Program Description
The Master of Arts degree in Student Personnel Services prepares graduates to meet the academic, social, and personal needs of college students. The program offers two areas of concentration: counseling and student affairs administration.

Both concentrations consist of courses in student affairs, counseling, educational psychology, and electives. Practicum and Internship classes provide individualized, hands-on experience in counseling settings or student affairs offices. Additionally, students have opportunities for involvement through the SPS graduate student organization, participation in state and national conferences, and experiential activities.

Graduates of the SPS program demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and professional dispositions that are expected of professionals in counseling and student affairs administration. Many graduates work in a variety of higher education areas, such as:

- Admissions
- Student Activities
- Financial Aid
- Leisure and Recreational Programs
- Career Planning and Career Placement
- College Counseling Centers
- Student Orientation
- Student Organizations
- Greek Affairs
- Residence Life
- Academic Advising
- International Student Affairs

Other graduates have found great success in non-educational environments, such as:

- Psychiatric Hospitals
- Community Counseling Agencies
- Veterans Administration
- Addictions/Treatment Centers
- Correctional Systems
- Hospitals
- Court System/Justice Department

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Course Rotation
The degree requires at least 48-hour semester hours that can be completed in four semesters and one summer of enrollment.

FIRST FALL
COUN 5000  Dynamics of the Counseling Process
EPSY 5460  Human Growth & Development
SPS  5500  Introduction to SPS
COUN 5530  Theories of Counseling

FIRST SPRING
COUN 5550* OR
SPS  5550**  Supervised Experience/Practicum
EDUC 5010  Educational Research and Evaluation
COUN 5610  Multicultural and Diverse Populations
SPS  5920  The American College Student

SUMMER
COUN 5510  Career and Lifestyle Planning
SPS  5580  Group Process

SECOND FALL
SPS  5930  Org & Admin of SPS in Higher Education
SPS  5570  Internship in College Student Personnel
EPSY 5520  Analysis of the Individual
COUN 6530*  Advanced Group Leadership

SECOND SPRING
SPS  5960  Legal & Ethical Issues in Student Affairs & Counseling
SPS  5570  Internship in College Student Personnel
SPS  5970**  Seminar on Current Issues in Higher Education & Student Affairs
COUN 6520*  Differential Diagnosis & Treatment in Counseling

* Required for counseling area only  ** Required for administration area only

Candidate Admission Contact Information

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ACCREDITATION
Northwestern State University is accredited by the Commission of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award associate, baccalaureate, master’s, and specialist’s degrees.

Northwestern’s College of Education and Human Development has been continuously accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) since its initial accreditation in 1954. The College must include in its accreditation review all initial and advanced programs that prepare teachers and other school professionals to work in preschool through 12th grade settings. NCATE uses six standards to holistically evaluate Northwestern’s professional education unit. Additionally, each initial and advanced program must meet professional standards and be nationally recognized.

Through the process, NCATE assures the public that graduates of accredited institutions have acquired the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to help all P-12 students learn and/or to create supportive environments for student learning.

Advanced programs for preparing the professoriate or non-school personnel are not within NCATE’s scope of authority.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION
It is the policy of Northwestern State University of Louisiana not to discriminate on the basis of race, color religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability in its educational programs, activities or employment practices.

Northwestern State University
is a member of the University of Louisiana System