

Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership

Master of Arts



Leadership, Diversity and Social Justice

Prepare to challenge your existing understanding of higher education and what it means to be an education professional. The M.A. curriculum follows standards outlined by the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS Standards) and competencies outlined by the American College Personnel Association and the association for Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education (ACPA/NASPA Professional Competencies). Our

alignment of the curriculum to professional standards is to ensure graduates are prepared for a variety of professional roles in today's changing, diverse higher education environments. Students engage in practical experiences under the mentorship of experienced higher education and student affairs leaders through graduate assistantships, field experiences and/or internships. The faculty promote an educational environment that values diverse perspectives, inclusivity and social justice.

Career Pathway

Graduates may pursue many positions in higher education, such as:

- Higher education administrator
- Student affairs leader
- Institutional researcher
- Policy analyst
- University faculty member

Degree Options

Courses address a wide range of topics, from culture and law, to policy and finance. You'll also have opportunities to gain practical experiences in the field, under the mentorship of experienced higher education and student affairs leaders.

Program Details

- Greeley Campus Delivery
- Credits Required: 39
- Time to Completion: Five semesters
- Classes Start: Fall Semester

Related Programs

- Educational Leadership, M.A.
- Educational Leadership, Ed.S., Ed.D.
- Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership, Doctoral Minor
- Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership, Ph.D.

Cost and Value

Tuition rates are based on the 2020-21 Academic Year:

Colorado Resident Tuition: \$615 per credit hour plus fees.

Nonresident Tuition: \$1,150 per credit hour plus fees.

UNC is regularly called out as a top value for both resident and nonresident students, and the university offers financial aid packages for qualified students. For more information, visit [UNCO.EDU/COSTS](https://unco.edu/costs).

Faculty Spotlight

Raquel Wright-Mair, Ph.D.

Raquel Wright-Mair, Ph.D., is assistant professor of Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership at UNC. She conducts research that is grounded in social justice and focuses on issues of access and equity in higher education. She seeks to understand and advocate for the creation of more inclusive campus environments for underrepresented populations. Through her research, she examines the experiences of students, faculty and administrators of color on college campuses and examines structures, policies and systems necessary for their growth, development and success. Dr. Wright-Mair is also a research associate at the National Institute for Transformation and Equity.

What Students Say

“Balance is a value that allows me to coexist in my multiple roles as a graduate student mother of color. The HESAL program and community provide that space I need to be successful in each of my identities.”

– Reyna Anaya, Graduate of HESAL master's program and second year Ph.D. student

Financing your Education

UNC offers a variety of financial support options, including:

- Several competitive graduate assistantships
- Competitive scholarships specific to the HESAL program
- Colorado resident tuition for students from 15 western states is offered through the Western Regional Graduate Program. To see if you qualify visit [UNCO.EDU/GRADUATE-SCHOOL/FUNDING/WESTERN-REGIONAL-GRADUATE-PROGRAM.ASPX](https://unco.edu/graduate-school/funding/western-regional-graduate-program.aspx)
- For more information contact Financial Aid at [UNCO.EDU/OFA](mailto:unco.edu/ofa).

Program Contact

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About UNC Graduate School

The University of Northern Colorado, founded in 1889, is Colorado's right-sized doctoral research university, serving a diverse student body around the world. Given its size, program mix, and mission, UNC offers students the access and opportunities of a small college along with the nationally recognized programs, research funding and facilities that come with being a leading U.S. university. Students seeking preparation for a world (and workplace) full of opportunities and options, complexities and cultures, diversity and demands, will find faculty mentors and excited fellow students to engage with here at UNC.



UNC

UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

Graduate School

[UNCO.EDU/GRADUATE-SCHOOL](https://unco.edu/graduate-school)