We are a graduate preparation program for those seeking advanced training to work in students 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 or Thesis Option.

**Doctoral 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.

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

- Use your personal statement to show us more than your resume. We appreciate reflection on meaningful personal or professional/academic experiences (something that made you think or has made you who you are), social identities such as race, class, gender, or sexual orientation, etc. Masters personal statements should be 3-4 pages double spaced, Ph.D. 4-5.
- 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 doctoral applicants should include at least two recommendations from professors or faculty members who can attest to their potential for graduate level education.
- Masters students are expected to be full-time. We accept both full-time and part-time Ph.D. applicants.

**Key Features of our Student Experience**

- Teach undergraduate and/or graduate courses
- Engage in internship in one of the 30+ colleges in the local area or at the University of Maryland
- Work in 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
- Conduct original research

**Important Dates**
- November 1, 2019
  - Last day to take GRE to ensure timely receipt of scores
- December 3, 2019
  - Deadline to apply for Fall 2020 admission (including both the main application and the ASF)
- February 2020
  - Admission decisions are made by the middle of February
- Spring 2020 (Date TBA)
  - Preview Days for admitted students

**Coming to Visit?**

If you are coming to campus and would like to visit, please send an email message to our program graduate assistant at SAGrad-GA@umd.edu. They will assist you in meeting with one of our current students and a faculty member regarding their availability to visit with you.
Application Process
Applying to Maryland in four easy steps!

1. Submit an online application at: [http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/application](http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/application)

Instructions for the Graduate School application: Under the “Educational Intent” tab select “Education: HESI: Student Affairs—HISA.” In general, our codes are CHSE (department), HESI (program level), and HISA (area of specialization/concentration).

2. In addition to the other supplemental materials requested as part of the application (letters of recommendation, statement of goals/experiences, etc.), please upload your resume. A writing sample is not required.

3. Send transcripts and the $75 non-refundable application fee (if paying by check only), to:
   
   Enrollment Services Office (ESO)—Graduate Admissions
   0130 Mitchell Building
   University of Maryland
   College Park, Maryland 20742

4. For questions, notify the graduate assistant at SAGrad-GA@umd.edu

*We encourage you to keep copies of all application materials in case there is any difficulty with the materials being received and scanned.

All applications are individually reviewed. A semi-finalist group of doctoral applicants are offered a phone interview. (There is no interview for the master’s application.)

Checking Application Status
After you submit all of your materials to the ESO-Graduate Admissions Office, the University will give you a login ID. Once you receive this ID, you can check the status of your application online by logging in at [https://apra.umd.edu](https://apra.umd.edu). Please be aware that all application materials must be manually entered into the University’s system. As such, you should wait for a few days after submitting your application before checking your status online.

Questions ???
Contact our Graduate Assistant at SAGrad-GA@umd.edu.

Assistantships / Fellowships

Admitted students are invited to the Preview Program. Employers review resumes, students review job descriptions, and both send in preference lists. Interviews are scheduled. Over 60 assistantships were posted this year—you do not need to apply for assistantships prior to notification of admission. Twelve-month assistantship remuneration ranges from $18,200 to $20,000 plus tuition remission and health benefits. Ten-month assistantships are also available. Some doctoral students may be recommended for fellowships. 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 webpage for more general information on assistantships.

Our Connection to the Higher Education Concentration at Maryland

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

Want info on other grad programs? Check out various Student Affairs or Higher Education programs:
- ACPA: [www.myacpa.org/car/car_gradprog.cfm](http://www.myacpa.org/car/car_gradprog.cfm)
- NASPA: [www.naspa.org](http://www.naspa.org)
- ASHE: [www.ashe.ws](http://www.ashe.ws)

Testudo, Maryland’s mascot, is a diamondback terrapin. Graduate students are able to get tickets to all sports events at Maryland. Go Terps!
What We’re All About: 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 help students to understand the complexity, challenges, and inequities that are endemic throughout students affairs and higher education. We don’t stop at “what’s wrong”: We encourage our students to envision how the world could be different, and push for change where it’s 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.

Thank you for your interest!
We often have virtual info sessions in the fall, email sagrad-ga@umd.edu for more information

Application Deadline: December 3, 2019

University of Maryland Student Affairs Concentration
3214 Benjamin Building
College Park, MD 20742
SAGrad-GA@umd.edu
http://ter.ps/CSA

Thanks for your patience as we respond to your email!