The Master’s and PhD degree offerings and the Certificate Program are intended for those students planning careers in higher education and/or administration, including student affairs and disability services.

Master’s in Student Personnel Administration (SPA):
This is a non-thesis program that prepares individuals for professional, entry level, and middle management positions in academic, administrative, institutional, public policy, and student affairs offices in two- and four-year colleges and universities, multi-campus systems, foundations, and government agencies. The degree requires the completion of 32 credits of coursework and a comprehensive written examination. Students may choose one of three tracks for the Master of Arts in Student Personnel Administration: General, Disability Education, or Catholic Higher Education.

PhD in Higher Education Administration:
The program emphasizes the interplay of theory and practice in higher education. The curriculum is based on the combination of core courses in higher education administration and the independent needs of the students and is intended for those students interested in pursuing careers in higher education teaching and/or administration. The degree requires the completion of 30 credit hours of coursework, 12 credit hours of dissertation research, a comprehensive written examination, an oral examination/proposal defense, and a public presentation and defense of the dissertation.

Certificate Program in Disability Administration in Higher Education:
Supporting the promotion of disability education, an area of excellence in the School of Education, the 15-hour graduate level Certificate Program in Disability Administration in Higher Education prepares students for disability awareness, ally development, and inclusion through coursework in disability administration, universal design, disability social justice theory, and disability in the media. Students will have the unique opportunity to work directly with The Ability Institute and the award-winning international traveling Allies for Inclusion: The Ability Exhibit.
Higher Education Administration
+ School of Education

FACULTY

Dannielle Joy Davis, Ph.D.: Higher education, professional writing, spirituality, qualitative research and social justice

Beth Winfrey Freeburg, Ph.D.: Adult education, leadership in higher education, research methods

Karen A. Myers, Ph.D.: Disability education in postsecondary institutions, universal design in educational settings

J. Mark Pousson, Ph.D.: College student development, intervention skills, Catholic education, and disability education in postsecondary institutions

Douglas K. Rush, J.D., Ph.D.: Higher Education research methods and statistics

Molly A. Schaller, Ph.D.: Student development theory, leadership in higher education, learning design, Catholic higher education

In the spirit of the Jesuit tradition of education, the higher education administration program is committed to providing students with:

- Individualized academic experiences to satisfy the intellectual interests of students.
- Exposure of practical application of theory to practice such as The Ability Institute and the award-winning international travelling Allies for Inclusion: The Ability Exhibit; the Ability Ally Initiative Workshop; and Ability Allies in Action: Pre-Kindergarten–Eighth Grade Curriculum.
- Application of the social and moral values needed in higher education management and research.

Students may apply for graduate assistantships. Assistantship information and application forms are available on the School of Education webpage, in the financial aid section. Please contact student financial services for more information on financial aid.