

**COLLEGE
STUDENT
PERSONNEL
ADMINISTRATION**

AT

**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**



**MASTER'S DEGREE IN
STUDENT AFFAIRS
ADMINISTRATION**



General Outline

The Master's Degree in College Student Personnel Administration (CSPA) concentration trains candidates to succeed in entry- to mid-level student affairs positions in two-year and four-year public and private colleges and universities. Graduates will be qualified to serve as administrators, advisors, and programmers in areas as diverse as residential life, activities, admissions, advising, service and leadership, orientation, multicultural programs, student conduct, fraternity and sorority life, and assessment. Coursework includes classes in student development theory, the law as it relates to college students, and counseling college students.

Program Features

- Full-time or part-time enrollment options available.
- Comprehensive training through classes and practical experiences.
- Emphasis on managing personnel, resources, and students.



Curriculum

- 42 credit hours of course work with a capstone seminar (Full-time)
- 36 credit hours of course work plus a comprehensive examination (Part-time)
- 36 credit hours of course work plus a thesis (Part-time)



- Assistantship opportunities available both years.
- Automatic membership in the Student Affairs Graduate Association (SAGA), a registered student organization.
- Program includes recent graduates, career enhancers, and higher education professionals seeking a graduate degree.

Graduate Assistantships

- Admitted applicants invited to GRAD (Graduate Recruitment & Assistantship Days) to learn more about available positions.
- Diverse assistantship opportunities available across Student Affairs and Academic Affairs.
- GA positions include a tuition waiver and monthly stipend.



Possible GA Options

- Academic Support
- Career Services
- Civic Engagement
- Fraternity & Sorority Life
- Multicultural Center
- Orientation & Transition Services
- Residence Life/Housing
- Student Activities
- Student Conduct
- Gamsky Fellowship



💛 Student Affairs Graduate Association (SAGA)

SAGA is a Registered Student Organization (RSO) for all students enrolled in the CSPA program at Illinois State University. The organization provides its members with professional development and social opportunities, helps foster a sense of community among its members, and assists in their preparation for working in the field of student affairs.





Admissions Requirements



- Preferred application deadline for consideration in **Fall 2026 is Friday, January 3.**
- Cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Current resume, personal statement, and two letters of reference.
- Submit up to a 750-word statement that describes your career objectives.



Part-time Applicants

Part-time students must be currently employed in a relevant role.





From Redbird to Professional

“Not only did Daniela get the job done, but she really took every opportunity to build intentional relationships with students and meet and learn from UT Dallas staff, no matter if they worked in an area she was interested in or not.”

-Asiah Claiborne '19, M.S. College Student Personnel Administration



CSPA graduate student Daniela Martinez, left, and CSPA alum Asiah Claiborne, right, on the University of Texas-Dallas campus.

CSPA's curricula allows for multiple professional practice experiences. Students are encouraged to travel outside of Illinois to take roles at universities or nonprofit organizations.

Daniela Martinez, CSPA Graduate Student, was hired by a CSPA Alum working in the UT Dallas Student Transition Programs department. This was made possible through NODA, a national organization for orientation, transition, and retention.

Read the full story and explore how CSPA students gain experience through professional networks.



check us out online!



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