ESHR: Supporting College Students Informal Concentration Area (ICA)

Colleges and universities of all sizes and varied purposes are fueled by well-trained professionals and policies that support their students and their missions. Courses in the Supporting College Students ICA will help you understand how to work with college students and understand related systems.

The Supporting College Students ICA is a nice academic partner for students majoring in Psychology, Sociology, Social Work, Social Justice, Communication Studies, Secondary Education, Ethics and Public Policy, Interdepartmental Studies, or Political Science. The Supporting College Students ICA is also well-paired with other ESHR ICAs such as the Diversity Education ICA or the Learning and Development ICA.

Career and job examples for students with an ESHR focus on college students may include admissions counselor, academic coach, residence hall coordinator, multicultural specialist, financial aid officer, TRIO programs specialist. These positions are often located in community colleges, 4-year colleges, college bridge programs, and other educational systems.

Students with this focus in ESHR may be well-positioned for graduate work in higher education, student affairs, college student personnel, counseling, and education policy programs.

Course suggestions

CSED:2081 Making a Vocational-Educational Choice
Unit 1: The first half of this course is designed to assist students wanting to identify their interests, skills, and values in order to target possible majors of interest and begin exploring career opportunities. It will include self-assessment, interest inventories, informational interviews, and researching majors and careers.
Unit 2: The second half of this course equips students with the tools and skills necessary to land a full-time position or an internship. Areas covered in depth include resume and cover letter development, networking, organization and career research, and interviewing.

CSED:4141 Helping Skills for Community Settings
Helping skills necessary for working in a variety of community settings; focus on communication, problem solving, interviewing skills, entry-level techniques (e.g., mindfulness), and résumé building opportunities including Iowa mandatory reporter training and QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) training.

CSED:4195 Ethics in Human Relations and Counseling
Morality and ethics; ethical issues; models and techniques for effective ethical decision making in personal and professional interactions

EDTL:3715 Experiential Teaching and Learning
Introduction to practice of experiential learning and teaching; students create and lead experiential activities in formal and informal learning environments; exploration of factors that impact the value of an experience and assess impact; integration of multiple disciplines and perspectives in a collaborative manner; skills for processing and guiding reflection to determine outcomes of experiences; work collaboratively to design, plan, execute, and determine outcomes of an experience for a target population.

EPLS:1240 Finding your Path in Higher Education (if not used to meet the ESHR diversity/multicultural requirement)
Overview of the liberal arts experience in higher education; theories of student success, socialization, and development; history of American liberal education; issues of diversity, equity, and social justice including privileged and marginalized
identities, structural oppression, racism, classicism, sexism, ableism, and genderism; organizational structures of higher education.

EPLS:2098  The Student Affairs Profession
Introduction to field of student affairs in context of higher education; focus on foundations of profession, including a brief history of field, professional associations, institutional differences, professional and ethical standards, functional areas in higher education, student learning and developmental theory, overview of graduate preparation, and current topics.

EPLS:4200  Diversity and Inclusion in Athletics
Diversity and inclusion as major issues for coaches, sports managers, physical activity professionals, and athletic administration staff in their workplaces; define, discuss, and analyze effects of diversity and inclusion in the athletic organizational environment; experience of underrepresented groups in sport settings, covering differences of religion, race, ethnic origins, gender, sex, ability, appearance, and age; understanding power differences, based on diversity within an organizational environment, that help future leaders implement successful practices inclusive of all persons.

PSQF:3104  Multicultural Counseling and Psychology (if not used to meet the ESHR diversity/multicultural requirement)
Introduction to multicultural competencies and its importance to counseling, psychology, and helping professions; psychological concepts and research pertaining to privilege; racism, race, culture, sexual orientation, social class and classism, and their application in culturally adapted psychotherapy interventions; how these matters and other cultural identities and constructs are handled and used in applied psychology and counseling; focus on intersection of research and practice.