Program Descriptions and Clarification:

College Student Affairs Administration & Higher Education Administration
Programs at the University of Georgia

The University of Georgia offers several academic programs for those individuals who are interested in working in higher education. It is important for prospective students to consider carefully which program is the best fit for their professional goals. The following information describes the master’s and doctoral programs offered in the College of Education and in the Institute of Higher Education. The websites for each program are listed to provide links to additional information, including the admissions process. The Graduate School Codes will help to reduce errors and ensure that prospective students apply for their intended programs. The admissions deadlines and processes are different for each program; please read the relevant information carefully. Click here for program descriptions.

College Student Affairs Administration Master of Education (M.Ed.)
http://www.coe.uga.edu/chds/academic-programs/college-student-affairs-administration/med/
Graduate School Code: 169

The College Student Affairs Administration M.Ed. program (CSAA-M) is designed to prepare students to work in student affairs and other student-oriented areas in higher education. The curriculum is grounded in student development and learning and in the connection of theory to practice.

- The CSAA faculty includes 6 full-time faculty members, all of whom are experienced student affairs administrators, in addition to experienced student affairs professionals who serve as adjunct faculty.
- Coursework includes foundations of student affairs, student development theories, helping skills, group interventions, research methods, campus environments, multicultural practice, legal issues in student affairs, administrative practices, and assessment and evaluation.
- All students complete both a practicum and 9 credit hours of internship, totaling nearly 500 hours of supervised practice (in addition to assistantships).
- Typically all students hold graduate assistantships in student affairs and related areas at UGA or other local institutions, providing them with financial support (including a tuition waiver) and valuable experience.
The program is full-time and two years in length. Students complete the program as a cohort (approximately 20 students), which becomes a valuable part of the learning experience and an initial professional network.

The CSAA-M program is designed to meet the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) standards for Master’s Level Student Affairs Professional Preparation Programs.

College Student Affairs Administration Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
http://www.coe.uga.edu/chds/academic-programs/counseling-and-student-personnel-services-athens/program-overview/
Graduate School Code: 159B

The Ph.D. in Counseling and Student Personnel Services with a focus in College Student Affairs Administration (CSAA-D), offered on the UGA Athens campus, prepares students for advanced positions in college student affairs administration, for faculty positions in graduate student affairs preparation programs, and for positions in student affairs assessment, evaluation, and outcomes research. The program is based on a belief that higher education should focus on assisting students’ intellectual, psychosocial, and ethical growth; graduates acquire expertise in enhancing students’ educational experiences and environments.

- The curriculum is based on a theory-to-practice-to-theory philosophy, designed to produce scholar-practitioners who engage in evidence-based practice and conduct research to contribute to the literature of the field.
- Students receive training in both quantitative and qualitative methods and are involved as partners with CSAA-D faculty in research teams throughout their doctoral study. Each student also completes both an initial independent research project and a dissertation involving original research.
- In addition to classes in research design and methods, core coursework includes foundations of student affairs, advanced student development theories, organizational development, consultation, college student characteristics and trends, environmental and facilities management, administrative practices, assessment and evaluation, and a capstone seminar. Courses offered in the doctoral curriculum are restricted to doctoral students. Students also have the opportunity to select additional courses in other areas to support their research and interests.
- All CSAA-D students develop teaching expertise by completing at least one teaching internship, in which they co-teach a master’s level student affairs course with a full-time faculty member.
Students who enter the program with less than 5 years of full-time professional experience also complete an administrative internship.

The CSAA faculty includes 6 full-time faculty members, all of whom are experienced student affairs administrators, in addition to experienced student affairs professionals who serve as adjunct faculty.

The program limits enrollment, which assures students ample individual attention and the opportunity to have meaningful personal interaction with the program’s faculty throughout their time in the program.

While the program admits both full-time and part-time students, all CSAA-D students meet together bi-weekly in a doctoral seminar designed to focus on research and current issues.

Graduate assistantships are available for full-time students and carry both a tuition waiver and stipend. Full-time students generally complete the program in 3-4 years.

Student Affairs Leadership Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)
http://www.coe.uga.edu/chds/academic-programs/student-affairs-leadership/
Graduate School Code: 301

The Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) program in Student Affairs Leadership is a part-time, primarily on-line program developed by the College Student Affairs Administration program at UGA and the members of the Regents Administrative Committee on Student Affairs (RACSA), which includes all Chief Student Affairs Officers in the University System of Georgia. A primary goal of the program is to provide a doctoral-level educational opportunity for student affairs professionals who are employed full-time and need a part-time doctoral program, particularly those in more rural areas throughout Georgia and those at institutions without doctoral programs.

