

Student Personnel Services

FACULTY: S. Cayan (*Chair*), D. Roberts.

Student Personnel Services makes a career of helping others make the most of their college experience. A bachelor's degree with a Student Personnel Services major typically leads to entry-level positions in student life and student services at colleges and universities. It also prepares for graduate degree programs leading to careers in student affairs, college student personnel, and higher education administration.

Although graduate programs in this field have existed for some time, MacMurray's interdisciplinary undergraduate major in Student Personnel Services is one of the first in the nation. The faculty in the program are student personnel services administrators at MacMurray, all with advanced degrees in the field.

The major requires a total of 39 hours, 18 of them in Student Personnel Services courses and 21 in related fields. Required courses are Student Personnel Services 201, 210, 220, 310, 375, and 495; Education 225 (History and Philosophy of Education), Management 317 (Principles of Management) and 325 (Leadership Styles in Business), Psychology 201 (Introduction), Sociology or Psychology 321 (Social Psychology), and either Psychology 322 (Learning) or 335 (Industrial and Organizational Psychology). Also required are three one-hour Computer Science skills courses: 110 (Word Processing Applications), 111 (Spreadsheet Applications), and 112 (Presentation Software).

A minor in Student Personnel Services is also available. It requires six courses (18 hours): Student Personnel Services 201, 210, and 310, and either 220 or 495; Management 317, and Psychology 201.

Courses

SPSV 201. OVERVIEW OF STUDENT PERSONNEL SERVICES WORK. (3) Students will be introduced to student personnel services by examining the history, core beliefs, ethics, and principles of the field. The course will examine the role student affairs plays in the overall picture of higher education and the increase in diversity on campus. It will also introduce students to specialty areas within student personnel services. Offered every other fall.

SPSV 210. INTRODUCTION TO FUNDAMENTAL SKILLS AND TECHNIQUES FOR STUDENT PERSONNEL SERVICES PROFESSIONALS. (3) Students will be introduced to a variety of essential skills and techniques. Emphasis will be placed on understanding group dynamics and skill development in personal interaction and mediation, cooperation, active listening, gender-based communication, multicultural competence, conflict resolution, organizational advisement, and program creation and evaluation. Offered every other spring.

SPSV 220. RESIDENCE LIFE. (3) Students will be introduced to the field of residence life and its role as it pertains to the larger campus community. Emphasis will be placed on the history of residence halls, staff roles, staffing and training, working with diverse populations, program development and assessment, mediation and conflict resolution, community building, and facilities management. Offered every spring.

SPSV 310. THEORIES OF STUDENT DEVELOPMENT. (3) Students will be introduced to the pertinent research, literature, and theories of the student personnel services field. Theories will focus on a variety of student populations. Offered every other fall.

SPSV 375. INTERNSHIP. (3) This course provides students with the opportunity to apply coursework knowledge, skills, and experiences to a college work setting. Supervision will be provided by a college administrator and monitored by a Student Personnel Services instructor. Prerequisite: Junior standing. Offered every fall and spring.

SPSV 495. SENIOR SEMINAR: PRACTICAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR ENTRYLEVEL POSITIONS IN HIGHER EDUCATION. (3) This course provides students with practical hands-on projects in a wide variety of areas which incorporate prior knowledge and experiences in the field. These projects are similar to projects expected of entry-level employees. Emphasis will be given to employment opportunities and interviewing skills as well as graduate school opportunities. Prerequisite: Senior standing. Offered every other spring.