

Internships are a great way to learn more about career options in a short time span, either during your time as an undergraduate or while you are a graduate student. Several professional organizations provide internship programs to help match you with an internship site.

**ACPA Graduate Preparation Internship Program:** ACPA serves as a clearinghouse for graduate students in all the functional areas of Student Affairs.

**ACUHO-I Housing Internship:** This long-standing program offers internships in the summer. Colleges across the country and internationally participate, and the interns learn and contribute in all aspects of Housing and Residence Life.

**NODA Summer Internship Program:** The National Orientation Directors Association coordinates a summer program to match motivated, quality students with challenging, exciting orientation positions across the U.S. and Canada.

**CWU Executive Internships:** There are a number of opportunities here at CWU for professional internships. Contact CWU's David Wain Coon Center for Excellence in Leadership.

**NASPA NUFF:** The NASPA Undergraduate Fellows program is a semi-structured mentoring program for undergraduate students wishing to explore and better understand the field of Student Affairs and/or higher education. Students and mentors apply as a pair, and if selected are provided the foundation to establish a semi-structured mentoring relationship at their institution. Students, once selected, are known as Fellows, and are also given the opportunity to attend a national conference, participate in paid internships, and participate in the Summer Leadership Institute.

**Resources:**

[www.naspa.org](http://www.naspa.org)  
[www.cwu.edu](http://www.cwu.edu)

**Contact:**  
[studentlife@cwu.edu](mailto:studentlife@cwu.edu)



**CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

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# CAREERS in Student Affairs & Student Life in Higher Education

**CENTRAL WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**



# WELCOME

**Welcome to CWU Careers in Student Affairs and Student Life in higher education.** This program works as a cohort seminar series, whereby students interested in a career in Student Affairs in higher education join annually and are linked with a cohort. We offer seminars focused on developing your skills and competencies to consider a career in higher education. We also link each student with a "coach" to help mentor and meet their career goals.

If you are interested please contact us at [studentlife@cwu.edu](mailto:studentlife@cwu.edu) for more information.

## What is Student Affairs?

Student Affairs professionals work in a variety of settings on college campuses serving students and fulfilling the mission of the University. They work in admissions, residence life, career services, student activities and financial aid, just to name a few.

**Careers in Student Affairs & Student Life in Higher Education**

## Why Student Affairs?

Student Affairs professionals provide services and develop programs that affect all aspects of students' lives inside and outside of the classroom.

**For example:**

- Improving the quality of campus life
- Enhancing student learning
- Attracting and retaining qualified students
- Providing students with outstanding housing, health services and recreational facilities
- Coordinating student activities
- Managing financial aid programs
- Helping students make career decisions



# The Benefits of a Career in Student Affairs

There are countless benefits that Student Affairs professionals enjoy. For instance:

- Make a difference in students' lives
- A wide range of career choices
- An exciting work environment that offers new challenges
- Access to the profession through a wide range and large number of entry level positions
- Many national and regional professional organizations offer support and involvement
- Fringe benefits-tuition remission for employees, access to all programs and opportunities campuses have to offer
- Graduate studies

## Functional Areas

Student Affairs professionals work in a variety of offices on campuses. These areas vary between universities. Functional areas available include (but are not limited to):

- COUNSELING
- STUDENT ACTIVITIES
- PUBLICITY
- ACADEMIC ADVISING
- RESIDENCE LIFE
- GREEK LIFE
- ATHLETICS
- LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT
- CAREER SERVICES
- FINANCIAL AID
- ADMISSIONS
- DIVERSITY
- STUDENT UNION
- RECREATION
- STUDENT CONDUCT
- WELLNESS
- RADIO STATION

## Graduate School

Currently there are approximately 200 graduate programs across the country that are related to the field of Student Affairs. Fortunately, there are great resources out there to help you figure out what school and program are right for you. We will support you through the process.



## Explore Your Options

Some professional organizations are now offering programs designed for undergraduates considering a career in Student Affairs. These programs give you access to leaders in the field and an opportunity to explore your options.

**ACPA Next Generation:** The Next Generation Conference is a two-day event held during the American College Personnel Association's annual convention each spring. This conference is designed for undergraduate students and others who are exploring Student Affairs and higher education administration as a career option.

**ACUHO-I STARS College:** The Association of College and University Housing Officers-International (ACUHO-I) offers this exciting opportunity for 40 current sophomores and juniors who are interested in pursuing a career in Housing. STARS College typically occurs just prior to the ACUHO-I Annual Conference in June.



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CWU IS HERE TO HELP YOU FIND A CAREER IN STUDENT AFFAIRS