity, challenges, and inequities that are endemic throughout student affairs and higher education. We do not stop at “what’s wrong”. We encourage one another to envision how the world could be different, and push for change where it is needed.

### BIG IDEAS, REAL ISSUES

□ We are a rigorous program, driven by research and scholarship. We are committed to generating new knowledge through inquiry, and sharing that knowledge to advance policy and practice. Many of us are involved in policy discussions in Washington DC and beyond, and we are committed to taking our research out into the real world to advance equity.