The program is designed to educate scholar-practitioners who will lead their institutions in creating enhanced and effective environments conducive to student learning and development.

The 6 full-time CSAA faculty based in Athens comprise the primary faculty for the program.

The three-year, cohort-based program (with an optional fourth year, if needed, for dissertation completion) is situated on the Griffin Campus with an annual week-long summer residency on the Athens campus.

Students complete two courses each term (fall, spring, and summer). Courses include foundations of student affairs, advanced student development theories, staffing practices, college student characteristics and trends, legal issues,
environmental and facilities management, budgeting and fiscal management, organizational development and leadership, research design and methods, statistics, and assessment and evaluation.

- Most of the coursework is delivered in a blended format using on-line education with face-to-face meetings several times a semester.
- Students will also complete supervised internships designed to enhance and expand their professional skills.
- The curriculum is grounded in a theory-to-practice approach, and dissertation research reflect this philosophy.

Institute of Higher Education Master of Education (M.Ed.)
http://ihe.uga.edu/graduate-programs/med
Graduate School Code: 406C

The Master's of Education in Higher Education Administration program prepares students for entry- and mid-level administrative and research positions in post-secondary education institutions, policy and research organizations, and governmental and nonprofit entities across the state, region, and country. The master’s program introduces students to the field of higher education through a survey of critical issues and works on higher education management, research, and policy.

- M.Ed. students will delve deeply into one specialization in higher education research and practice to hone their interests and skills in a particular area within the broader field allowing them to develop specialized research and decision-making skills aimed at preparing them for professional and academic opportunities after graduation.
- The M.Ed. program is informed by three distinct themes defining the core interests of its faculty: Institutional Change; Science, Technology, and Economic Development; and Postsecondary Education Policy. These themes provide a frame for the character and organization of the M.Ed. program.
- The program is designed to systematically expose students to a set of courses that will provide an entry point into a specialization in any one of the three areas above.
- The program involves 34 credit hours, of which 16 hours are required courses, 15 hours are specialty courses chosen in conjunction with the advisor, and 3 hours are a capstone course involving a paper-based applied project.
- A valuable component of each student's master's program is the opportunity to participate in the Institute's in-service development activities.
Institute of Higher Education Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
http://ihe.uga.edu/graduate-programs/phd
Graduate School Code: 406A

The Institute of Higher Education programs are informed by three distinct themes defining the core interests of its faculty: Academic Reform and Innovation; Power and Politics; and Management and Accountability. These themes provide a frame for the character and organization of the Ph.D. program that is designed to systematically expose students to a set of courses that will provide an entry point into a specialization in any one of the three areas above.

- The Ph.D. curriculum is grounded in a context of federal, state, and institutional policy studies and is designed to incorporate a wide range of specialties.
- The program requires that students engage in a coherent set of coursework from a given discipline such as economics, sociology, public administration, or law. Coursework includes 18 hours of required content, a 15 hour research core, and 18 hours of cognate courses, in addition to the dissertation.
- A valuable component of each student's doctoral program is the opportunity to participate in the Institute's in-service development activities. During the two or more years in which they are formally enrolled, there will be occasional workshops, seminars, conferences, and lectures in which students are expected to participate. Although these learning opportunities carry no academic credit, they are directly related to the professional and personal development of doctoral graduates.

Institute of Higher Education Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)
http://ihe.uga.edu/graduate-programs/edd
Graduate School Code: 406

The Institute of Higher Education offers an Executive Ed.D. in higher education management for middle/senior administrators.

- The program is taught in Atlanta at UGA’s Terry College of Business in Buckhead.
- Students attend classes over a long weekend every six weeks for two years, writing their dissertations and completing their coursework concurrently.
- Because executive Ed.D. participants begin with deep and broad knowledge of higher education management, coursework occurs at an advanced level.
- The curriculum they complete over two calendar years includes international perspectives and centers on the increasingly entrepreneurial nature of
universities and colleges. The curriculum, divided into ten-hour modules, focuses on the most challenging issues across higher education, emphasizing policy, strategy, and management.

- Each participant completes a dissertation, supervised by a core faculty member at the Institute, addressing a specific practical higher education management challenge. Dissertation work is structured and systematic, unfolding during the curriculum, and possible to complete over the six semesters of the program.

- The portion of the curriculum devoted to research concentrates on building expertise needed not only to complete the dissertation, but also to supervise and evaluate the research increasingly applied in managing complex organizations.