Program Knowledge Areas

The PhD program is aligned with the core foundational knowledge and competency areas for students graduating from doctoral programs in higher education including:

- An understanding of the socio-cultural-historical nature of higher education in the United States
- Issues of equity, access, diversity, and inclusion within educational sectors, and the role of social justice-oriented education, leadership, and research in serving diverse stakeholders
- Governance and organizational structures of colleges and universities
- Policy, politics, ethics, and legal issues within higher education
- Issues confronting various stakeholders, including students, faculty, staff, and administrators
- Assessment, evaluation, and research methodologies and practices

In our Higher Education & Student Affairs Administration programs, our faculty seek to:

- Enhance professional competence and communication skills
- Promote social justice
- Meet the needs of diverse learners
- Engage and encourage reflective practice
- Maintain a constructivist emphasis in teaching and learning
- Encourage partnerships and collegiality

Our educational community values:

- Using the process of critical self-reflection for growth in professional practice and competence
- Respect for the uniqueness of all individuals
- Ethical advocacy on behalf of individuals or groups experiencing discrimination

To that end, we expect all graduates of our programs will be able to:

- Advance social justice & inclusion practices within their campus community
- Promote stakeholder development (student, alumni, donor, faculty, staff, administrator, community, etc.)
- Enhance the organization and administration of their university/college
- Engage in independent and collaborative assessment, evaluation, and research
Program Admissions Requirements

1. Applicants are required to have at least 1 year of post-master's, full-time professional work experience in a college/university setting, or closely related professional experience (such as a higher education association, policy association, state/federal agency focused on higher education, etc.) that would allow an applicant to understand the context and general environment of higher education.

2. Official transcripts of all academic work completed at other regionally accredited institutions of higher education. Applicants are expected to have an undergraduate GPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale for the last two years of undergraduate work, and a GPA of 3.5 or better on all postgraduate study beyond the baccalaureate degree. Applicants with a graduate GPA of less than 3.5, but above 3.0 will be considered along with other materials that show academic promise for success.

3. Three (3) official recommendations from supervisors, faculty, or professionals who can comment on and attest to applicant's ability to engage in doctoral level work. Note that recommendations cannot come from family members.

4. A written statement outlining the applicant's background and experience in higher education, specific career goals related to higher education, and how achieving a PhD through Morgan State University's program will assist in accomplishing those career goals. Applicants should also discuss any initial research ideas about the dissertation, and how faculty might be able to support and nurture those research ideas. Applicants are not required to identity a faculty "sponsor" or primary research advisor before being admitted; but if an applicant wishes to work with particular faculty that should be mentioned.

5. A current resume or curriculum vita, documenting professional experiences.

6. A sample of professional writing (such as a professional paper, grant proposal, publication, or research proposal abstracts). If applicant does not have a recent professional writing sample, applicants are asked to respond to the following questions in a 4-5-page essay: What do you see as three (3) major trends or issues facing higher
education? What are the implications of these trends/issues for campuses (including students, faculty, staff, or other constituents)?

7. Personal interview with program faculty (at discretion of faculty).

8. International students, whose native language is not English, must provide a TOEFL score of 550 or higher and demonstrate through the required written documentation and interview that they have the requisite verbal, written, and analytical skills needed to successfully complete the program. Applicants whose native language is not English must recognize that the program does not teach English Language skills; it is expected that international applicants have mastery and proficiency in both written and spoken English at a level that would allow them to fully participate in and contribute to the PhD program.

9. NOTE: As of October 2017, GRE/MAT tests are no longer required for admission into the PhD program.

All application materials must be sent directly to the Graduate School. Any materials sent to the department or the admission coordinator will not be placed in an applicant’s file. It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure that all materials are appropriately submitted. Applicants should not ask the department to follow-up on their behalf.

**Fall Admission Application Deadline:** March 1 (ALL application materials must be received by this date for consideration)

**Spring Admission Application Deadline:** Oct 1 (ALL application materials must be received by this date for consideration)