



**MISSION**

The Master of Education in Higher Education Leadership program allows students to develop as scholars and professionals through a blend of classroom learning and practical experience. Students are immersed in the operations of academic affairs and student services in the higher education field. Faculty members maintain commitment in the areas of teaching, research, and service for the sharing of knowledge and to provide leadership to students. Flexible off-campus and distance learning programs exist to accommodate the needs of a greater number of students. Students experience learning that enhances their appreciation and knowledge of diversity in the classroom and workplace.



**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

Coursework in the Higher Education Leadership program exposes students to a range of learning and development theories, explores the history of American higher education, interprets financial and organizational structures, evaluates institutional effectiveness, and analyzes educational research. An emphasis on learning through technology invites students to develop instructional applications in a variety of software programs and create Web resources to further academic achievement and student learning.

The most notable feature of the Higher Education Leadership program is its flexibility. While core classes provide students with a foundational understanding of higher education and student affairs, electives and internship experiences allow students to explore specific career paths. This intentional design encourages students to investigate higher education, student affairs and other careers related to non-profits and adult education.



Dear Prospective Graduate Student:

Thank you for your interest in Valdosta State University and the Higher Education Leadership program within the Dewar College of Education. Valdosta State is a growing regional university that provides excellent academic programs, while also offering a student centered campus that encourages student success both in and out of the classroom. With over 13,000 students, VSU has maintained the personal touch of caring and dedicated faculty and staff since it's founding in 1906.

Graduate students within the Higher Education Leadership program are given the opportunity to gain "hands-on" experience working with VSU faculty, staff and administrators. The Division of Student Affairs actively works with the faculty in the Higher Education Leadership program to provide students with opportunities for internships and assistantships. Graduate students within the Student Affairs division have worked on the development of new residence halls, the new Student Union and innovative programming initiatives designed to improve institutional graduation and retention rates. I believe you will find Valdosta State University to be the perfect place to begin your career in Higher Education Leadership. On behalf of the entire Student Affairs Division, we wish you nothing but success in your academic and career endeavors.

Sincerely,

Russell F. Mast  
Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students

**Contact Information**

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**Semester Deadlines**

Fall Admission: April 15  
Spring Admission: November 15\*  
\*Higher Education track only



Visit our Web site!



**Master of Education**

Higher Education Leadership

**HIGHER EDUCATION  
ADMINISTRATION TRACK**

The program prepares graduates for management positions in a variety of fields, including admissions, academic advising, residence life, student activities, financial aid, career services, and offices designed to support and retain historically underserved student populations. Many of our students gain experience in these areas through graduate assistant positions. The 36-hour credit track meets the standards and recommendations outlined by the Council for Advancement of Standards (CAS) in Higher Education.

**Completion requirements**

**Area A: Core Courses (9 hours)**

LEAD 7840: History and Philosophy (3 hours)

RSCH 7100: Research Methods (3 hours)

LEAD 7850: Ethics and Standards (3 hours)

**Area B: Academic Concentration (18 hours)**

LEAD 7800: Organization and Governance (3 hours)

LEAD 7810: Finance and Budgeting (3 hours)

LEAD 7820: Assessment and Evaluation (3 hours)

LEAD 7830: Law and Policy (3 hours)

SAHE 7860: The College Student (3 hours)

LEAD 8710: Directed Study I (3 hours)

**Area C: Elective (3 hours)**

Guided Elective (3 hours)

**Area D: Field Experiences (6 hours)**

LEAD 7921 Internship I (3 hours)

LEAD 7922 Internship II (3 hours)

**Total: 36 credit hours**

**STUDENT AFFAIRS TRACK**

The Student Affairs Track couples the field's latest theories and practices with an understanding of the historical, cultural and sociological issues that impact contemporary student affairs practitioners. Students within the program will jump into leadership positions on campus as graduate assistants in various departments within the Division of Student Affairs. The 42-hour credit track meets the standards and recommendations outlined by the Council for Advancement of Standards (CAS) in Higher Education.

**Completion requirements**

**Area A: Core (6 hours)**

LEAD 7840 History and Philosophy (3 hours)

RSCH 7100 Research Methods (3 hours)

LEAD 7850 Ethics and Standards (3 hours)

**Area B: Academic Concentration (27 hours)**

LEAD 7810: Finance and Budgeting (3 hours)

LEAD 7820: Assessment and Evaluation (3 hours)

LEAD 7830: Law and Policy (3 hours)

SAHE 7860: The College Student (3 hours)

SAHE 7870: Student Personnel Services (3 hours)

SAHE 7880: Counseling in Student Affairs (3 hours)

SAHE 7890: Technology in Student Affairs (3 hours)

LEAD 8710: Directed Study I (3 hours)

LEAD 8710: Directed Study II (3 hours)

**Area C: Electives (3 hours)**

Guided Elective (3 hours)

**Area D: Field Experience (3 hours)**

LEAD 7921: Internship I (3 hours)

**Total: 42 credit hours**

**PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE**

Students must complete one-to-two guided internships as part of the Higher Education Leadership degree. An internship typically lasts one semester or the equivalent of 150 hours of work on a supervised project.

**JOB OPPORTUNITIES**

Graduate assistantships are available to assist with tuition costs, pay students a monthly stipend, and provide practical work experience in college and university environments. All students admitted to the Student Affairs track work in Graduate assistantship positions during the two years of the program.

Graduate assistantships may be available in:

- Access Office for Students with Disabilities
- Athletics
- Campus Recreation
- Higher Education and Student Affairs Program
- Health Promotions
- Financial Aid
- Greek Life
- Housing and Residence Life
- OASIS Center for Advising
- Orientation
- Strategic Research and Analysis
- Student Activities

Incoming students can inquire about the different assistantships available by contacting the Graduate School Office or through the Graduate School website: <http://www.valdosta.edu/gradschool/GraduateAssistantImportantLinks.shtml>

“Working as a Graduate Assistant for Men’s Basketball has been a huge blessing in my life because it combines my two passions: helping others and basketball. Before coaching, I played basketball and I had many coaches and professors who made a difference in my life. Now, I am able to interact with student athletes every day and share what I have learned with others. My graduate assistantship with men’s basketball is helping me learn and grow as a person everyday as I pursue my degree in Higher Education Leadership.”

Chad Adkins '13

Graduate Assistant for Men’s Basketball



“The Higher Education program has helped me become more interested in learning about various campus cultures and the experiences of international students. This program was not just another degree for me; it has had and will continue to have a lasting impact on the way I view the world and my place in it.”

Lamesha Andrews '12

Resident Director at Spelman College