

Master's in Higher Education @ PC

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PROVIDENCE
COLLEGE

This program prepares students to either begin professional careers in college or university administration or advance in their careers. Graduates enter such fields as college advising, career education, college admissions, student leadership development, residential life, international education, academic support, athletics, and more. Depending on the organizational structure of each individual college or university, these fields may be housed in student affairs units or academic affairs units.

The program consists of 36 credits: 30 credits of coursework and 6 credits of field experience. The program is designed to be completed in two academic years; however, students have up to five years to complete all requirements. Courses are carefully designed to build from theory to practice, with students moving from foundational coursework to specialized coursework as they move through the program. The field experiences provide a capstone synthesizing theory and practice and preparing students to enter the higher education job market with a competitive advantage. Students who are experienced professionals advancing in their careers may, with approval, substitute elective coursework for field experiences.

Application Deadlines are March 1 for summer or fall admission and July 1 for fall admission. Please Note that students can take up to 2 courses while their application is under review.

The Program Courses *Total Credits: 36 (12 3-credit courses)*

Core Component (7 classes, 21 credits – all students must take these courses):

EDU 670: Foundations of Higher Education
EDU 672: Research and Program Evaluation
EDU 674: Counseling Theories
EDU 676: Student Development in Higher Education
EDU 678: Culturally Competent Practice in Higher Education
EDU 680: Organizational Theory and Leadership in Higher Education
EDU 682: Higher Education Law and Policy

Field Component (2 classes, 6 credits – may substitute electives for field, with director's approval):

EDU 684: Higher Education Practice I
EDU 686: Higher Education Practice II

Electives/Specialization (3 classes, 9 credits):

EDU 690: Career Counseling in Higher Education
EDU 701: Independent Study
EDU 770: Special Topics

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Application Requirements

- Completed Application
- College Transcripts
- Resume
- Personal Statement
- 2 letters of recommendation
- GRE or MAT scores (waived if undergraduate gpa of 3.0 or higher)
- \$55 Application fee

Financial Aid Information

Providence College has over 100 Graduate Assistant Positions that provide students with free tuition and a monthly stipend in exchange for 20 hours of work per week in the GA position. Applicants interested in applying for GA positions should apply by the March 1 deadline for the best opportunity to secure a position. Please contact Todd Hopkins at thopkin2@providence.edu for more information.

Program Course Descriptions

EDU 670: Foundations of Higher Education

This course provides an overview of the historical, philosophical, and social foundations of higher education in the United States. The structures, models, events, and stakeholders that shape contemporary college and university design and programming are explored, as are the social issues, movements, and trends that impact the evolving higher education landscape.

EDU 672: Research and Program Evaluation

This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to the research and program evaluation process in higher education. The course will stress the development of skills required for the critical evaluation of current research studies, development of program evaluation skills, and the ability to understand and interpret a wide range of data in higher education (quantitative and qualitative).

EDU 674: Counseling Theories

This course introduces students to the major schools of counseling and psychotherapy. Through readings, lectures, case demonstrations, guest speakers, and class discussion, students identify the assumptions underlying various schools of thought. This course emphasizes the historical development of major theoretical approaches as well as multicultural implications. Students reflect on theories as they relate to their own personal lives and professional higher education contexts.

EDU 676: Student Development in Higher Education

To maximize student learning and growth in a higher education setting, educators must have a clear understanding of the developmental processes that students encounter throughout their lifetime. This course provides an in-depth understanding and appreciation for how student differences influence their development during college. Participants in this course explore broad concepts related to student development and how the wide array of college environments interact with students.

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EDU 678: Culturally Competent Practice in Higher Education

With the demographics of higher education rapidly changing on myriad levels, administrators must acquire and develop levels of cultural competence that enable them to relate appropriately to and work effectively with students from diverse sociocultural backgrounds. This course explores the dimensions of cultural competence and how administrators can work collaboratively to build a culturally competent campus environment.

EDU 680: Organizational Theory and Leadership in Higher Education

Focuses on organizational theory, behavior, and collegiate culture in higher education settings, with special emphasis on how leaders affect change by developing a dynamic, holistic, systems approach to understanding and facilitating the work of the organization. Examines the complex relationships among individuals and groups, the role of leadership in team formation and functioning, organizational decision-making, conflict resolution, policy development, and administrative cohesion.

EDU 682: Higher Education Law and Policy

This course will provide graduate students with an overview of ethical and legal principles and policies as they affect key administrative and service-related positions in the college/university setting. With an ethical mindset, students will examine the foundations of higher education law, and this examination will be enriched via the analysis of cases and problems.

EDU 684: Higher Education Practice I

This course is designed for advanced level students nearing completion of their studies. Students independently secure a field placement within higher education administration. Students complete 150 hours of supervised, professional level field work over a 15-week semester and attend scheduled seminars. Professional development aligns with ACPA/NASPA Professional Competency Areas for Higher Education Practitioners. Students design individualized learning agreements and engage in meaningful reflection and self-evaluation. Seminar topics vary each semester, but have included: diversity/inclusion; learning support services; the changing needs of students and their families; leadership development; personality assessment; and organizational theory.

EDU 686: Higher Education Practice II

This course is designed for advanced level students in their final semester of study. Students continue in previously established higher education field placements and must complete 150 hours of supervised, professional level field work over a 15-week semester, and attend scheduled seminars. Professional development aligns with ACPA/NASPA Professional Competency Areas for Higher Education Practitioners. Students amend their established learning agreements to reflect advanced learning objectives, engage in meaningful reflection, and work on a major independent project reflective of their newly acquired skills. Seminar topics vary each semester, but have included: personal counseling; adult education; learning and disability services; and enrollment services.

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EDU 690: Career Counseling in Higher Education

This course prepares students to advise students for 'life after college,' in regard to career information, exploration and choice. It prepares students via career theory, research, interviews with career professionals, role playing, practice, and assessment. It educates students on the factors that affect how career counseling services are delivered, including the economy, socio-economic status, cultural differences, technology, and the importance of continual adaptation.

EDU 701: Independent Study

Provides students the opportunity for in-depth study of a particular area related to their graduate program in education. Students will conduct independent work under the direction of a graduate education faculty member. Students must complete an Independent Study Learning Agreement and gain prior approval from their program director.

EDU 770: Special Topics

Focuses on selective emerging issues in the field of higher education. Topics will be determined by the instructor each time the course is offered. Each course topic will be noted in the extended course title. Recent topics have included collegiate athletics, college student mental health, global education and study abroad, the community college system, and college student advising.