Student Development in Higher Education - Master’s Degree Program Focus

The mission of the student development master's degree program is to prepare graduates to function effectively as student development specialists in rapidly changing institutions of higher education. Students are trained to understand and to meet the developmental needs of college students taking into account worldviews and expectations which are influenced by age, ethnic background, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability status and other "non-traditional" perspectives.

Academic Expectations

The program requires 42-45 hours of study in counseling, student development and higher education including at least 6 credit hours of internship in one or two area colleges. The program has been built on a counseling orientation and is designed to integrate counseling and problem solving skills into a developmental and educational orientation. Courses include Theories and Techniques of Counseling, Career Counseling, Multicultural Counseling, Program Design, Theories of College Student Development, Student Services, Group Dynamics, and Legal, Policy and Financial Issues in Higher Education as well as the internship and one or two electives.

Admission to the Graduate School requires an undergraduate GPA of at least 2.7 and an upper division GPA of 3.0 as well as three letters of reference, an essay and an interview. Students must maintain at least a B average to remain in good standing.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact Dr. Peter F. Troiano
Department of Counselor Education & Family Therapy
Central Connecticut State University
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06050-4010
(860) 832-2154
e-mail troianop@ccsu.edu

or

Contact the Graduate Admissions Office
(860) 832-2350 (press ‘1’)
for information regarding application procedures and an application packet.
e-mail abraham@ccsu.edu

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Central Connecticut State University
The master’s degree program in Student Development in Higher Education prepares students for careers as academic advisors, career counselors, advisors to student organizations, admissions counselors, academic advisors to athletes and student development educators.

The program is accessible to full and part-time students, offering classes in the late afternoon and evening as well as flexible advising hours. Students complete a 100 hour practicum as well as a 300 hour internship in local colleges and universities. These experiences prepare students to compete successfully for a wide range of employment opportunities in higher education after graduation.

Program Objectives – Students will:

- Learn the basic skills of individual counseling
- Learn the basic processes and skills of group facilitation
- Learn the connections between emotional and intellectual development among college students
- Learn about the interaction between personal development and cultural context
- Learn how to work effectively with students across a wide range of ages, cultural, geographic and socioeconomic backgrounds
- Demonstrate proficiency in assessment of student needs and design of educational programs that support student intellectual and social development
- Learn about the role which student development education has historically played in a student’s overall college education
- Develop a personal code of ethics that includes an awareness of Western and non-Western ethical perspectives
- Develop competence as consumers of research and program evaluators
- Develop a personal sense of mission regarding their work with college students

Program of Study

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Counseling Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CNSL 500 Dynamics of Group Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CNSL 501 Theories and Techniques of Counseling</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>CNSL 503 Supervised Counseling Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
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Directed Electives

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<th>Directed Elective</th>
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<tr>
<td>CNSL 530 Student Development in Higher Education</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CNSL 531 Student Services in Higher Education</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CNSL 532 Program Design in Student Services</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CNSL 533 Legal, Policy and Financial Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CNSL 525 Multicultural Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CNSL 521 Career Counseling and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ED 598 Research in Education</td>
<td>3</td>
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Free Elective

| Free Elective | 3-6 |

Capstone Requirements

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<th>Capstone Requirement</th>
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<tr>
<td>CNSL 592 SDHE Internship</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plan A Thesis (CNSL 599)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plan B Comprehensive Exam/Capstone Project</td>
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Please note: The student must apply in advance for the practicum and internship. In order to register for both 503 and 592, the student must be admitted to candidacy. See Dr. Troiano for specifics of this process.

Applications are due to the department on or before March 15 for the fall semester and October 15 for the spring semester.

Applications must be approved before the student registers for these courses.

Admission Requirements

The deadline for receiving all admissions materials, including official transcripts is March 1 for fall admission.

A minimum Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.7, three letters of reference and an essay are required for application. Qualified applicants are invited to participate in an interview process in the Spring prior to admission. Following the interview, successful applicants are admitted to the program.

Completion/Graduation Requirements

All students must be admitted to the program from which they expect to graduate. They must complete all courses in the plan of study which they sign upon admission to candidacy.

In addition to meeting academic criteria, successful students in the SDHE program are expected to be mature, motivated for graduate studies, committed to supporting the well-being of those with whom they work as advisors, counselors and colleagues, and free from any problems that may impair their effectiveness as counselors, educators or colleagues. The faculty conducts an initial assessment of these characteristics and skills during the CNSL 501 course using the department’s “Attitudes and Attributes Scale.” If students do not meet criteria established in this scale, there are ample opportunities to discuss skill development with faculty and advisors and to improve in the required areas.

Field-Based Training

The Practicum is a one semester, 100 hour placement in an area college. This experience also includes a weekly seminar on campus with a CCSU faculty member. The focus of the practicum is on the development of individual counseling skills.

The Internship is a two semester, 300 hour field experience which also includes a weekly seminar on campus. Both experiences are chosen with the assistance of the program coordinator.