

2021 Admissions Information

STUDENT AFFAIRS CONCENTRATION (HISA)

We offer graduate preparation programs 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 (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.



Important Dates

NEW: GRE is NOT REQUIRED for the Master's and PhD programs



December 3, 2020

Deadline to apply for Fall 2021 admission

February 2021

Admission decisions are made by the middle of February

February 21-23, 2021

Preview Days for admitted students

Planning to Visit?

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, we are offering on-line visits with faculty and current students.

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

Basic Admissions 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 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, 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.

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

Application Process

Applying to Maryland in four easy steps!

- 1 Submit an on-line application at: <http://gradapply.umd.edu>

Under the "Educational Intent" tab select Education--HESI--HISA (the Student Affairs code)

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 résumé. 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 our 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 on-line by logging in at <http://gradapply.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 on-line.

Questions ???

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

Visit our website:
<https://go.umd.edu/HESI-StudentAffairs>

GRE Information

Starting Fall 2020, GRE scores are no longer required for both the Master's and Ph.D. programs.

Testudo, Maryland's mascot, is a diamondback terrapin. Graduate students are able to get tickets to all sports events at Maryland. **Go Terps!**



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 60 assistantships were posted in the 2020 session—you do not need to apply for assistantships prior to notifications of admission.

- ❖ 12-month assistantship remuneration ranges from \$18,000-\$20,000 plus tuition remission and health benefits.
- ❖ 10-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.

Want info on other programs?

Check out various Student Affairs or Higher Education programs:

- ❖ ACPA: <http://gradprograms.myacpa.org/>
- ❖ NASPA: <https://naspa.org/careers/graduate-program-directory>
- ❖

University of Maryland Student Affairs Concentration (HISA) ★ 3214 Benjamin Building ★ College Park, MD 20737

Email: SAGrad-GA@umd.edu ★ Website: <https://go.umd.edu/HESI-StudentAffairs>

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.



Thank you for your interest!

We will have virtual info sessions in the fall.

Please check out our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/UMDSAC) or our website for more information.

**Application Deadline:
December 3, 2020**

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Thanks for your patience as we respond to your email!



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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION