GRADUATE PROGRAM IN COLLEGE STUDENT PERSONNEL

ASSISTANTSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS & INFORMATION
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Dear Prospective College Student Personnel Graduate Student,

Established in 1804, Ohio University is the oldest public institution of higher learning in the state of Ohio. Located in scenic Athens, Ohio we were recently named the best college town in the state by Far & Wide. More than just a beautiful college town, the people here are what makes the difference. The Bobcat family is a dynamic and caring community and the Division of Student Affairs wants to see you here and help you thrive. Ohio University’s Division of Student Affairs comes down to two words - we care. We exist to educate and empower students, to foster inclusive communities and to make OHIO strong. Divisonal priorities for 2022/2023 include: equity and social justice, engagement, and well-being.

We encourage you to apply for multiple graduate assistantships. Assistantships are on-campus positions that are designed to supplement your classroom experience with practical experience. The Division of Student Affairs and our partners in Diversity and Inclusion, University College, Global Affairs and International Studies, Patton College of Education, Multicultural Student Access and Retention, Global Opportunities, The Provost’s Office, and Alumni Association offer many assistantship opportunities. First consideration for our assistantships goes to those students applying for admission to the College Student Personnel program.

Thank you for considering Ohio University and scenic Athens, Ohio to be your next home away from home.

Sincerely,
Division of Student Affairs
Dear Prospective Student,

Thank you for your interest in the Master’s program in College Student Personnel (CSP) at Ohio University! The Department of Higher Education & Student Affairs (HESA) appreciates your consideration of pursuing a degree program that will empower you to support the next generation of colleges students. The CSP program is a nationally respected, long established (40 years!), full-time, cohort-based, two-year degree program. The CSP program is housed in the Higher Education and Student Affairs (HESA) program of the Department of Counseling and Higher Education at Ohio University. We offer a well-rounded, clinical curriculum model and approach theory and practice as being inseparable. Our faculty and staff are committed to providing students with a meaningful classroom experience so that their practice as student affairs practitioners is grounded in research.

Collaborating with our partners in the Division of Student Affairs and other units, we are dedicated to supporting the Graduate Assistants (GA) and practicum experiences that make classroom knowledge come alive. We reject that practice that is uninformed and theory that is not translated into action. We teach, advise, and mentor our students so that they are able to enter their careers with the knowledge and experience they have gained in our program. With this clinical model, our job placement rates for new graduates have been nearly 100% in recent years. Over the past 40 years, program graduates have attained significant leadership positions in colleges, universities, and professional associations.

Our faculty are fully committed to providing students with the highest quality education during their time with us. The research and teaching interests of our faculty span a wide range of theoretical methodological, and substantive interests, centered on diversity, equity, and social justice. We are active scholars, both nationally and internationally, contributing regularly to the literature and conferences that informs our field. The HESA program at Ohio University is the place where we empower the next generation to rise to these and future challenges. We look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

HESA Faculty
Ohio University does not discriminate against any person in employment or educational opportunities because of race, color, religion, age, ethnicity, national origin, national ancestry, sex, pregnancy, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, military service or veteran status, mental or physical disability, or genetic information. The following office has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the University’s non-discrimination policies, to receive discrimination/harassment complaints from members of the University community, and to monitor the institution’s compliance with state and federal non-discrimination laws and regulations:

Kerri Griffin, J.D.
Director and Title IX Coordinator,
University Equity and Civil Rights Compliance
Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost
Ohio University
Lindley Hall 006
Athens, Ohio 45701
Voice: 740.593.9140
Fax: 740.593.9168

For more information about Ohio University’s policies prohibiting discrimination and harassment, and for a description of Ohio University’s grievance procedures, please visit the webpage for the Office for University Equity and Civil Rights Compliance at www.ohio.edu/equity-civil-rights.

Ohio University is an equal access/equal opportunity affirmative action university.
MISSION & ACADEMIC PRIORITIES

The Gladys W. and David H. Patton College of Education provides transformative experiences that cultivate a passion for learning. We enhance our community through critical discourse to promote innovative scholarly collaboration for positive change.

