Higher Education Administration

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**Graduate Degree Awarded**
MA in Higher Education Administration

**Certificate Awarded**
Advanced Graduate Certificate in Higher Education Administration

**Website**
Higher Education Administration: http://www.stonybrook.edu/spd/hea

The Higher Education Administration program is designed to provide the academic preparation and credentials necessary for college and university professionals to enhance their expertise and advance their careers. The curriculum combines aspects of theory and practice within the changing landscape of American higher education. It is suitable for individuals working in community colleges, 4-year colleges and universities — both public and private—as well as government agencies that address higher education planning and regulation.

**Two Program Options: Master of Arts and Advanced Graduate Certificate**
The 36-credit **Master of Arts** degree offers a comprehensive program of study that explores student affairs, academic affairs, and college and university administration. Students complete an 18-credit core requirement and then choose from a variety of electives that address their individual interests. The program provides an experiential learning practicum and culminates in a master's project.

The 18-credit **Advanced Graduate Certificate** is designed to deliver the core knowledge of the administrative processes that drive higher education institutions.

**Flexible Scheduling: On-campus, Fully Online or In Combination**
To meet the demands of working professionals, courses are offered **weeknights** on-campus or **completely online**. Students may choose to combine both face-to-face and online courses in our traditional Higher Education Administration (HEA) program, or they may apply to the HEA **Online** program and take all of their courses via the internet. Online students are never required to come to campus.

»Learn more about online learning at the School of Professional Development.

**Diverse Student Body**
There are approximately 250 students matriculated in our Higher Education Administration programs. Most are working full time while taking courses on a part-time basis. They come from a variety of institutions — from small private colleges to large state universities — and hold positions in student affairs, residence life, admissions, advancement, financial aid and administration. One of the benefits of our online courses is that our students have the opportunity to interact with and learn from their peers outside of their region, allowing them to build a broad network of professional contacts that will serve them even after graduation.

**Study Abroad**
Higher Education Administration students have the opportunity to gain international perspectives on higher education as part of a 15-day study-tour outside of the United States. »More on the HEA Study Abroad Program.

**Gainful Employment Regulation Disclosures**

Higher Education Administration (HEA) Program Admissions

**Master of Arts or Advanced Graduate Certificate**

A. Personal statement.

B. Resume that includes degree(s) awarded, employment history, and past/current leadership, volunteer, or other relevant involvement and experience. The program accepts students who do not have professional experience in higher education, though the Admissions Committee gives preference to applicants who have some work experience and/or student leadership experience in a higher education setting.

C. A bachelor’s degree, applicants with at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA are preferred. Applicants who have less than a 3.0 GPA are considered, in part, on the basis of their years and depth of professional experience in higher education.

D. Essay. Applicants are required to submit a 750-1000-word essay that addresses the following question: What are three critical issues facing colleges and universities today?
E. Two letters of recommendation. Recommendation letters should be written by individuals who can speak about your academic ability, commitment to the higher education field, and attributes and experiences that will make you a successful student in this program. Recommendations from current or former employers and/or faculty members are strongly encouraged.

F. In those cases where the departmental admissions committee deems it desirable, personal interviews with departmental representatives may be necessary.

Requirements for the MA in Higher Education Administration

The Master of Arts in Higher Education Administration is a 36-credit program that can be taken after completing a bachelor’s, master’s, or other advanced degree. It is the appropriate degree for someone who wishes to work in the higher education field in a student affairs or administration capacity—either working directly with students or in a service-related or administrative department.

Current and upcoming course offerings are updated for every semester and can be found on the HEA Course Schedule webpage. For details on scheduling, course load, format and other important information please review the Higher Education Curriculum.

All Master of Arts requirements must be completed within five years from the student’s first semester of matriculation.

**Core Courses** - 18 credits. The following 6 courses are required.

- HEA 501 - Foundations of Higher Education Administration
- HEA 502 - Survey of College Student Development Theory
- HEA 503 - Leadership in Higher Education
- HEA 504 - Research and Assessment in Higher Education
- HEA 521 - Diversity and Higher Education
- HEA 595 - Project Seminar (A grade of “B” or better is required for degree clearance.)

**Electives** - 18 credits. Select 6 courses from the list below.

- HEA 520 - Advising and Counseling in Higher Education
- HEA 522 – Crisis Management and Prevention in Higher Education
- HEA 523 - Student Affairs Administration
- HEA 524 - Enrollment Management
- HEA 525 - The Contemporary Undergraduate
- HEA 526 - Career Counseling and the Psychology of Work
- HEA 527 – Community College Administration
- HEA 530 - Legal Issues in Higher Education
- HEA 531 - Finance Issues in Higher Education
- HEA 532 - Facilities Management in Higher Education
- HEA 533 - Intercollegiate Athletics in Higher Education
- HEA 534 - Philanthropy in American Higher Education
- HEA 535 - International Higher Education
- HEA 540 – Critical Issues in Higher Education
- HEA 560 - Comparative University Systems
- HEA 586 - Practicum in Higher Education
- HEA 587 - Advanced Practicum in Higher Education Administration

Requirements for the Advanced Graduate Certificate in Higher Education Administration

The Advanced Graduate Certificate (AGC) is an 18-credit program that can be taken after completing a bachelor's, master's, or other advanced degree. It is a good option for someone who may not want to complete the full 36-credit master's degree, but would like to develop a solid background and skills in the higher education and student affairs field.

All advanced graduate certificate requirements must be completed within three years from the student’s first semester of matriculation. If the certificate program is taken in collaboration with a graduate degree program, then the student has five years for completion of the certificate.

**Required Core Courses** - 12 credits

- HEA 501 - Foundations of Higher Education Administration
- HEA 502 - Survey of College Student Development Theory
- HEA 503 - Leadership in Higher Education
- HEA 504 - Research and Assessment

**Electives** - 6 credits. Select two courses from the list below.

- HEA 520 - Advising and Counseling in Higher Education
- HEA 521 - Diversity and Higher Education
HEA 522 - Crisis Management and Prevention in Higher Education
HEA 523 - Student Affairs Administration
HEA 524 - Enrollment Management
HEA 525 - The Contemporary Undergraduate
HEA 527 - Community College Administration
HEA 526 - Career Counseling and the Psychology of Work
HEA 530 - Legal Issues in Higher Education
HEA 531 - Finance Issues in Higher Education
HEA 532 - Facilities Management in Higher Education
HEA 533 - Intercollegiate Athletics
HEA 534 - Philanthropy in American Higher Education
HEA 535 - International Higher Education
HEA 540 - Critical Issues in Higher Education
HEA 560 - Comparative University Systems

Time to Completion

All certificate requirements must be completed within three (3) years from the semester date of admission as a matriculated student unless the student is also matriculated in a master's degree program. Master's students have five (5) years to complete the certificate requirements.

Faculty

The Higher Education Administration faculty is composed of practitioners and researchers who are leaders in the field—including deans, provosts, and directors—who represent a range of colleges and universities. While they may present at national conferences and publish in respected journals, most also retain their full-time administrative positions. Their experience informs their instruction, allowing them to connect the theories that they are teaching to the real-world situations that face higher education professionals. This applied approach benefits students who are currently working in the field. From their very first course, students can start using what they have learned to improve their professional practice.

»Read All Faculty Biographies

NOTE: The course descriptions for this program can be found in the corresponding program PDF or at COURSE SEARCH.