CONSIDER A MASTER OF EDUCATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENT AFFAIRS

HESA Mission
“The M.Ed. in Higher Education Student Affairs (HESA) has a strong focus on developing practitioner-scholars by integrating academic coursework and theoretical constructs with supervised professional experience. Our goal is to prepare learners to be competent student development specialists in all areas of university life and to cultivate practitioners who are committed to the growth and development of all students. In order to do this, we are dedicated to facilitating learning environments where students engage in acute dialogue, critically analyze scholarly content, and further develop their own identity.”

The HESA program core values and guiding principles are the same as those stated in the University’s mission statement.

HESA Vision
Completion of the M.Ed. in Higher Education Student Affairs will provide graduates with comprehensive knowledge and experiences with which to pursue professional employment within an institution of higher education and/or a doctoral degree in Higher Education/Student Affairs.

OUR STUDENTS
Most applicants have a traditional undergraduate background with leadership experience in co-curricular activities and organizations. Our nontraditional students tend to hold full-time positions at both two- and four-year institutions.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
- Applicants for the M.Ed. in the HESA program must have an average G.P.A. of B or higher, as defined by the department in upper-level undergraduate courses in the major.
- Three recommendations from former instructors and/or supervisors, who are in a position to judge the applicant’s aptitude for graduate study.
- A recent resume or CV
- A statement of interest that includes the following content:
  - What are your career objectives and discuss how a degree in Higher Education Student Affairs (HESA) will prepare you to meet those objectives.
  - Why is Western Carolina University’s HESA graduate program of interest to you?
  - What diverse perspectives and experiences will you contribute to the HESA learning community?
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is required.

CURRICULUM
The program leading to the M.Ed. in Higher Education Student Affairs requires 39 semester hours (33 core, 6 elective) of graduate study. Courses incorporate content that is appropriate for working in student services in a variety of two and four-year higher education settings. To view the listing of courses, visit csp.wcu.edu.

DEADLINES
The deadline for admittance into the HESA program is July 1. To be considered for funding (scholarships and graduate assistantships), a completed application must be received by March 1.

TRANSFER CREDIT INFORMATION
Upon approval of program advisor, up to six (6) semester hours of graduate credit with a grade of B or higher may be transferred from other regionally accredited graduate schools. There are limitations that apply. For further details, contact program advisor.