



WESTERN  
ILLINOIS  
UNIVERSITY

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN COLLEGE STUDENT PERSONNEL

*Higher Values in Higher Education*  
Academic Excellence • Educational Opportunity  
Personal Growth • Social Responsibility

*In the College Student Personnel program, student learning and leadership development are paramount. Growth is facilitated through student, faculty, and student affairs professional partnerships in the classroom and in practical experiences in the field of student affairs as a full-time professional or through assistantships, practica, and summer internships. The values of theory-to-practice, ethical action, self-authorship, social justice, and transformative learning provide the framework for the curricula and the exploration of student learning and leadership development.*



**Program Location:** Macomb, Quad Cities

## Program Distinctions

- Established in 1970, the program has graduated almost 900 alumni.
- A two-year Master of Science program that meets requirements of the Council for the Advancement of Standards, the most comprehensive and rigorous preparation program standards established specifically for student affairs work.
- A holistic educational approach emphasizing the *ACPA/NASPA Professional Competency Areas for Student Affairs Practitioners* in the classroom and practical experiences.
- 100% of graduates who choose to work in student affairs are typically able to secure positions within three months of graduation.
- Two tracks within the College Student Personnel (CSP) program offers educational opportunities for both emerging professionals and experienced professionals.
- The CSP program has a theory-to-practice orientation that includes coursework in the following areas:
  - Student development theory
  - Leadership development
  - Group dynamics
  - Philosophy and history of higher education
  - Organization and administration of student affairs
  - Multicultural competency
  - Counseling theory and techniques
  - Research methods

All of this preparation is aimed at helping you develop and grow as a leader and reflective practitioner performing socially responsible practice as a student affairs professional. Our graduates are prepared to begin and advance their student affairs careers in a variety of student settings, including residence life, student activities, Greek affairs, admissions and student recruitment, academic advising, orientation, multicultural student programs, study abroad, student retention, gender programming, career development, and experiential education.

## College Student Personnel: Student Affairs Track

- *The Student Affairs track* provides you with the classroom and professional experiences needed to enter and advance in the field of student affairs.
- A theory-to-practice model means that you have a space and place to apply your classroom learning facilitated through your full-time assistantship and practica experiences—required components of this track.
- In small cohorts of 22 to 25 students, you and your colleagues learn, work, and support each other as students and student affairs professionals.
- Assistantships, practica, and summer internship opportunities provide you up to five hands-on training experiences during the two years of the program.
- CSP: Student Affairs is a high-residency, full-time graduate school option based at the WIU-Macomb campus.

## College Student Personnel: Higher Education Leadership Track

- *The Higher Education Leadership track* serves the educational and logistical needs of professionals who are currently engaged in student affairs (or closely related) work in a professional capacity.
- The Higher Education Leadership track, beginning its inaugural year in Fall 2015, enrolls new students bi-annually (Fall 2015, Fall 2017, Fall 2019, and so on).
- A theory-to-practice model means that the application of classroom concepts to real-world student affairs work is a critical part of your classroom discussions and course assignments.
- In a small cohort of professionals, you and your colleagues learn and support each other as students and student affairs professionals.
- CSP: Higher Education Leadership courses are offered in a low-residency, weekend model that blends in-person and online learning environments based at the WIU-Quad Cities campus.

## Career Opportunities

During your time in the CSP program, you will be honing your student affairs skills through academic inquiry and hands-on training (theory-to-practice) giving you access to the practice, knowledge, and skills to be a student affairs practitioner in a wide range of settings. Here are a few examples of where alumni are making a difference in their communities:

*“The exceptional opportunities for classroom learning are matched by the application of that learning in assistantships and practicums, making the two years of graduate school at Western a terrific foundation for a career in student affairs.”*

*— Kathryn Cavins-Tull, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs,  
Texas Christian University*

