



Online M. S. in Higher Education

Program at a glance

- ✓ This degree is geared toward those students who plan to work in an administrative capacity in a higher education institution (in student affairs, academic affairs, administrative affairs, development, etc.). It is a total of 36 graduate credit hours.
 - ✓ Students in the online program are not eligible for graduate assistantships.
 - ✓ This is a cohorted, lock step program to be completed in one year. Students get admitted as a group and the course schedule is pre-determined by the Faculty Director.
 - ✓ The minimum requirements for admission are a baccalaureate degree and an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 credit hours of upper-division undergraduate study.
 - ✓ Work experience in higher education such as in four-year institution, community college, or student affairs areas is preferred but not required
- ✓ The deadline for admission is **June 1st** for Fall of the same year. In addition to the application, the following materials must be submitted through FIU's Graduate School website (gradschool.fiu.edu) by the deadline:
 - Two (2) letters of recommendation;
 - Personal statement (letter of intent/essay);
 - Updated resume;
 - An official copy of your transcripts.

What is the deadline for admission into the program?

June 1st is the deadline for admission into Fall term. Applications are accepted through FIU's graduate school only once a year.

What information should my personal statement cover?

- Your personal statement should include the following information:
- Why you want to complete this particular degree;
- What you want to do with the degree when you graduate;
- If you have had experience working in higher education, describe what it was;
- If you have had experience during your undergraduate years in clubs, organizations, etc., describe in what capacity;
- Anything in your record that you would want to address (e.g., if your GPA is under 3.0).

Who should write my letters of recommendation?

It is preferable to have previous college instructors of yours fill out the recommendation letters. The recommenders should address how they assess your potential for success in a graduate program. You can also get one letter from an employer, especially if it is from a higher education setting. The letters must be submitted through FIU's Graduate School online application. The instructions are on the graduate school website.

Must this program be completed only online? Can't I take any of the courses face-to-face?

Yes, the program is cohort-based and all of the courses are taken online.

How many students are accepted to the program?

Between 20 to 35 students are accepted.

Is the program part-time or full-time? How long does the program usually take?

The program is full-time, but you will not be taking any more than two courses each mini term. Since the program is cohort-based, all of the students in your cohort will take the same courses in the same semester they are offered. The degree is designed to be completed in three semesters.

Is there a possibility for employment with the university after graduation?

There is a possibility of employment at the University after graduation, and our students are introduced to national opportunities for employment at other institutions.

What is the estimated cost of the program?

The total cost of the program is \$21,127.55. It includes tuition and fees. It is paid on a semester basis, and is approximately \$7,030.85 a semester.

My undergraduate GPA is under 3.0. Should I still apply to the program?

Yes, you may. However, admission to the program is highly competitive. It is important to note that FIU's graduate school computes a candidate's undergraduate GPA based only on the upper-division (3000 and 4000 level) courses in a student's program (usually up to the last 60 credits in a program). This is called the UG 60, and it could be different than the GPA of the entire undergraduate program. Therefore, if you have not completed your undergraduate degree yet and you believe your UG 60 GPA will be a 3.0 or higher once you have graduated, we suggest that you wait until after completion of your undergraduate degree to apply.

Are there any scholarships available?

Not through the program. You can visit FIU's graduate school website and search for private scholarships.

My undergraduate degree is not in Education. Can I still apply?

Yes, many of our students have undergraduate degrees in other disciplines (majors in arts and sciences or business, for example).

I am still completing my undergraduate degree, but want to apply to the program. May I do so?

Yes, if you are in your last semester as an undergraduate student, you may apply to the program. You will have to have official transcripts sent to the Graduate School at the time of your application (even though it will still show you as an undergraduate student). If you meet the admissions requirements and you are recommended for admissions, you will be notified that your entry into the program is "conditional" until you send official transcripts to the Graduate School with your final undergraduate degree posted.

Once I am accepted to the program, is there an orientation?

Yes, once you are accepted you will get an email with details for an online orientation.

Can I transfer credits over to this program?

No, since it is a cohorted program.