Mission and Objectives

The faculty of the Counselor Education Program/Student Affairs is dedicated to educating counselor education professionals as scholar practitioners to function in culturally diverse settings. This program utilizes an experiential and theory-to-practice model emphasizing development, prevention, and intervention. The program areas are designed to provide challenging, yet supportive environments that promote professional orientation, commitment to inquiry, and self-awareness.

Program Entrance Requirements

- Baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution
- Bachelor degree with a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
- Admission to the Clemson University Graduate school
- Complete admissions packet to include:
  - online application
  - program/essay questions pertaining to the program
  - unofficial transcripts (official transcripts will be required if recommended for admissions)
  - competitive GRE scores
- two references who can speak to your overall intellectual capacity, including academic and professional experience

Program Objectives

- To prepare student affairs practitioners to effectively work with faculty, students, administrators, and other members of the academic community.
- To prepare individuals to be employed in higher education settings in a variety of roles.
- To train student affairs practitioners to act as consultants throughout the higher education setting.
- To provide student affairs practitioners with the understanding and skills related to counseling and developmental needs at the post-secondary level.
- To provide student affairs practitioners with a high degree of self-understanding.
- To facilitate student affairs practitioners to effectively communicate with all cultural groups.
- To facilitate student affairs practitioners in developing a high degree of sensitivity and acceptance of diversity in thought and action.
- To foster an awareness of the responsibilities of student affairs practitioners to the developmental needs and maintenance of quality experiences for students, faculty members, administrators, and staff.
- To expect ethical practices of student affairs practitioners.
**CONTACT**

Dr. Rachel Wagner, Program Coordinator  
Rwagne3@clemson.edu / 864.656.5111  
Eugene T. Moore School of Education  
102 Tillman Hall, Box 340701, Clemson, SC 29634-0704  
864.656.2370 / clemson.edu/education/academics

**ASSISTANTSHIPS AND INTERVIEW DAYS**

Typically, over 50 assistantships in the Division of Student Affairs and in Academic Affairs are available to full-time (enrolled in at least nine hours per semester in academic year and six hours in summer session) students in the student affairs graduate program. These may be 9 or 12 months, are typically 20-28 hours per week work commitment, and each provides a stipend, plus a tuition waiver. Some assistantships such as University Housing include on-campus housing. Students are responsible for mandatory University fees.

96% of 2013 graduates felt well-prepared for professional practice when they completed the program according to the University’s exit survey.

Candidates can submit applications for assistantships starting in mid-November. Applications are due no later than Feb. 1 for fall. Please note, there is a separate application from the Graduate School Academic Application, which also has a deadline of Feb. 1. Once you have submitted your application to the academic program you will receive information about the GA application.

Sample assistantships include:

- Career Services
- Office of Community and Ethical Standards
- New Student and Family Programs
- Undergraduate Studies
- College Advising Centers
- University Housing and Dining
- Campus Recreation
- Grant Center for Student Life
- Student Disabilities Services
- University Union
- Campus Activities and Event
- Fraternity and Sorority Life

*The Student Affairs graduate program is designed for students who obtain a graduate assistantship in a student affairs or student services functional unit; these assistantships are competitive and are typically obtained through the CUGARS process. The program is also designed for professionals already working in higher education settings who intend to maintain their full-time student affairs/student services employment while they complete their coursework. Because the size of each cohort is determined by (a) available assistantships and (b) faculty capacity, applicants who do not receive an assistantship with Clemson University or who are not full-time employees in higher education settings should NOT expect to have a space in the cohort. The program faculty feel strongly that students' academic coursework should be accompanied by hands-on, concurrent work experience, as students' practitioners' experience is constantly referenced through the program curriculum.*

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**PROGRAM**

The student affairs 42-hour program educates future student affairs administrators and student development educators who are experts in assessing and promoting student learning on higher education campuses. It addresses knowledge and skill development required to provide administration, management, advisement, and counseling support within the higher education community. The curriculum offers a blend of courses in student affairs administration and counseling. The program integrates the ACPA/NASPA competencies throughout courses, field experiences and the final examination process. The program is designed to produce student affairs generalist, defined as competent practitioner scholars who:

- understand how universities function as interconnected working units, and specifically how divisions of student affairs support the academic mission of the institution and student learning
- learn and apply a multitude of practitioner based competencies (model on the ACPA/NASPA Professional Competencies) and
- can contribute to higher education in a variety of ways, positions, and institutional settings.

**CURRICULUM**

Student Development Services in Higher Education
Theories of Student Development in Higher Education
Student Affairs Issues
Ethical and Legal Issues in Student Affairs
Higher Education Administration
Theories & Techniques of Counseling
Multicultural Counseling
Development of Counseling Skills
The Contemporary College Student
Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education
Applied Research in Higher Education
Student Affairs Practicum
Student Affairs Internship (6 hours)