

Certificate, Masters and Ph.D. in

# HIGHER EDUCATION AND STUDENT AFFAIRS



**HOUSED IN A COLLEGE  
CONSISTENTLY  
RANKED FOR BEST  
GRADUATE PROGRAMS  
IN EDUCATION.**

 Ranked by U.S. News and World Report

## TRANSFORM *HIGHER EDUCATION*

Western Michigan University's Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA) programs prepares you with critical skills to lead in both higher education and higher education-adjacent career paths. Built around a theory to practice approach and intentionally designed as a cohort-driven model of learning, the program will equip students with knowledge, skills, and experiences toward excellence in a variety of fields connections with secondary education and beyond.

**Individualized, cohort-based experience:** Enter a supportive, cohort-style program where faculty know you by name and are invested in your success.

**Professional growth and engagement:** Gain practical experience through internships at public, private, and community colleges.

## PROGRAM FORMATS

### **In-Person, WMU Main Campus**

The In-person format is a cohort model in which students seeking GA positions or who are otherwise interested in a more "traditional" learning environment apply and attend this program. Completion of the 33 credit hour program over a 20 month period.

### **Online, Asynchronous and Synchronous**

**New!** The online format is a cohort model designed for working professionals who are seeking to obtain a degree in higher education and student affairs and who otherwise might be limited by in-person requirements. The program includes two "residencies" of one week during the 20 month program. Starting with a Summer II course, the program is structured around a two course per semester load.

## QUESTIONS?

For more information **scan the QR code**, visit our website at [wmich.edu/leadership/higher-ed](http://wmich.edu/leadership/higher-ed) or contact the Program Coordinator, Dr. Cody Nielsen at [cody.nielsen@wmich.edu](mailto:cody.nielsen@wmich.edu).



# PROGRAM OPTIONS

## Graduate Certificate Program in Student Affairs in Higher Education

The Graduate Certificate is designed to enhance the work of current professionals in Student Affairs and related positions by providing the theoretical and academic knowledge associated with the field. Applicants to this certificate program must be employed full-time in higher education, or be enrolled in another graduate program and demonstrate commitment to, and experiences, within higher education.

## Master of Arts in Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership

The Master of Arts in Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership is designed to prepare students to be reflective practitioners for entry and mid-level positions in student affairs and other related administrative positions in higher education. This can include positions in admissions, academic advising, residence life, student activities, financial aid, career services, and offices designed to support and retain historically underserved student populations.

The program emphasizes a scholar-practitioner model to combine a broad-based student development and leadership theory core with required individualized field experiences. Distinctive to HESA is an emphasis on the centrality of diversity and inclusiveness in higher education: one of the ways this is actualized is through a required and individually designed Diversity Cognate. 33 credit hours are required for this program.

## Doctoral Program in Higher Education Leadership

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Higher Education Leadership is targeted toward professionals working in the postsecondary education settings. Key program goals include preparing individuals to become transformational leaders, ready to help educational or other institutions to address current challenges, including the need to better educate students who have historically not been well served by traditional learning institutions. In addition, graduates will expand their inquiry and research skills, enabling them to add to the knowledge base concerning education, especially as it relates to the growing challenges facing all educational institutions.

# WHY CHOOSE WMU?

### Forge Lasting Connections

Join a supportive, cohort-based community that provides a deeply individualized experience within the powerhouse environment of a premier research university. This collaborative setting ensures you move through the program with a dedicated network of peers who provide mutual support and diverse perspectives throughout your graduate journey.

### Bridge Theory and Practice

Network with senior administrators while completing impactful internships at local public, private, and community colleges. These immersive experiences allow you to apply classroom concepts to real-world challenges while building a robust professional network before you graduate.

### Engage in High-Level Scholarship

Build your professional reputation by collaborating on faculty research, co-teaching undergraduate courses, or presenting your original work at major conferences. These scholarly pursuits establish you as a thought leader in the field and provide a competitive edge for advanced leadership roles or doctoral studies.

### Fuel Your Ambitions

Take advantage of dedicated funding sources specifically designed to offset the costs of your research and professional conference attendance. These resources ensure that financial barriers don't stand in the way of your professional contributions and scholarly growth.



**"I SAW A VERY CLEAR PATHWAY AT WMU TO HELP MAKE EDUCATION MORE ACCESSIBLE FOR UNDERREPRESENTED POPULATIONS."**

■ Jonathan Pulley, alumni



## JOIN A LEGACY OF EDUCATORS.

At WMU, you won't just study the evolving landscape of college campuses because yours will be the voice that reshapes them. Graduates emerge as scholar-practitioners and leaders driving meaningful transformation and student success.

[wmich.edu/leadership/higher-ed](https://wmich.edu/leadership/higher-ed)

