Are you looking for a meaningful career—one in which you can make a difference in the lives of others? A career where you will develop skills in a variety of areas, such as leadership, advising, administration, and research?

As a graduate of the Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration (HESAA) program, you will have the opportunity to positively impact the lives of others in a highly dynamic environment. HESAA graduates are prepared to work one-to-one with college students in advising roles, develop programs and initiatives that enhance student leadership and engagement on campus, implement strategies and practices to enhance students’ academic success, and much more.

HESAA prepares socially just, authentic, reflective, and collaborative educators and leaders.
THE PROGRAM

Founded in 1970, the master of science in higher education and student affairs administration (HESAA) program was established to provide access to graduate education and to prepare a new generation of higher education professionals to work with an increasingly diverse population. Today, with over 1,800 graduates, we hold true to our mission, offering one of the largest and most diverse programs in New York State.

The HESAA program provides students with the theoretical background and practical experience for professional work in many higher education areas. The academic program includes a balance of coursework and inquiry that prepares professionals for both administrative and student-centered work.

Students are required to complete two supervised practice experiences, giving them the professional experience needed to have a leading edge in today’s job market. HESAA students complete their supervised practice within Buffalo State and beyond, opting for experiences at the 21 higher education institutions in Western New York, or choosing to complete a national summer internship experience.
ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

1. A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 (4.0 scale). Applicants who hold a bachelor’s degree but do not meet the minimum GPA requirement may be considered for admission if they attain a minimum combined quantitative and verbal score of 290 on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or are accepted by the faculty under provisional status.

2. A current résumé. Consideration can be given to work-related experience and involvement in higher education.

3. Three letters of recommendation, at least one of which is from a former faculty member or instructor who can speak to the applicant’s academic and classroom performance, and at least one from a professional who works in student affairs or the field of higher education. Letters of recommendation should address the following:
   • How long the recommender has known the applicant and in what capacity.
   • Strengths and weaknesses as they relate to the applicant’s academic preparedness and professional skills.
   • Assessment of applicant’s promise for professional work within student affairs or higher education.

4. A Statement of Purpose that addresses the following:
   • Applicant’s understanding of and interest in the HESAA program.
   • Qualities and characteristics the applicant will contribute as a member of the program.
   • Applicant’s academic preparedness for graduate school work.

Applicants whose GPAs fall below the required 3.0 should address this in their Statement of Purpose. Statements of Purpose will be evaluated as writing samples.

5. An interview with HESAA program faculty.

In addition, all applicants should review the Admission to a Graduate Program section in the Graduate School catalog at www.buffalostate.edu/graduateschool/gradcatalog and the Higher Education Administration Department website at www.heabuffalostate.edu.
THE CURRICULUM

All courses are 3 credit hours unless otherwise indicated.

Required Courses (27 credit hours)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HEA 616</td>
<td>AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEA 617</td>
<td>STUDENT DEVELOPMENT AND LEARNING</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEA 618</td>
<td>STUDENT AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEA 620</td>
<td>PLANNING AND FINANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEA 622</td>
<td>TECHNIQUES OF COUNSELING</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEA 624</td>
<td>SUPERVISED PRACTICE I</td>
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<td>HEA 625</td>
<td>SUPERVISED PRACTICE II</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEA 650</td>
<td>ASSESSMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND STUDENT AFFAIRS</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEA 689</td>
<td>METHODS AND TECHNIQUES OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH</td>
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</tbody>
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Electives (9 credit hours)

Students may select three elective courses from an extensive list of offerings.

Capstone/Culminating Experience

HESAA students will work towards a final project that showcases their achievement of professional competencies through a statement of professional praxis and an oral presentation of an electronic portfolio.

