



# COLLEGE STUDENT PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION

## Concentration (M.Ed.)

A Higher Education and Student Affairs Master's degree program

## Why CSPA?

- **Learn while making a living!** Full-time students hold an educational 20 hour per week assistantship that provides a full tuition waiver and a stipend.
- **Gain real-work experience!** Students complete two 150-hour practicum experiences.
- **Learn from the best!** Faculty, advisors, and supervisors are professionals committed to graduates becoming thoughtful contributors to the Student Affairs profession.
- **Prepare for a rewarding career!** Our curriculum is anchored in counseling classes and higher education/student affairs coursework that prepares graduates to be effective mentors, supervisors, and student advocates.
- **Obtain a personally enriching job** and 100% of CSPA graduates are employed immediately after graduation.
- **You have unwavering support every step of the way!** Steve Grande, the program director, has over 30 years of experience as a Student Affairs professional.



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

— BEN STIES ('23), CSPA ALUMNUS



For details visit [psyc.jmu.edu/cspa](https://psyc.jmu.edu/cspa)

## Admissions Info

- The application opens on Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> with a priority deadline of Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>. After Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> we will continue to review applications and admit students on a space-available basis. The final application deadline is May 15<sup>th</sup>.
- 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.

## Careers

**CSPA graduates have recently obtained positions like the following immediately after graduation:**

- Admissions assistant directors
- Assistant Deans of Students
- Career and Academic advisers
- Financial Aid advisers
- Student Conduct/Judicial Affairs educators
- Multicultural Student Services educators and coordinators
- Residential Life area/hall directors
- Student Activities coordinators

**CSPA alumni serve as directors, deans and Vice Presidents of Student Affairs**



Department of Graduate Psychology



## CSPA Assistantship and Practicum Opportunities

When students interview for program admission they also interview for a Graduate Assistantship. All full-time students are employed in a 20-hour per week position in a range of student service departments such as the one's below with a full tuition waiver and a modest stipend:

- Academic Success Programs
- Center for First-Generation students
- Center for Multicultural Student Services
- Community Engagement and Volunteer Center
- Dean of Students
- Office of Orientation and Transition
- Office of Residence Life
- Office of Student Accountability & Restorative Practices
- SOGIE (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity & Expression)
- Student Life
- University Career Center

Students also complete two 150-hour practicum experiences in a variety of higher education settings at JMU and at universities across the United States working on stimulating and educational projects in the following areas:

- Academic Support and Learning Resources
- Admissions
- Assessment
- Campus Recreation
- Career and Academic Advising
- College Unions, Student Activities, and Leadership
- Community Engagement
- Disability Services
- Fraternity & Sorority Life
- Global Engagement/Study Abroad
- Multicultural Student Services
- Orientation and Family Program
- Residence Life and Conference Services
- Student Conduct
- Transfer Student Programs and Services
- University Recreation

## CSPA FAQs

### How long does it take to complete the CSPA degree?

Full-time students begin in the fall semester and complete the 36-credit hour program in two academic years with a one-credit practicum over the summer. Other options are available for part-time students.

### Is the program counseling-focused?

This is a Higher Education and Student Affairs degree with an 18 credit-hour counseling core. The counseling foundation provides Student Affairs educators with the skills, knowledge, and abilities to engage as mentors, advocates, and advisors. Check out the curriculum on our web site.

### The program is "practitioner focused." What does that mean?

All full-time students complete two graduate assistantships, and two 150-hour field experiences known as practicums. These experiences, in addition to the mentoring our students receive from supervisors, advisors, and faculty, provide you with the education and reflection to prepare you to be an effective Student Affairs educator upon graduation.

### 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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