

Dear Prospective Student:

Thank you for your interest in Western Carolina University's Higher Education Student Affairs (HESA) Graduate Program. Choosing a career in student affairs allows you the privilege to take part in shaping the lives of college students. Our M.Ed. program in HESA emphasizes professional education that integrates academic coursework with supervised practice. The coursework incorporates theoretical constructs, practical experiences and internships, as well as electives in several areas. Our goal is to prepare students for work as a student development specialist in all areas of university life, as well as doctoral degrees in student affairs or higher education administration.

WCU's HESA Graduate Program is student-centered. Just as we teach the importance of holistic student development to aspiring student affairs professionals, we practice what we teach by facilitating meaningful classroom experiences and engaging out-of-classroom professional experiences (Internships and Graduate Assistantships). We are an intentionally small program (cohort-based) designed to maximize faculty-student interaction, foster significant scholarly learning experiences, and offer paid Graduate Assistantships (professional experience) to all qualified, full-time students who desire one.

Our university actively supports a diverse environment with regard to race, color, national origin, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation or disability. In turn, Western is committed to recruiting and selecting students who are representative of our diverse and pluralistic society.

Again, thank you for your interest, and please feel free to contact me with any questions. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Yancey Gulley, Ph.D.
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For more information on the *M.Ed program for Higher Education Student Affairs*, visit hesa.wcu.edu