Graduate School catalog at www.buffalostate.edu/graduateschool/gradcatalog
NUMBERS

1970 YEAR PROGRAM STARTED

NUMBER OF ALUMNI APPROX. 1,800

AVERAGE STUDENT ENROLLMENT 65

FACULTY-TO- STUDENT RATIO 1-to-12

AVERAGE CLASS SIZE 15

94 PERCENT OF HESAA GRADUATES GET JOBS IN HIGHER EDUCATION WITHIN SIX MONTHS

FACULTY EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD

100 PERCENT OF FACULTY HAVE WORKED OR CURRENTLY WORK IN SENIOR-LEVEL ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES ON CAMPUSES

21 INSTITUTIONS IN WNY AT WHICH TO CONDUCT SUPERVISED PRACTICE

100% FLEXIBILITY WITH NON-COHORT PROGRAM AND EVENING CLASSES

1 ANNUAL INTERNSHIP FAIR
As a team of educators and professionals, we strive to uphold the following values within our collective:

**DIVERSITY.** In alignment with the mission of Buffalo State College, our department strives to provide access to graduate education for underrepresented populations. Conversation and dialogue around issues of social justice and inclusion are infused throughout the curriculum and are central to our core. Situated in an urban setting, the HESAA program prepares professionals for working with an increasingly diverse college student population.

**SUPPORT.** HESAA students will find support through their relationships with faculty, peers, and alumni. Faculty in the HESAA program assist students with finding supervised experiences, professional development opportunities, academic success in the classroom, and connections in the field. HESAA students openly share their experiences, wisdom, and insights for success with new students. And HESAA alumni actively seek out opportunities to support current HESAA students through internships, mentoring, and networking events.

**TRADITION.** The HESAA program is rich in history and tradition, which engages not only our current students but our alumni as well. Faculty, students, and alumni
participate in the Bengals Dare to Care Day as a way of giving back to the Buffalo community. Each year the department hosts the HEA Awards Banquet to present awards to exceptional students and honor our graduating students through a traditional pinning ceremony, in which alumni present a HEA pin to our graduates and welcome them into the field.

**EXPERIENCE.** The HESAA program emphasizes applied experience as central to student success. While two supervised experiences are required, HESAA students often seek additional experience, participate in study abroad, attend regional and national conferences, conduct independent study or research with faculty members, and take on leadership positions on campus.
PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

• ACPA - College Student Educators International

• NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education

• CSPA-NYS - College Student Personnel Association of New York State

• Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration (HESAA) Collective

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

HESAA graduates are prepared to work in a higher education setting in a number of administrative and student support areas within student affairs or academic affairs.

• Academic Advising and Support Services
• Accessibility Resources
• Admissions
• Assessment
• Athletics
• Career Development
• Financial Aid
• Intercultural Diversity
• International Student Services
• Orientation and New Student Programs
• Registration
• Residence Life
• Student Conduct and Advocacy
• Student Leadership, Activities, and Engagement

HESAA graduates also work in nonprofit organizations in such areas as human resources, public administration, and other educational settings. Many graduates also continue on to earn doctoral degrees.
“Through the HESAA program, I was able to learn and grow into a competent, confident professional. The skills and connections I made have been invaluable in my career and form the basis for how I work with students.”
—Daniel Islam, Class of 2016

“Everyone is so willing to help in the HEA department. The faculty are readily available, flexible, and always give guidance. So far, I have had nothing but a wonderful experience and multiple opportunities for growth. From the numerous professional development workshops, conferences, graduate assistantships, and internships to having the chance to study abroad in Italy, I am forever grateful to have been chosen to be a part of the program.”
—Jacquelynn Akins, Class of 2019

“I’m really glad I chose the program, and the non-cohort style allowed me a flexibility and diversity of learning that I appreciate so much. Like anything else, grad school is really what you make of it, but I was able to gain experiences that I think really elevated my options when job searching and helped me to stand out in applicant pools.”
—Julia Strada, Class of 2018

“Moving to Buffalo was a cultural shock for a mid-westerner, and the students were “charmed” by my accent, as I was theirs. That said, the coursework was engaging, and I relied on the information from my basic statistics and research courses to help me with the quantitative research part of my doctorate. I got practical experience from my assistantship in Residence Life, and finding a job was easy given the academic work and the practical experience. I was presented the program’s Outstanding Alumni Award in 2004. I credit Buffalo State with providing a solid foundation for a career in higher education. Not to mention I met my husband of 39 years at BSC.”
—Jane Tuttle, Ed.D., Class of 1979
CONTACT INFORMATION

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