Overview

The online student affairs in higher education (SAHE) Master of Science degree prepares you for a career in student affairs through curriculum taught by faculty who are both scholars and practitioners of student affairs. Through the SAHE master’s degree, you’ll learn professional competencies needed to be successful in a wide range of settings on college and university campuses, including financial aid, admissions, student activities, advising, and residence life.

During our master’s in student affairs program, you’ll learn:

• Theories, assessments, and evaluations related to student affairs practice
• Cross-cultural and diversity issues within the context of higher education
• How diverse student learning, developmental theory, and research are relevant to students’ education and development
• Current issues and practices in the student affairs profession
• Administration functions and services in your choice of at least two distinct student affairs functional areas

Through this varied coursework and two practicum experiences, you gain professional expertise that will help you function in an administrative capacity and increase your ability to manage yourself, communicate effectively, and establish healthy and effective working relationships.

Because diverse backgrounds and experiences enrich our student affairs graduate programs, we aim to have students from across the United States, and around the globe, coming from a variety of background experiences—whether directly out of undergraduate programs, from entry level positions in student affairs, or with years of higher education and student affairs experience.

Curriculum

The SAHE degree comprises a variety of courses introducing you to all facets of the profession. Courses are offered Fall, Spring, and Summer, so you can choose how many and which courses fit your work and family schedule.

While none of the classes have prerequisites, it is recommended that EDRM 698 – Research is taken in the first or second semester of classes. You are required to take at least two credits worth of electives during the course of your studies. Most graduate courses offered through Colorado State University Online qualify as electives for your degree, though all are subject to advisor approval.
How to Apply
Master of Science (M.S.) in Student Affairs in Higher Education

Application Deadline
Fall semester: June 1

1 Review Admission Requirements
The student affairs in higher education master’s degree requires that applicants have the following:
☐ A bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution
☐ A 3.0 GPA on all undergraduate coursework
☐ GRE scores are not required

While not required, undergraduate activities in student affairs or other leadership experiences are important to the application. Volunteer work after a bachelor’s degree is earned is also helpful. Meeting the minimum department standards does not ensure admission to the program. Admission to Colorado State University graduate programs is based on a number of factors, including prior academic experience.

2 Prepare Application Materials
Prepare the materials below and upload when you apply online.

☐ Statement of purpose
The Statement of purpose is a summary of long-term professional or personal goals and is required for all applicants. Your statement should be written in 12-point font, double-spaced and include the following:
- Your purpose for pursuing graduate education and how it will contribute to your long-term goals and career plans
- Why you have selected Colorado State University as the place to pursue your graduate studies
- A description of teaching, research/create, or other academic work you have engaged in relevant to the qualifications

☐ Resume
Include any previous experience in student affairs, along with position titles, dates of employment, institutions, and major responsibilities.

☐ Three letters of recommendation
Provide three letters of recommendation, which should comment on your ability to do graduate work and your student affairs professional practice. You will provide information about your recommenders in the online application. CSU will contact them with instructions and a link to a secure form they will submit on your behalf.

We recommend selecting three references that are a current or former supervisor, a faculty member, and a student affairs professional.

3 Complete Online Application
Complete the online graduate application and pay the nonrefundable application processing fee (payable online). As soon as you have completed the required information, please submit your application. You do not need to wait for transcripts to move your application forward.
- Select “Student Affairs in Higher Education (School of Ed) MS – Dist” when choosing the program of study.
How to Apply (Continued)

4 Request Transcripts

• Request one official transcript of all collegiate work completed from every institution attended, whether or not you received a degree from those institutions. Transcripts from Colorado State University are not required. Official transcripts can either be mailed in or sent as e-transcripts.
  • Send e-transcripts to: gradadmissions@colostate.edu
  • Send paper copies to:
      Graduate Admissions
      Colorado State University – Office of Admissions
      1062 Campus Delivery
      Fort Collins, CO 80523-1062

5 Interview for Admission

• After the initial screening of applications by the SAHE faculty, candidates are contacted to set up 30-minute telephone interviews. This is also an opportunity for you to gain more information about the program.
  • The selection committee, comprised of SAHE faculty members who are also advisors in the program, conducts the program interviews.

Check Your Application Status

• View your application status at any time to ensure your application checklist is complete or to check on updates.
• Applications will be reviewed after the June 1 deadline. Admit decisions will be made by August 1.

Information for International Students

Official transcript translation
Ensure official copies include a certified translation into English (only one set of transcripts is required).

Official test scores
Colorado State University requires that proficiency in English language be demonstrated either by the TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE academic tests prior to admission. Please submit one of the official scores from the list below. Scores must be taken within two years prior to admission and submitted directly from the Educational Testing Service (select institution code: 4075).
  • The minimum TOEFL score for admission without condition is 550 (paper-based), or 80 (internet-based).
  • The minimum IELTS score for admission without condition is 6.5.
  • The minimum PTE Academic score for admission without condition is 58.

In general, all applicants from countries in which English is not the official language, and who do not have an undergraduate degree from a country in which the official language is English (Canada, U.K., Australia, USA, New Zealand, etc.), must submit one of the official test scores from the list above.

Questions? Contact a Student Success Coach for help with your application. Call (970) 492-4898.