

## **Frequently Asked Questions about UNL's Student Affairs Program**

### Program Type

1. What is the primary focus of your program?

The Educational Administration –Student Affairs Administration program has three main focus areas – student development, university administration, and research. As a program we also maintain a theme of social justice throughout our courses in which we question whether current practices in higher education support all students and encourage students, staff (?), and faculty to try and find ways to support more students.

2. Is it academic or practice based?

We have a theory to practice curriculum in which students are expected to apply the course materials into their day-to-day work at their assistantships.

3. What separates your program from others?

Our program is unique in the fact instead of just having faculty focused on obtaining external research funding, we currently have two teaching faculty members whose sole purpose is teaching. Our program also maintains a strong commitment to research and emphasizes social justice throughout the students' time here.

### Size/Style of Cohort

4. How many students enroll in your program each year?

Every year our program accepts an average of between 20 to 25 students into our cohort. This number does vary depending on the number of assistantships available.

5. Does your program organize students by cohort?

Yes, students take 85% of their courses in a specific order with their cohort. If a student decided not to complete a thesis there are two electives for them to take.

### Application

6. What is your application process?

Applications for the student affairs program will be due December 1, 2016. We plan to make some changes in our application materials so be sure to check back in early October to get all the details for applications for the fall. If you have more questions as you do your research into programs, please contact Stephanie Bondi.

7. When is the deadline to apply?

Applications and required documents must be electronically submitted to GAMES by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

8. What are admission requirements in regards to GRE Scores, undergraduate GPA, previous experience, letter of recommendation, etc?

Currently our admissions requirements include three (3) letters of recommendation, previous experience or transferable skills, a clear understanding of the field of student affairs, and an assistantship. We do not require a GRE score.

9. Does your program require the GRE?

No

### Assistantships, Internships, and Practicums

10. What are the benefits offered by assistantships?

The benefits offered by assistantships usually include full tuition during the academic year with an additional 6 credits for summer sessions plus health insurance and a stipend. During the fall and spring semesters students work about 20 hours a week. Some assistantships have summer employment opportunities too.

11. Does your program offer assistantships?

Students who are admitted to the academic program are invited, typically in February, to interview for assistantships. Those who secure an assistantship are accepted into the cohort. **Assistantships are required for entry into the program.**

12. Are there on-campus interviews? When do those tend to take place?

Yes, on-campus interview are conducted in order to provide the opportunity for applicants to interview with assistantship providers. It is through these interviews that applicants get an assistantship. Our on-campus interviews take place in February.

13. What benefits are offered for assistantships? (tuition, stipends, etc.)

Most assistantships offer full tuition during the academic year with an additional 6 credits in the summer plus reduced health insurance and a stipend. Additional benefits are up to the discretion of the assistantship providers.

14. Are their assistantships available for Residence Life or Greek Life for your program?

Yes, depending on availability. Sometimes another student is already in the position so that particular assistantship will be offered in a different year.

15. How many assistantships are available that provide housing or cover housing cost?

None. Stipends are intended to help cover housing and necessities but it is not guaranteed that it will cover are these expenses.

16. Does your program guarantee assistantships?

No, we do not guarantee that you will get an internship if you interview. However, if you are admitted into our program it is required that you have an assistantship

17. Does your program require students to do internships or practicums as a part of the program? If so, how many?

Yes, one internship totaling 135 hours is required. Many students often complete this internship during the summer but they are free to schedule their internship at their discretion.

18. Is there anything else you would like to share about work experience to be gained through your program or any other benefits that we have not touched?

There are various opportunities on campus and around Lincoln for practicum experience. Volunteering in other department events allows students to see and work with various student populations.

19. What types of assistantships are offered?

In the past we have had positions in academic advising, intercultural services, career services, student involvement, outdoor adventures, fraternity and sorority life, college recruitment, student support services, among others. Assistantships rotate so position availability changes from year to year.

### Various

20. What about your program are you most proud of?

Students grow to understand higher education beyond what their own experience in college has been. Our students also grow to love research and present at local, regional, and national professional conferences.

21. Where can I look to find more information on your program/apply?

<http://cehs.unl.edu/edad/programs/educational-administration-student-affairs-administration/>

22. What are the cost to attend?

Our program requires that students work 20 hours a week in a graduate assistantship so that graduates have experience working in higher education when they graduate. These positions often pay full tuition year round and offer health insurance at a discounted rate. In addition, assistantships offer stipends that range anywhere from \$1000/month to \$1,500/month in order to help cover living expenses and as well as the fees. On average, students are responsible for about \$400 in fees each semester (fall and spring) and typically pay closer to \$150 for the summer term. Depending on the assistantship, some positions will be available over the summer and while others are not, this is up to the discretion of the assistantship provider.

In addition, students will have the cost of books and other course related materials. The cost for books would vary from term to term but the cost averages out to be between \$200- 400 per term, depending on the types of books required, where you buy your books, and your preferences on the condition (rental,

used, new). Students are able to purchase a parking pass through the university. Cost vary depending on type of pass and the duration of the pass (semester/9-month/annual) with a semester parking pass averaging anywhere from \$104 to \$365. Cost are subject to change based on decisions made by the UNL Parking and Service office and by UNL policy changes.

23. What is your employment placement rate after graduation?

As a program, we have about a 95% placement rate for our students who want to work in student affairs jobs after graduation.