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.

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<tr>
<th>Master’s Program</th>
<th>Ph.D. Program</th>
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<td>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.).</td>
<td>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.</td>
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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
- Experience national professional association headquarters in Washington, D.C.
- Engage in internship at one of the 30+ colleges in the local area or at the University of Maryland
- Network in a strong national community of graduates and friends on the campus and across the U.S.
- Work in higher education professional offices with significant responsibilities
- Conduct original research

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.
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

   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.)

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.

Questions ???
Contact our Graduate Assistant at SAGrad-GA@umd.edu.
Visit our website: https://go.umd.edu/HESI-StudentAffairs

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.mycapa.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!