

“The higher education master’s program at Merrimack is designed to be flexible and to expose students to many different avenues of professional preparation and scholarly inquiry. We emphasize the connection between theory and practice, and are committed to helping each student discern where they can best make meaningful changes happen in higher education.”

Susan Marine, Assistant Professor and Program Director, Higher Education Graduate Program, Merrimack College



TARA STRONG 2014

Tara Strong was working with students in continuation high schools in Oakland, California, but wanted to impact students in a stronger way. “I felt that many of the students that I interacted with just needed some momentum to get themselves into school and into higher-paying jobs. I wanted to be a part of closing the gap in higher education.” Tara enrolled in Merrimack’s Master of Higher Education program and immediately began impacting students. She did an internship at the O’Brien Center for Student Success, serving as a mentor for more than 200 first-generation students advising and helping them focus on their career goals. Tara also had the opportunity to present with author Charles Johnson to a group of higher education administrators and faculty at the Teaching Academic Survival Skills (TASS) on low-income, first-generation college students and the paradoxical theory of change. The conference gave Tara the opportunity to expand her network as well as make connections with other higher educational professionals from Massachusetts. Tara now works at North Shore Community College as the Program Coordinator for the Student Achievement in Life and Learning (SAILL) program.

MERRIMACK COLLEGE is a selective, independent college in the Catholic, Augustinian tradition whose mission is to enlighten minds, engage hearts and empower lives. The College offers undergraduate degrees in the liberal arts, business, science and engineering, and education programs; it also offers master’s programs and part-time degree completion programs. Merrimack’s community is committed to scholarship and service to others, and provides students myriad opportunities to develop intellectually, spiritually, socially and ethically.

THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION & SOCIAL POLICY Merrimack College’s School of Education & Social Policy provides the opportunity to learn about, collaborate with, and impact PreK-12 schools, colleges, and communities through dynamic and focused programs that link theory to practice, excellence to impact, and classrooms with communities. The School offers a wide variety of undergraduate and graduate programs, including the Master of Science in Criminology and Criminal Justice, and houses two research centers: the Graduate Institute for Education and the Center for Engaged Democracy. All of the school’s educator preparation programs are approved by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Please visit www.merrimack.edu/schoolofeducation for the most up-to-date information about the School of Education & Social Policy.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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May 2015



SCHOOL OF **EDUCATION & SOCIAL POLICY** | MASTER OF EDUCATION IN
HIGHER EDUCATION



THE M.ED. IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The Master of Education in Higher Education program (M.Ed.) prepares students to be educational, administrative, and professional leaders in colleges and universities. The emphasis of the program is on development of reflective practitioners who can lead effectively and who will have a strong understanding of and commitment to the advancement of social justice in their work. The curriculum focuses on the learning and development of college students, college access, equity and diversity, and organizational development. Students gain a broad understanding of current trends, leadership challenges, and opportunities to advance social justice in higher education. Students will be prepared to enter the workforce and make a difference as leaders in a higher education-related setting. The Master's in Higher Education is a 36-credit program.

Personal Meets Practical

The Master of Education in Higher Education at Merrimack is ideal for working professionals who want to earn a graduate degree part time while continuing to hold down a job. Or students may elect to complete the degree full-time in one calendar year. Our programs offer students the flexibility of completing the master's coursework at their own pace. Classes are held on campus in late afternoons and early evenings, helping students to better balance work and school.

In addition to practical timeframes and affordable tuition, the program also offers more personal benefits. Face-to-face connections in our classrooms offer students the opportunity to get to know their professors on a personal level. Students learn alongside a diverse peer group, deepening their graduate experience and encouraging an active exchange of ideas.

Program Structure and Sequence

The core of our program emphasizes social justice and the multifaceted role that colleges and universities can and should play in a democratic, pluralistic and complex society. All students take a set of core courses, concentrate in a particular area of specialization, and do a research project as a capstone experience. All components—the courses, supervision and mentorship, internship and culminating project—are interlinked and interwoven to support purposeful and reflective practice, engaged scholarship and impactful work.

Our students have achieved successful employment in positions such as:

- Academic Support Counselor, Framingham State
- Coordinator of External Relations, Ariadne Labs of Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard School of Public Health
- Residential Learning Coordinator, Virginia Tech University
- Resident Director, Norwich University
- Associate Director of Admissions—American University of Antigua
- Coordinator of Career and Mentor Programs, Fitchburg State
- Associate Alumni Director, Merrimack College

CORE COURSES 16 credits required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity and Social Justice • Higher Education in American Society • Research Methods • Capstone Project
AREAS OF CONCENTRATION 12 credits required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Affairs • Leadership and Organizational Development
ELECTIVES	8 credits required
CAPSTONE	All students complete an original research project designed in partnership with a relevant campus office or service. Students choose an area of interest related to their career goals, and focus on creating change in higher education. It may be practice- or policy-focused.
ASSISTANTSHIP	Students are required to complete at least one semester, preferably two, of assistantship unless they already work or have worked in higher education. The assistantship provides students with important professional experience.

Choose the best concentration for your desired career path	
STUDENT AFFAIRS	LEADERSHIP AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Career counselor in a college or university • Study Abroad coordinator • Admissions representative • Student Activities director • Residential Life Coordinator • Diversity educator 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership role in fundraising, enrollment management or institutional advancement • Public relations director at a college/university • Director of faculty training and professional development • Research coordinator in an education policy institute
<p>Here's a sampling of the courses that will help you get there</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Development • Counseling and Advising • Financial Management in Higher Education • The College Student Experience • College Student Retention and Success • Gender and Education 	<p>Here's a sampling of the courses that will help you get there</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Management of Higher Education • Leadership Theory and Practice • Fundraising and Grant Writing • University-Community Relations • Theories of Organizational Change • Higher Education Law and Policy

Our students come from a wide range of undergraduate majors, including:

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| • Biochemistry | • Criminology | • Health Science | • Political Science |
| • Broadcast Journalism | • Elementary Education | • History | • Psychology |
| • Business Administration | • English | • Human Development | • Public Administration |
| • Communication Studies | • Geography | • Mathematics | • Sociology |
| | • Government | • Organizational Communication | |