

# UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN LA CROSSE

The SAA M.S.Ed. program aims to develop student affairs practitioners who are growing in the competencies outlined by ACPA - College Students Educators International and NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. We expect students to become familiar with these competencies, the ACPA Ethical Standards, and any related ethical and professional standards of their specific graduate assistantship, internship, or professional employment (e.g., advising, international education, residence life.)

As SAA graduate students, you will need to:

- **Prioritize academic work.** We expect that most SAA students will spend approximately 20 hours per week reading, writing, and working on course assignments. That, along with SAA class time, will result in about a 30 hour per week time commitment to academic work. Due to the fact that online students take fewer credits per semester and are in class year round, their time commitment will be approximately 15 to 20 hours per week.
- **Assume a professional identity.** Each student - whether working full-time or in a graduate assistantship/internship - represents not just themselves but also this program and this profession. As such, we encourage students to adopt the professional standards (formal or informal) of their site. This could include something as simple as expectations around how quickly you respond to phone calls/emails or how formal/informal your dress or language can be. It is important for all students in the program to see themselves, and to conduct themselves, as emerging or developing professionals and to model behavior that is consistent with that standard, particularly with regard to how they interact with and relate to undergraduate students, fellow graduate students, and UW-L faculty and staff.
- **Be proactive and resourceful.** Being a successful graduate student demands that you quickly learn to manage competing demands on your time, while taking care of yourself and those you love. While that alone can be challenging, we also encourage students to be proactive and resourceful. This could mean actively requesting both positive and constructive feedback from faculty, colleagues, and supervisors...rather than waiting to hear something. If you have a need, don't wait for others to notice - make it known and/or seek a resolution. Be resourceful and persistent in finding answers and seeking new knowledge.