**WIU.EDU/CSP**



- Admission Counselor, University of Illinois–Urbana–Champaign
- Associate Director of Housing Administration, Baylor University (TX)
- Orientation and First-Year Experience Coordinator, University of Calgary (Canada)
- Associate Director of Alumnae/i Relations, Dominican University (IL)
- Residential Life Coordinator, San Jose State University (CA)
- Student Organizations Advisor, Evergreen State University (WA)
- Associate Dean of Students, Eureka College (IL)
- Academic Advisor, Texas State University
- Director of Education, International Fraternity of Phi Gamma Delta (KY)
- Resident Coordinator, State University of New York (SUNY Purchase)
- Greek Life Coordinator, Illinois Institute of Technology
- Assistant Director of Academic Programs, University of Iowa
- Women’s Center Program Coordinator, Virginia Tech
- Director of Student Activities and Orientation, Edgewood College (WI)
- Coordinator of New Student Programs, Mercer University (GA)
- Co-Executive Director, Students Today Leaders Forever (STLF) (MN)
- Director of First Year Experience and Transition Programs, University of Nebraska–Lincoln
- Assistant Director of Admissions, Beloit College (WI)
- Director of Housing and Residential Life, The College of The Bahamas
- Coordinator of Leadership Development and Programming, Missouri State University
- Associate Dean of Students, Luther Seminary (MN)
- Academic Advisor, St. Louis University (MO)
- Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Guilford College (NC)

## Admission Requirements

Grade point average(s), leadership, academic and supervisor references, personal interviews, and evaluation of admission essays will be used to determine admission to the program with an eye toward fit between you and your goals and the academic program and assistantship sites. Due to the sequence of courses, only fall semester admission is considered for the

Student Affairs (Macomb-based) track and fall semester bi-annual admission (Fall 2015, Fall 2017, Fall 2019, and so on) is considered for the Higher Education Leadership (Quad Cities-based) track. For specific admission requirements, processes, and deadlines, visit [wiu.edu/csp](http://wiu.edu/csp).



*Kathryn Cavins-Tull*

## Degree Requirements

The curriculum for the CSP program is rooted in the ACPA/NASPA Professional Competencies, Council for the Advancement of Standards (CAS) Graduate Preparation Program guidelines, feedback from the annual surveys conducted with our recent alumni and their student affairs employer, as well as an advisory board, providing you with the most current information, tools, and techniques used in the field.

## College Student Personnel: Student Affairs Track

The Student Affairs track consists of 48 semester hours (SH), including a specialization core of 36 SH, 2 SH of practicum, and 6 SH of internship. Four hours of electives from the behavioral sciences, counseling, and other related areas are selected in consultation with your advisor. Core courses are offered in a sequential fashion and have a high-residency approach—typically 16 in-person meetings per semester for 3 and 4 SH courses. Completion time for this track is four semesters.

## College Student Personnel: Higher Education Leadership

The Higher Education Leadership track consists of 42 SH of credit, including a specialization core of 36 SH, 6 SH of application through hands-on student affairs work, a thesis or a mixture of one of these experiences with electives from the behavioral sciences, counseling, and other related areas. These would be selected in consultation with your advisor.

Core courses are offered in a sequential fashion (6 SH per semester and 9 SH for the summer sessions), and have a low-residency approach—typically five in-person weekend course meetings per semester (four weekend meetings per summer session) with the remaining coursework facilitated through WesternOnline, allowing you to continue in your professional student affairs (or closely related) work while pursuing your graduate degree. Completion time for this track is four semesters and two summer sessions.

Course descriptions and details about the core courses are available at [wiu.edu/csp](http://wiu.edu/csp).

## Contact Information

For admission process and general program information, contact the School of Graduate Studies, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb IL 61455, (309)298-1806, (877) WIU GRAD toll-free, [Grad-Office@wiu.edu](mailto:Grad-Office@wiu.edu), [wiu.edu/grad](http://wiu.edu/grad).

For specific program questions, contact the Program Director or Associate Director, Department of Educational Studies, Western Illinois University, 1 University Circle, Macomb IL 61455, (309)298-1183, [csp@wiu.edu](mailto:csp@wiu.edu), [wiu.edu/csp](http://wiu.edu/csp).