

Professional Pathways in Higher Education and Student Affairs

ASC 338.09
Spring 2009
Thursdays, 2:30-4:18
Smith Lab, Room

Instructor: Jessica Mercerhill
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Course Description

This course will introduce students to the dynamic field of Higher Education and Student Affairs. Academic and Student Affairs divisions offer many opportunities to work at colleges and universities without becoming a professor. Admissions counselors, academic advisors, orientation professionals, academic program administrators, and residence hall directors are just a few examples. Education required to enter such positions, professional organizations that support and provide professional development, detailed reviews of position requirements and duties, and the differences between types of higher education institutions will be studied.

Course Objectives

- Students will identify careers available in higher education and student affairs (HESA)
- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the many types of higher education institutions
- Students will delineate the education requirements for HESA fields that interest them.

Meeting Times

Class will meet on Thursdays, 2:30-4:18.

Week 1 Introduction to the field of Higher Education and Student Affairs.

Weeks 2-9 Guest speakers from Ohio State University and nearby institutions will discuss how they entered their career, what the position requires, etc. One class session will be devoted to how to research and pursue a degree in higher education and student affairs.

Week 10 Short 3-5 minute student presentations of the final paper. Paper due no later than the end of the assigned final exam time.

Topics and speakers for weeks 2-9 may include the following:

Working in Student Affairs

Working in academic affairs

Higher education on regional campuses

Working at mid-sized institutions

The community college

Private liberal arts institutions

For-profit institutions

Assignments

Readings: Weekly background topics and speakers will be posted on Carmen. You will read about upcoming speakers and topics the week before you attend class.

Reflections: A short reflection on each of the speakers is to be posted to Carmen within 4 days of the class. Reflections should include 3 main points you heard from the speaker, as well as whether it is a field you would like to learn more about and why.

Final Paper: At the end of the quarter, you will write a 2-3 page paper about the career in higher education that most attracted you. Be sure to discuss why you have chosen this career for your paper, what education is needed to pursue this career, what types of higher education institutions offer this position, and what type of institution you believe you would like to work in.

Grading

To receive an “S” for this course, you must receive 75% of all points for attendance, reading, discussion, and writing assignments.

Participation	20%
Reflections	40%
Final paper	35% for written paper; 5% for report in class

Criteria for participation: attend each class on time; participate in discussions with thoughtful comments and responses to classmates.

Criteria for grading written work:

Writing addresses required points listed above.

Writing uses clearly identified details from the speakers and/or background reading.

Outside sources are appropriately cited (using MLA or APA format).

Writing is well organized and coherent.

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; Illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

Disability Services

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 -Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.