The academic mission of our College will be realized through the following academic priorities establish by the faculty to guide our efforts. The seven priorities are as follows:

- enhancing our collaboration with colleges, universities, agencies and schools
- diversifying instructional formats to support learning-centered education
- maintaining and enhancing the diversity of student, staff, faculty and curricula
- enhancing The Patton College of Education as a learning community committed to lifelong learning
- maintaining and enhancing high-quality research and scholarly activity
- encouraging and supporting principled, expert leadership
- implementing evidence-based practices throughout educational preparation
COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY

The Patton College of Education community fosters a sense of respect and inclusion. Through educational experiences and the climate in our college, we promote increased awareness, acceptance, knowledge, and understanding of all facets of human diversity. We are committed to the recruitment, retention, and success of students, staff, and faculty who are representative of our increasingly diverse global community. Our goal is to prepare leader-educators, practitioners, and human service professionals to serve society responsibly as change agents in meeting diverse human and social needs.

Diversity is a core value of The Patton College of Education. The Patton College of Education subscribes to the definition of diversity put forward by Ohio University’s Office of Diversity, Access, and Equity: Diversity signifies difference and heterogeneity between and among individuals, groups, and cultures. Specifically, diversity is inclusive of all ages, races, ethnic groups, genders, gender identities, sexual orientations, national origins, cultures, socioeconomic classes, abilities, ways of thinking, geographic regions, and religions.

Graduate assistants are expected to be inclusive, equity-oriented, and diversity-aware, which aligns with the institution’s expectations of diversity and inclusion. We seek candidates committed to working with people holding similar or different world views while advocating for inclusion of all people.
"I believe it is important to move past lip service when it comes to diversity and social justice issues. To affect change, we have to develop the intellectual tools and political savvy to understand and challenge structural inequality. My goal as an educator is to teach the knowledge and skills necessary to help students advocate for more equitable systems." Dr. Laura Harrison

"As an Asian woman faculty who came from a foreign country, I know I only can thrive in a campus culture that ensures diversity, inclusive and equity. This culture is what I am committed to nurturing and maintaining among all the students in my classes. The overarching theme of my higher education research is education equity, which is primarily examined from the financial and international perspectives. I also actively advocate for minority students and faculty through my service activities at the university and in the Athens County community." Dr. Lijing Yang

"College is a time of great opportunity for discovery about identity, culture, and community. As someone who has been around college campuses for over 40 years, I recognize that learning about diversity and social justice issues is not about a destination, but a journey filled with amazement, deep joy and profound personal challenge. My own experiences, often in the company of students, with rich classroom and out-of-class conversations to international adventures in small, rural communities in Africa and Latin America; and inner-city and poor rural communities in the United States, have opened minds to the stark challenges associated with structural inequalities. But my experiences with diversity have also helped me recognize the gifts and strengths of the individuals and communities that are often labeled deficient. As an educator, I believe my role is to expose students to people and ideas that help them love who they are; to learn about, acknowledge and celebrate the gifts of others; and to develop the tools and skills to shape local and global communities that honor everyone’s potential." Dr. Peter Mather

CSP Partner--The Division of Student Affairs (DOSA)

The OHIO Division of Student Affairs will ensure that a framework of equity and social justice is embedded into its day-to-day work. The Graduate Assistant (GA) is expected to be inclusive, equity oriented, and diversity-aware, which aligns with the institution’s expectations of diversity and inclusion. We seek a candidate committed to working with people holding similar or different world views while advocating for inclusion of all people.

The DOSA website highlights that equity and social justice is our strategic priority and delineates our progress toward that value.
The graduate degree program in College Student Personnel (CSP) is a nationally respected, full-time, cohort-based program. Individuals from across the country, and globally, come to Ohio University to study in the Master’s Degree program in College Student Personnel. Over the past forty years, our graduates have attained significant leadership positions in colleges, universities, and professional associations.

