

- **Community College Education, DA**
- **Education, PhD with Higher Education Specialization**
- **Community College Teaching, MAIS**
- **Higher Education, MAIS**

PROGRAM PROFILE

The Higher Education Program at George Mason University prepares individuals for positions of leadership in teaching, research, and administration at community colleges, four-year colleges, and universities. The interdisciplinary curriculum emphasizes ethical leadership, assessment, and practice-based scholarship in teaching and learning. Students in the Higher Education Program come from varied professional backgrounds in college teaching, university administration, business, the performing arts, and government, and bring a vast spectrum of experience to their studies.

Mason provides unparalleled opportunities in research, internships, and work experiences through collaborative alliances with community colleges, business, government, and surrounding communities. Students do internships and practicums at places such as the American Association of Community Colleges, Office of the Virginia Secretary of Education, Northern Virginia Community College. They also intern on campus, in New Century College, the Freshman Center, the Office of Institutional Assessment, and the Development Office. Their research has been published in *Community College Week*, *Community College Times*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education*, and other prestigious disciplinary outlets.

CORE PRINCIPLES

The Higher Education Program rests on four cornerstones that equip graduates to meet the changing needs of today's college students:

- Ethical leadership derives from ethical integrity and a respect for the diversity of others.
- Assessment and scholarship of teaching and learning encourages improvement by measuring whether the desired goals are achieved. Faculty learn to critically analyze data to improve student learning. Administrators create and assess practice-based research to make informed decisions.
- Information technology is a primary focus for Mason's excellence. It fits the needs of the region and the nation, and our faculty and students creatively use and critically examine information technology for their academic goals.
- Diversity means recognizing the great differences in our classrooms and region. The program prepares leaders who will foster educational and work environments free from discrimination and encourage diversity of thought in the classroom and in research

PROGRAMS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Doctor of Arts in Community College Education

The doctoral program prepares students for college teaching through coursework in higher education pedagogy and a disciplinary knowledge area. While many students develop their knowledge area in a single discipline, students are encouraged to think broadly in terms of multiple disciplines. Working with an advisor, students choose appropriate courses from more than one of the 20 participating departments. In addition to coursework that leads to expertise in selected disciplinary or interdisciplinary knowledge areas, the coursework in higher education offers proficiency in core areas related to undergraduate education:

- The Community College
- College Teaching
- Technology in Higher Education
- The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

Graduates of the doctoral program teach at both community colleges and four-year colleges across the country. In addition, they hold administrative positions at colleges, universities, corporations, associations, and government agencies.

Doctor of Philosophy in Education

This program prepares students for college administration, teaching, and research through coursework, independent study and an internship. Students and faculty advance and create knowledge based on reflective practice and use the knowledge to foster research-based decision-making.

Building upon a core curriculum focusing on practice-based research, the PhD offers proficiency in three core areas related to higher education:

- Ethical leadership and respect for diversity
- Program and institution assessment and evaluation
- Effective application of information technology and organizational learning

In addition, students have the opportunity to develop a secondary concentration to match their particular professional goals.

MAIS Concentration in Community College Teaching

The 36-credit master's degree program in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in community college teaching combines 12 credits of coursework in college teaching with 24 credits of work in one of the following knowledge areas: communication, English, information systems, mathematics, Spanish, or TESL. The master's degree qualifies students to teach courses in these growing fields at the two-year college level.

MAIS Concentration in Higher Education (Administration or Student Affairs)

The 36-credit master's degree program in interdisciplinary studies with a concentration in higher education, prepares individuals for positions in colleges and universities or in associations and government agencies whose activities impact higher education. Through the MAIS concentration in higher education, college employees in particular have an opportunity for further professional education and development.

Certificate in College Teaching

The 18-hour certificate program is designed for potential faculty and graduate students planning a career in undergraduate education. The certificate offers courses that enhance pedagogical skills, explore pedagogical scholarship, and examine the use of technology in higher education.

Certificate in Higher Education Administration

The 18-hour certificate is designed for graduate students planning a career in student, academic, or business affairs in higher education or administrators wishing to enhance their proficiency in these areas. The certificate will provide core knowledge for administrative processes in higher education institutions, as well as options for students to develop more expertise in a particular area of study.

WHY HIGHER EDUCATION AT GEORGE MASON?

Named the #1 national university to watch by *U.S. News & World Report*, George Mason University is an innovative, entrepreneurial institution with global distinction in a range of academic fields. Located in the heart of Northern Virginia's technology corridor near Washington, D.C., Mason prepares its students to succeed in the work force and meet the needs of the region and the world.

See highered.gmu.edu for program requirements and courses.

HOW TO APPLY

Along with the completed Application for Graduate Admission and application fee, applicants to the graduate programs in higher education should submit:

- Official transcripts from previous institutions of higher education attended
- Goals statement
- Three letters of recommendation, one from an educational supervisor
- Official test scores on the GRE (General Test) taken in the last 5 years
- Resume
- Formal writing sample of at least 1,000 words

See chss.gmu.edu/howtoapply for complete details on the application process.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Higher Education Program

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GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

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