Student Outcomes Matter:

Master’s Graduates Get Good Jobs

- All recent master’s graduates had employment offers in the field by July 15.
- The capstone e-portfolio experience in which students synthesized and documented their new professional knowledge, skills, and abilities put VT graduates far ahead in the eyes of employers.
- Recent grads are employed in residence life, student activities, student success, academic advising, new student orientation, leadership development, multicultural affairs, and career services, among others.

Ph.D. Graduates Move Ahead in their Careers

Whether planning to become a faculty member or administrator in higher education, the Ph.D. program prepares graduates to take on significant leadership roles at colleges and universities, research institutes or policy-making bodies.

Master’s and Doctoral Students Are Actively Engaged in the Profession

- 90% held memberships in one or more professional associations,
- 88% participated in professional development activities,
- 42% presented one or more conference programs,
- 39% held leadership positions in professional associations,
- 24% were writing for publication, and
- 10% published manuscripts in professional journals.

You Don’t Just Attend Class, You Join a Community!

- Cohort experience builds friendships and shared learning.
- Students plan both fun and educational activities through the HEA (Higher Education Association)
- Weekly newsletter, Higher Education Highlights, provides the latest in job vacancies, internship opportunities, and highlights student achievements, alumni news, and faculty scholarship.
- Students are strongly encouraged to collaborate

For additional information contact: Ben Austin, Admissions Coordinator
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Higher Education Graduate Programs at Virginia Tech

Master’s Program Overview

The master’s program in Higher Education is a 48-credit hour program that provides entry-level professionals with the essential knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes necessary for a wide variety of student affairs positions in higher education.

Special features of the program:
- Small cohort experience ensures individual attention and shared learning
- Graduate assistantships and tuition coverage during the academic year
- Opportunities to specialize in one area, or explore many areas, of student affairs through assistantships, practica, and summer internships
- Solid grounding in program assessment
- A diverse student body
- Capstone e/portfolio experience

Ph.D. Program Overview

The doctoral program in Higher Education Program is a 96-credit hour program preparing mid-level professionals for senior-level positions in student affairs and higher education administration.

Students may enroll full time or part time; full-time students are supported in assistantships in campus administrative offices. Internships, externships, and independent study experiences provide opportunities to apply classroom learning. Students build competence in understanding and producing significant practice-related research. The plan of study is tailored to the student’s career aspirations. Close interaction and collaboration with faculty are hallmarks of the program.

Certificate Program Overview

The Higher Education Administration Graduate Certificate Program targets full-time college administrators who may not have studied higher education through any formal degree program but wish to develop a deeper understanding of the environment in which they work. The certificate requires successful completion of a total of 12 credit hours, of which 6 credits are required courses and 6 credits are elective.

Application and Admission

- Applicants must complete the online Graduate School application, remit a fee, and provide undergraduate and/or graduate transcripts, three letters of recommendation, a resume. Ph.D. applicants must also submit GRE scores.
- Master’s applicants must have a 3.0 GPA for the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate study. Doctoral applicants must have a 3.3 GPA on previous graduate work; a master’s degree in counseling, student affairs, or closely related field; and 3-5 years of successful professional experience in higher education.
- Selected applicants are invited to Interview Weekend held in late February/early March. A writing sample must be submitted prior to the interview.
- Applicants interview for both admission and graduate assistantships. They meet with faculty, GA supervisors, and current students; visit campus; and see firsthand whether the program fits their needs and aspirations.
- While funding is not guaranteed, admitted students are generally offered a “package” with an offer of admission and a graduate assistantship position. The GA position and provides a monthly stipend, a health insurance benefit and covers tuition (not fees).

Applications are due by January 15.