The Master’s degree curriculum integrates theory and practice, blending courses in student development theory, student affairs administration, counseling, and higher education with hands-on experience in student affairs offices at Ohio University. The program requires the equivalent of two years of full-time study and follows national standards for professional education, while also personalizing study in order to meet individual needs.

All positions in the CSP program include a required graduate assistantship in the Division of Student Affairs, University College, or units within Ohio University. In order to be paired with a graduate assistantship, prospective students must be academically admitted by the Higher Education and Student Affairs faculty.
Dr. Christine Suniti Bhat (She/Her) holds a B.A. and a M.A. from Bangalore University in addition to a Master’s of Organisational Psychology from Monash University. She also holds the Ph.D. in Counselor Education from Ohio University. Dr. Bhat has extensive international experience as an educator, counselor, and psychologist in diverse work environments such as the Australian military, non-profit agencies, schools, and universities. She teaches courses in school counseling, group counseling, and counselor education and supervision. Dr. Bhat’s research has focused on cyberbullying prevention and group counseling in recent years.

Dr. Laura M. Harrison (She/Her) teaches and writes on the topics of advocacy, change, and leadership in higher education. Prior to joining The Patton College faculty, she served as an Associate Dean of Students at Stanford University and taught in the Business and Education schools at the University of San Francisco. She earned a doctorate in Organization and Leadership from the University of San Francisco, master’s degree in Counselor Education and baccalaureate degree in English at Ohio University.

Dr. Pete Mather (He/Him) holds a B.A. in Philosophy from the University of Indianapolis, an M.A. in College Student Personnel from Bowling Green State University. He also holds a Ph.D. in Student Affairs Administration from The University of Georgia. Dr. Mather teaches courses in Service Learning in Higher Education, Student Development Theory, Campus Environments, and the History and Philosophy of American Higher Education. His major research interests include service learning student and faculty outcomes, the application of positive psychology in higher education, and general student affairs practice.

Dr. Erin Morgenstern (She/Her) holds a B.A. in Integrated Language Arts grades 7-12 from Ohio University, and an M.S. in Counseling from Marshall University. She also holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education from Ohio University. Dr. Morgenstern teaches courses in Campus Environments, Professional Portfolio Development, and Leadership. Her major research interests include external influences on student/human development, mental health, and the future of higher education.

Dr. Lijing Yang (She/Her) holds a Ph.D. in Higher Education from the University of Michigan and completed postdoctoral training from the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Georgia. She teaches graduate courses including higher education finance and budgeting, assessment and evaluation, statistical analysis of national large datasets, and comparative and international higher education. Her current research focuses on higher education policy, economics of education, education finance, and comparative and international higher education.
STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES

The curriculum in the Ohio University College Student Personnel program has been developed to meet the standards and guidelines of the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education. The standards for master’s level student affairs administration preparation programs have been used to guide a curriculum which also incorporates elements unique to the Ohio University CSP program.

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

The curriculum for the Master’s Degree Program in College Student Personnel is made up of both required and elective components. The required portion of the curriculum comprises 46 of the required 52 semester hours. The remaining six hours are electives, determined by the individual student in conjunction with their faculty advisor.

The program prepares promising entry level professionals for direct service positions in various higher education settings by helping current professionals attain the necessary skills to assume leadership positions. Most of our students attend full-time, gaining professional experience through graduate assistantships. Full-time students with assistantships usually take two years to complete the program.

