



**STUDENT AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION
 MASTER OF ARTS PROGRAM**

Admissions Information for Prospective Students
education.msu.edu/ead/HALE/masaa

Program Overview:

Founded in 1949, the Michigan State University Student Affairs Administration (SAA) program is one of the oldest and most prestigious in the country. Our graduates work at colleges and universities around the world and are leaders in the field of student affairs.

The program provides a broad perspective of higher education systems from social, historical, cross-national, and normative perspectives, an understanding of central issues in student affairs administration, and a connection of theory to practice.

There are opportunities to develop and use skills needed in practice through practica and field experience. We expect graduates to be prepared to work in and cultivate educational environments that promote diversity and multiculturalism.

The SAA Curriculum:

The SAA program prepares students for a wide range of student affairs administrative, teaching, and leadership positions in post-secondary education. The SAA program is part of the Higher, Adult, & Lifelong Education (HALE) unit, and therefore, the curriculum of the SAA program reflects its philosophy and goals.

The Master of Arts in Student Affairs Administration program is 40 credits and requires two practica (internship) experiences. Full-time students usually complete the degree in two years. Toward the end of their first year, students develop their program plan in conjunction with their faculty advisor.

The student must successfully complete a certifying examination during the semester in which the student intends to graduate.

The Student Experience:

The Student Affairs Administration program offers students many unique and powerful learning experiences, including:

- Practical internships at Michigan State University and across the country
- Study abroad experiences and a global understanding of higher education
- Teaching opportunities
- Original research
- Interaction with leading scholars in higher education
- Participation in local, regional, & international professional organizations
- Study with a strong faculty who have a wide variety of research interests
- Diverse environments for learning and working

Recent students participated in a variety of practica experiences in the summer with NODA or ACUHO-I internships at institutions such as American University in Bulgaria, Brown University, Florida International University, Gainesville State University, Hope College, Marymount College (CA), Marymount University (VA), Michigan State University, Morgan State University, Philadelphia University, Pennsylvania College of Technology, Seattle University, Stanford University, Temple University, University of Notre Dame, University of Rhode Island and University of South Florida.

Spartan Preview Days:

Spartan Preview Days (SPD) are held in mid-February and are designed for you to learn more about the SAA program and Michigan State as you are making the decision on where to attend graduate school next fall. SPD gives newly admitted SAA students an opportunity to meet faculty, current students, alumni, and other admitted students. At SPD, students can interview with different assistantship providers or employers, and learn what it means to be a Spartan. Information about SPD will be sent to admitted students by the end of January.

CONTACT US

For more information about our program, to schedule a visit, or to speak with a current student about their experience, please contact us at haleadm@msu.edu or 517-353-5187

IMPORTANT DATES

December 15

Deadline to apply to SAA program for optimal consideration. Completed applications received after December 15th will be considered for fall admission as space permits.

Early January

Department of Residence Education and Housing Services deadline to apply for Graduate Assistantships.

Mid-February

Graduate Research Colloquium



Higher, Adult, and Lifelong Education

Teaching, Learning, and Leading across Boundaries

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Application Information

Admissions Criteria:

The SAA program seeks students who are committed practitioners and scholars to the student affairs field.

The admissions committee considers the following criteria for recommending admission in the SAA program:

- An undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or higher (students with a GPA lower than 3.0 may be admitted provisionally)
- References that showcase your academic ability and commitment to the field of student affairs
- Personal statement that addresses the following questions:
 1. What experiences led to your interest in pursuing a career in student affairs?
 2. What qualities, characteristics, and skills do you possess that will make you a strong candidate for the SAA program?
 3. How will the SAA program at Michigan State University help you meet your personal and professional goals?
- Professional or paraprofessional experience

International Applicants:

For information about additional materials needed for international applicants, please visit the Graduate School Application website at <http://grad.msu.edu/apply/>.

Application Process:

- Complete the online MSU graduate application (admissions.msu.edu/admission/graduate.asp; SAA program code is 2246)
 1. Pay the application fee
 2. The graduate school application asks for an academic statement and a personal statement. Under each field, please enter "Please see my personal statement uploaded on the Graduate Education applicant portal."
 3. Provide contact information for three recommenders
- On the Graduate Education applicant portal, upload the following files (in PDF format):
 1. Personal statement
 2. Resume
- **Request official transcripts from each college or university attended be sent to:**

*Higher, Adult, & Lifelong Education Program
c/o HALE Admissions Assistant
Department of Educational Administration
620 Farm Lane, 423 Erickson
East Lansing, MI 48824-1034*

Please note that the GRE or an academic interview are not required for admission. However, newly admitted SAA students will have many opportunities to meet and talk with faculty at Spartan Preview Days.

Assistantship and Job Opportunities:

Many SAA students hold Graduate Assistantships while enrolled at Michigan State. Although not a requirement of the program, assistantships complement students' academic experience and provide other benefits that generally include:

- Standard graduate tuition remission for up to 9 credits (most full-time SAA students take 10 credits per semester)
- Monthly stipend • Health insurance • Eligibility for Graduate Assistant parking permit (does not pay for permit)

Assistantships are available in a variety of offices at Michigan State, including:

- Undergraduate Admissions Office • Learning Resource Center • Department of Residence Education and Housing Services
 - Career Services & Placement • Department of Student Life • LGBT Resource Center • Honors College
 - Student-Athlete Support Services • University Activities Office • University Community Relations

Admitted students have an opportunity to interview for assistantships at Spartan Preview Days. Additional information about the assistantship application process will be provided to admitted students. For prospective students interested in assistantships in residence life, applications should be submitted directly to the Department of Residence Education and Housing Services. For first consideration for these positions, please apply no later than January 10. More information about assistantships in the Department of Residence Education and Housing Services can be found at <http://www.liveon.msu.edu/employment>.

There are other opportunities on-campus and off-campus of which SAA students may take advantage. For example, some of our students have full-time positions at surrounding colleges, such as Albion College, Alma College, and Lansing Community College, and are able to complete the SAA degree in 2-3 years.

**DON'T FORGET!
SAA APPLICATION DEADLINE:
DECEMBER 15TH FOR OPTIMAL CONSIDERATION**