



COLLEGE STUDENT PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

M.Ed.

College Student Personnel Administration (CSPA) Highlights

- Prepares students to be **student affairs educators in college and university settings**
- **Small cohort sizes** allow for personalized instruction by counseling faculty and experienced higher education professionals
- **100% tuition waiver** (in-state and out-of-state)
- **Guaranteed assistantship placement** for full-time students within a university setting
- 300 additional credit-bearing hours of **external field experience**
- **Students compile a capstone portfolio**, which serves as the comprehensive exam
- **100% post-graduation job placement rate**



"I chose the CSPA program because it allowed me to explore new areas of student affairs that were previously inaccessible as an undergraduate student. Additionally, as a Psychology and Sociology major, I really valued the program's emphasis on counseling. I really wanted the CSPA program to provide me with knowledge and practical experience, and I have not been disappointed!"

— BEN STIES, CSPA STUDENT



For details visit psyc.jmu.edu/cspa

Our Mission

We are committed to preparing students to be educated and enlightened professionals who will pursue productive and meaningful careers.

Admissions Info

- The application opens on September 1st. The priority deadline is January 2nd, with January 15th being the final deadline.
- Application requirements:
 - Completion of a baccalaureate degree (all majors welcome)
 - Three letters of recommendation
 - Transcripts
 - Resume
 - Personal statement addressing four questions
- After applications are reviewed, selected candidates will be contacted to participate in virtual or on-campus interviews in early February.

Our Profession

Student Affairs professionals are highly qualified, multi-skilled professionals who collaborate across all university divisions to support student learning, growth, and development. An impressive array of CSPA alumni have won notable distinctions, received commendable promotions, and have earned their doctorates. Many of our alumni have reached the apex of their careers, now serving in roles such as Dean of Students, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, and Vice President of Student Affairs.



Fields of Practice

Our students engage in assistantships and practicum experiences in fields such as those noted below. Our alumni represent these and other domains in their full-time work.

- Admissions
- Career and Academic Advising
- College Unions
- Disability Resources and Services
- Education Abroad Programs and Services
- First Generation Student Programs and Services
- Fraternity and Sorority Life
- Indigenous Student Affairs
- Leadership Learning and Development
- Multicultural Student Programs and Services
- Orientation, Parent, and Family Programs
- Post-Traditional and Commuter Student Programs and Services
- Residential Life and Housing
- Restorative Practices and Student Conduct
- Service-Learning and Community Engagement
- Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Education
- Student Activities and Organizations
- Substance Abuse Education
- Transfer Student Programs and Services
- University Recreation

CSPA FAQs

How long does it take to complete the program?

If enrolled as a full-time student, the program is 36-credit hours completed across four semesters or two years. Other options are available for part-time students.

Is the program counseling-focused?

Yes. The degree is an M.Ed. in Counselor Education, with a concentration in CSPA. A strong basis in counseling skills provides Student Affairs educators with the skills, knowledge, and abilities to engage as mentors, advocates, and advisors to university students.

Could you tell me more about the program's practical experiences?

Sure! Each student pursues four hands-on experiences: two assistantships, which are guaranteed for full-time admittees to the program, and two 150-hour field experiences known as practicums. Most students pursue their practicums during the second semester of their first year and during the summer before the second year. Summer practicums afford opportunities for travel—our students have been placed regionally, as well as on the west coast and Alaska!

Do I need to take the GRE for admission?

The GRE is not required for the application to the CSPA program.



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