Student Affairs Requirements (21 Hours)

EDCP 5210: College Student Development
EDCP 5220: College Campus/Student Environments
EDCP 6200: Student Affairs Organization and Administration
EDCP 6300: The Helping Relationship in Higher Education
EDCP 6400: Theory to Practice to Seminar I
EDCP 6500: Theory to Practice II

Higher Education Requirements (25 Hours)

EDHE 6880: Higher Education and Student Affairs in the United States
EDHE 6910: Capstone Project in Higher Education and Student Affairs (Seminar Paper)
EDHE 7210: Diversity in American Higher Education
EDHE 7780: Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education and Student Affairs
EDHE 7860: Leadership and Change Management in Higher Education
EDHE 7920: Practicum in Higher Education Administration and Leadership
EDRE 5010: Introduction to Research Methods
EDHE 6890: Legal Issues in American Higher Education

Electives (6 Hours)

EDHE 7790: Finance and Budgeting in Higher Education
EDHE 7820: Effective Curriculum Development and Teaching Practices in Higher Education
EDHE 7830: Institutional Research and Planning in Higher Education
EDHE 7850: Organization and Governance in Higher Education
EDHE 7880: Policy Perspectives in Higher Education
ADMISSIONS INFORMATION

Academic applications are separate but concurrent to applications for assistantships. Please refer to the checklists below for both processes.

ADMISSIONS PROCESS

For first consideration, application materials must be completed and submitted by December 15, 2022. Those interested in the CSP program are encouraged to apply for a graduate assistantship(s) at https://www.ohio.edu/student-affairs/graduate-assistantship-positions. To be considered for admission to the CSP program, applications must include the following items:

- Completed On-line Graduate Admissions Application and an application fee of $50
- Submission of transcripts of bachelor’s degree work
- Autobiographical Sketch/Personal Statement (2-3 pages)
  - The autobiographical sketch provides a sample of your writing. It should tell us about you as an applicant and address important factors in your life journey that have shaped your interest in CSP and brought you to apply to this program.
- Three letters of recommendation
- A current résumé/CV
- A personal interview with a faculty member. These interviews will be conducted on a rolling basis upon applications completed by December 15, 2022 deadline. Faculty interviews will occur virtually until January 2023 prior to invitations to interview for assistantships.

GRADUATE ASSISTANTSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS


- The application link will take you to the job posting on the Human Resources website.
- When applying, you will be directed to create a user account on the Human Resources website. **Apply to no more that (7) Assistantships.**
- A cover letter highlighting your skill and capabilities tailored to each position
- A current résumé
- A list of professional references
- Autobiographical sketch/personal statement
  - The same autobiographical sketch/personal statement may be used for the admissions process AND the graduate assistantship application process.
Graduate Assistantship Opportunities

Graduate Assistantship (GA) positions are available for students entering in the Fall of 2023. Applications will open in early October 2022. To view the list of available positions and find information on the GA application process, please visit:

https://www.ohio.edu/student-affairs/resources/graduate-assistantships-overview/positions

Assistantships are on-campus positions that are designed to supplement your classroom experience with practical experience. The Division of Student Affairs and other units across campus offer many assistantship opportunities. Given the partnership with The Gladys W. and David H. Patton College of Education first consideration goes to those students applying for admission to the College Student Personnel program.

The graduate assistantship application process and the academic admissions process are separate but concurrent processes. Visit the Student Affairs resource page listed above to learn more about the application process for assistantships and for the College Student Personnel program.

For all graduate assistantship applications, you will need:

- resume/CV
- cover letter
- list of professional references
- and a personal statement (optional).

Candidates may apply for up to seven assistantships.
Interview Weekend is designed to provide both a broad overview of Ohio University and focused information about Higher Education and Student Affairs and the College Student Personnel program. Selected applicants will be invited to attend Interview Weekend if all academic materials have been submitted and received by December 15, 2022 and they have been offered an interview for a graduate assistantship.

Interview Weekend will take place February 24 – 25, 2023. The invitation process is as follows:

- Faculty Interviews (Virtual): Rolling upon application submissions
- Invitations for Interview Weekend (Assistantships): January 30, 2023
- Virtual Interviews (GA Only): Monday, February 20, 2023 – Thursday, February 23, 2023
- In Person Interview Weekend: Friday, February 24, 2023 – Saturday, February 25, 2023

**INTERVIEW WEEKEND - TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Friday, February 24, 2023**
- 5:00pm- Evening Welcome Event
- 6:30pm- Student Personnel Association Event

**Saturday, February 25, 2023**
- 8:00am - 10:00am - Welcome Breakfast with HESA Faculty
- 11:00am-5:00pm - Graduate Assistantship Interviews (30 minutes each & in-person)
- 11:00am – 1:00pm - Box Lunches Provided (offered during breaks in interviews)
Hello!

