MASTER’S DEGREE IN HIGHER EDUCATION
IN HIGHER EDUCATION

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF HIGHER AND POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION (CSHPE)

DEGREE OVERVIEW
The master’s degree program in higher and postsecondary education is structured to provide individuals with a general understanding of higher education as a field of practice and inquiry, while allowing the flexibility for students to probe more deeply into areas of specialized interest. A distinct feature of the master’s degree program is the interaction among students with different professional backgrounds and diverse career goals. Students have opportunities to work together in master’s required courses as well as with doctoral students in cognate and elective courses. As they work together on assignments and discuss issues in and out of class, CSHPE master’s students come to appreciate and understand the multiple frames of reference that may be brought to bear on higher education decision-making.

RELATED ACADEMIC TOPICS
CSHPE offers classes across four general areas of scholarly inquiry:

- Academic Affairs and Student Development
- Organizational Behavior and Management
- Public Policy in Postsecondary Education
- Research, Evaluation, and Assessment

In addition to the general master’s in higher education, CSHPE offers options to students with specific interests in the linkages between higher education and philanthropy, social justice, public policy, and business through specialized coursework and dual degrees.

CAREER PREPARATION
The M.A. degree in higher education prepares students for entry- or mid-level professional positions in colleges and university offices such as student affairs, financial aid, alumni affairs, development, community relations, etc. Graduates also pursue careers with professional associations and a variety of governmental and non-profit agencies that address higher education issues.
PLAN OF STUDY

These courses provide a general introduction to the field, knowledge of theories that underlie different areas of practice, and discussion of critical issues in postsecondary education (EDUC 561-Introduction to Higher Education; and one of the following three courses: EDUC 662-Learning and Development in Postsecondary Education; EDUC 663-Organizing for Learning; or EDUC 864-American College Student.)

CONCENTRATION REQUIREMENTS

In consultation with a faculty advisor, students identify a set of courses that are relevant to their professional and academic interests within the field of higher education.

RESEARCH

EDUC 695 - Research and Educational Practice or EDUC 793 - Introduction to Quantitative Methods in Educational Research

COGNATES

These are courses offered outside higher education. The University of Michigan provides a wealth of learning opportunities across campus to complement courses taken in CSHPE.

PRACTICUM EXPERIENCE

Students make connections between their out-of-the-classroom practice/experiences and their in-classroom learning (EDUC 777-Administrative Practicum).

CAREER-RELATED EXPERIENCE/INTERNSHIP

This required 2-semester internship offers students opportunities to develop specialized skills in a particular functional area or to explore the inner workings of offices with which they are less familiar. Internship experiences also enhance the student’s preparation and development of professional networks that will aid the student’s career success upon graduation.

COMPLETION OF M.A.