Welcome to the academic program of Higher Education & Policy Studies (HEPS) in the Department of Educational and Human Sciences, a department for graduate studies only.

HEPS administers and coordinates the Higher Education curriculum across the College of Education for the following degree programs:

Education Ph.D – Higher Education
Ed Leadership Ed.D. – Higher Education
Ed Leadership M.A. – Higher Ed/Student Personnel
Ed Leadership M.A. – Higher Ed/Community College Education
Graduate Certificate – Community College Education

The FOCUS of HEPS is on the administration of colleges and universities. The Master’s program emphasizes the preparation of first-time professionals while the Doctoral programs support and expand the knowledge base of seasoned professionals. Both degrees aim at advancing the careers of our students, and by strengthening the theory and practice of our field, better positioning them for greater responsibility in academic decision-making and leadership. The Higher Education/Community College track M.A. in Educational Leadership offers a cutting edge online curriculum for administrators and faculty, many of whom are already working in this sector of Higher Education.

General Information on Degrees

MASTERS DEGREE in Educational Leadership – HIGHER EDUCATION/STUDENT PERSONNEL. This is a 39 credit/hour program beyond the Bachelor’s Degree.

MASTERS DEGREE in Educational Leadership – HIGHER EDUCATION/COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION. This is a 42 credit/hour program beyond the Bachelor’s Degree and the core sequence is completely online.

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION (EdD) in Educational Leadership – HIGHER EDUCATION. This is a 63 credit/hour program inclusive of 21 minimum credit/hours of dissertation work. The total number of credit/hour reflects minimum expectations and assumes a relevant Master’s degree in the study of colleges and universities. The course sequence in this degree makes it possible for students to attend on a part-time basis.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD) in Educational Leadership – HIGHER EDUCATION. This is a 69 credit/hour program inclusive of 24 minimum credit/hours of dissertation work. The total number of credit/hour reflects minimum expectations and assumes a relevant Master’s degree in the study of colleges and universities. The course sequence in this degree requires students to attend on a full-time basis.

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE in COMMUNITY COLLEGE EDUCATION. This is a 15 credit/hour program designed for those interested in enriching their knowledge on the administration and organization of this sector in American Higher Education with specific focus on the structure of these colleges in Florida.
General Profile of Students

Most of our Master’s students serve as graduate assistants and our Doctoral students are working professionals with 4+ years of experience in student services, higher education administration or teaching in community colleges. The diversity of our students reflect our program’s potential impact on the state’s ability to service the needs of higher education institutions and the growing needs of Florida’s diverse college student population.

Vision

We seek to become a premiere program through exemplary teaching and rigorous research by faculty and students; through the preparation of leaders/scholars-practitioners for colleges and universities for the 21st century; and by developing a sense of personal and communal responsibility for democratizing the academy by advocating social justice among students, administrators, staff and faculty.

SPSA

The Student Personnel Association is open to both graduate and undergraduate students who are interested in the study of Higher Education. SPA is designed to provide a support system, present professional development, leadership opportunities, and create an awareness and knowledge of careers in colleges, universities and other sectors of postsecondary education.

General List of Courses

- EDH 6045 First Year College Experience
- EDH 6046 Diversity in Higher Education
- EDH 6047 Theories of College Student Development
- EDH 6053 The Community College in America
- EDH 6054 Issues in Postsecondary Education
- EDH 6067 International Higher Education
- EDH 6081 Contemporary Problems in Community College
- EDH 6204 Community College Organization, Administration, and Supervision
- EDH 6215 Community College Curriculum
- EDH 6305 Teaching & Learning in Community College
- EDH 6505 Finance in Higher Education
- EDH 6635 Organization and Administration of Higher Ed.
- EDH 6623 American Professoriate and College Presidency
- EDH 7040 Research on the College Student
- EDH 7236 Legal Issues in Higher Education
- EDH 7409 Legal Issues in Higher Education II
- EDH 7366 Assessment Practices in Higher Education
- EDH 7401 Higher Education and Public Policy
- EDH 7638 Advanced Seminar in Higher Education
- EDH 7631 Managing Change, Conflict & Stability in Higher Education
- EDH 7934 Higher Ed. Literature, Research & Professional Writing Seminar
- EDH 6946 Higher Education Internship
- EDH 6947 Higher Education Practicum
- EDH 6937 Special Topics: Retention Strategies

Admission Information

Requirements and Procedures

Each of these degrees have different requirements and procedures for admission. These differences reflect their unique curriculum, and as recommended by the Carnegie Initiative in Graduate Education, reflect the differences in educating students at the Master’s and Doctoral levels; including the establishment of expectations and the field’s specific culture. It is the responsibility of students to become familiar with all requirements and procedures.

Deadline Information

Students interested in applying to the program of HEPS may find the online application form and more information at this website: www.edcollege.ucf.edu/highered

HEPS is located within the Department of Educational Research, Technology and Leadership. ERTL’s website is: www.edcollege.ucf.edu/ertl

Questions related to the HEPS program may be sent to: heps@mail.ucf.edu

College of Graduate Studies information may be found at www.graduate.ucf.edu/

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Associate Graduate Faculty

Additional instructional personnel from across the University serve as adjuncts and in dissertation committees. These colleagues support the work of regular faculty by providing the cutting-edge perspective of practitioners-scholars.

This brochure is a preliminary informational tool. Prospective applicants and current students must become familiar with the Graduate Catalog. This is the University’s official record of graduate policies, admission and program requirements. For current information, please review: http://www.ucf.edu/catalog/