On behalf of the Student Personnel Association, we would like to welcome you to Ohio University! Ohio University’s Student Personnel Association (commonly known as SPA) is an organization made up primarily of graduate students in the College Student Personnel (CSP) Program. Our organization strives to keep its members apprised on recent developments in the field of higher education and student affairs, while also providing aspiring student affairs practitioners with professional development, educational opportunities, and social support.

In recent years, SPA has partnered with the Division of Student Affairs and the Department of Counseling and Higher Education within the Gladys W. and David H. Patton College of Education to bring relevant speakers to campus in the fall. SPA has also collaborated with HESA to host a Homecoming tailgate for current CSP students and alumni in the fall and a graduation celebration for the second year members of the CSP cohort in the spring.

The decision to apply to graduate school is a significant one, and we are thrilled that you are considering Ohio University’s College Student Personnel program. The experiences that we have gained as members of this program and as a member of the Student Personnel Association have helped us to grow as people and as student affairs practitioners. We hope that you will have a similarly positive experience. Best of luck as you embark on this new journey!

Warm Regards,
Student Personnel Association
"Ohio University is a special place that contributes towards your transformation into a better person, citizen, and student affairs professional. I continue to utilize my coursework, professors, advisor, and cohort members regularly as I progress through my career and am so thankful to be a part of a community that values ongoing relationships to help me succeed."
- Carrie Grogan, M.Ed, ’09, Assistant Director, Student Leadership Development, University of Chicago

"My experience as a grad at OU was phenomenal! As a graduate assistant in Residence Life, I learned a lot about how to do the tasks as well as how to apply the knowledge I gained in my classes. The connection between my course work and my assistantship allowed for a great learning experience. And, like many others, I made wonderful friends and connections with folks that remain to this day. Through those people, I have been presented with opportunities (like regional board membership for NASPA) that I don't think would have occurred otherwise."
- Mimi Benjamin, Assistant Professor, Student Affairs in Higher Education, Indiana University of Pennsylvania

"After 8 years in the higher education field, I decided to go back for a Master of Education in CSP, and it was the best decision of my life! I thought I had a depth of knowledge at that point in my career, but it wasn’t until I started in the CSP program that I realized I had so much more to learn. The program provided me with a diverse knowledge base, and the GA experiences I was fortunate to land, gave me the working experience that have served me to this day. I’m a proud 2000 graduate of the OHIO CSP program, and I loved the experience so much that I returned in 2007 to work here!"
- Kelly Czack, M.Ed. ’00, Academic Advisor, Ohio University

"The aspect of OU's master's program that I appreciated most, as I began my career in student affairs, was the cooperative relationship that existed between the Gladys W. and David H. Patton College of Education and the student affairs division of the university. At that time, familiarity with theory was important to me, but I was especially motivated to learn how to apply theory to practice. Both my associateship in residence life and the practica that I completed in other departments within the division allowed me to develop an applied understanding of developmental and organizational theory. In addition to taking a strong interest in the program, both faculty members and student affairs administrators took a special interest in us as individuals. They took time to learn about our unique career goals and were flexible enough to accommodate our particular needs. Over the course of my career, I have also appreciated the professional network that I have been able to establish through my association with OU. Both the student affairs division and the academic department are well respected and well represented within the profession. The collaboration that occurs between the two units of the university only serves to strengthen the preparation that they are able to provide to aspiring student affairs professionals."
- Joe Murray, M.Ed., ’84, Assistant Professor of Education, Bucknell University
Queries regarding the College Student Personnel Program, the program application process, or the graduate assistantship application process should be sent via email to: hesa@ohio.edu