Graduate Assistantship Program
GREETINGS FROM TEXAS CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY!

We are delighted that you are interested in TCU as a place to build a foundation for your career in higher education. We offer a stimulating academic experience with a hands-on assistantship that will prepare you for the next step in your professional journey.

Our institution is committed to a rigorous examination of ideas and practices while maintaining a specific commitment to each individual. We seek to provide as many different academic and experiential opportunities as possible so the options for our Graduate Assistants are as broad.

The university itself is small, allowing you to have a personal relationship with each of the faculty in the Higher Education program. However, TCU is also large enough to have the programs and services generally associated with a larger institution.

We think TCU is a special place. Consider joining us for your higher education journey!

Sincerely,

Dr. Don Mills
Distinguished Professor of Educational Leadership

THANK YOU FOR CONSIDERING TCU FOR GRADUATE SCHOOL.

This publication highlights our academic program and assistantship opportunities in the Division of Student Affairs. We believe that the best graduate education has to offer begins with an exciting and thought-provoking in-class experience and is partnered with meaningful ways to apply your learning. TCU is proud to offer one of the finest holistic experiences in graduate learning.

As a graduate assistant, your classroom learning will be met with practical experiences that challenge your decision-making and understanding of how to present the right amount of challenge and support for students to learn. You will also have opportunities to understand how a university works and how you can contribute to a dynamic learning community.

We value the work of our graduate assistants and commit to their learning and growth through strong supervision and consistent professional development. I encourage you to consider your opportunities for building a strong professional foundation and a network of highly effective colleagues through our theory-to-practice education at TCU! Best wishes to you in your search.

Go Frogs!

Dr. Kathy Cavins-Tull
Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
The Higher Education Leadership program is committed to preparing students to make positive changes in a diverse, global higher education community. Course offerings, co-curricular opportunities, and our graduate assistant transition program are designed to prepare leaders who:

- Operate with a global perspective in a diverse, rapidly evolving field and create new learning opportunities now possible through technology
- Re-imagine the learning process and build an enhanced understanding of learning
- Are committed to growth and reflect strong ethical and moral commitments towards the education of students
- Are equipped for a wide range of leadership positions within organizations and understand the principles of effective leadership
- Look to design programs focused on student engagement and learning in Higher Education

Higher Education Leadership Organization

The Higher Education Leadership Organization is a student-run organization that brings in guest speakers, provides support for the program, and helps build a student’s network. This is an area where you can apply to lead your peers in development efforts!

I have acquired better presentation skills and have built a strong social cohort with the people in my program. My Academic Advisor has the best interests for me and is always available to answer any questions on courses or internships. I also enjoy the small class sizes because it encourages dialogue and helps students teach each other.

—Stanley Thomas

Master of Education in Higher Education

The Master’s Degree in Higher Education Leadership is designed to prepare students for a broad array of entry-level and mid-management positions in higher education. Graduates will be prepared to work closely with students in their growth and development in a variety of settings. Graduates will learn the tools to manage existing programs and develop new programs in response to changing environments. Students will:

- Work with an advisor to tailor a degree program that reflects their academic interests and career aspirations.
- Select from an array of classes in the college to help prepare for a career in higher education.
- Participate in an annual progress conversation with faculty to assure that objectives are being met.

Program of Study

- Foundations (12 credits)
- Focused coursework (12 credits)
- Electives (6 credits)
- Internship (6 credits)

Requirements

- Apply to TCU Graduate School
- Demonstrate strong academic record
- Bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution
- Acceptable GRE score from the past five years
- Three letters of recommendation
- Written statement, including reasons for student’s interest in the program and their professional goals

Generous financial assistance is available. Visit www.coe.tcu.edu for more information to apply online.

The Graduate Assistant Transition Experience

G.A.T.E. was created by members of student affairs to provide continuous development and guidance for our Graduate Assistants in partnership with the academic program. G.A.T.E. focuses on a few important aspects of development, including developing your network in professional organizations, preparing for internship and job searches, and acclimating to the DFW Area. G.A.T.E. will provide some of your first experiences at TCU, and prepare you well for your career prior to graduation.
The Doctorate in Higher Education Leadership is a 63-hour program combining a common core, inquiry courses, a cognate area, practical experience, and a dissertation. The program provides a professional degree to improve the practice of those engaged in administrative functions in higher education. The program provides students with:

- International study opportunities on a bi-annual basis to explore institutions of higher education in Western Europe and South America.
- Practical and academic classroom experiences.
- Graduate assistantships are available in eleven divisions across the TCU campus, including Student Affairs, Assessment, Academic Affairs and Central Administration (subject to selection and available funds).

Program of Study

- Foundations (15 credits)
- Inquiry (9–12 credits)
- Administrative Leadership in Higher Education (18–21 credits)
- Field-based Experience (6 credits)
- Dissertation (12 credits)

Generous financial assistance is available. Visit www.coe.tcu.edu for more information to apply online.

Requirements

- Demonstrate strong academic record
- Master’s degree in education or an appropriate field from a regionally accredited institution
- Acceptable GRE score from the past five years
- Three years of professional experience
- Three letters of recommendation
- Written statement documenting evidence of leadership skills and experiences, and explaining motivations and goals for pursuing Ed.D. degree
- Interview with College of Education faculty (on campus or online)
- Resume

Graduate Assistantship Program

The Graduate Assistantship Program provides master and doctoral students with a theory to practice experience complementing the Higher Education Leadership curriculum. Graduate assistantships are housed in a variety of offices, such as Fraternity and Sorority Life, John V. Roach Honors College, Housing and Residence Life, Institutional Effectiveness, Center for Career and Professional Development, and many others.

TCU enhances the Graduate Assistant’s practical experiences through collaboration with other offices, which foster skill sets in many functional areas. Graduate Assistants are encouraged to participate in departmental, divisional and University committees, and are provided with many development opportunities fostering growth and learning. In the program, students can expect:

- Opportunities for student development and creation of programs specifically meeting student needs.
- To have the ability to work with University practitioners, specifically trained in functional areas to provide student support and services.
- Supervisors to spend time getting to know Graduate Assistants, their needs and create development plans to meet those needs.

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My assistantship has offered me so many chances to go beyond what I knew coming in. I have learned so much about housing as a Hall Director in Worth Hills, and about event management as the GA for the End. Both parts of my split assistantship have opened my eyes to all the different departments and opportunities in this field!

—Sarah Zeigler
The strongest brands are built from the inside out.

In 2016, TCU launched a comprehensive study to identify what makes our university experience unique. Through conversations with students, faculty, staff, alumni and campus leadership, we identified elements of our core identity that most powerfully articulate what we do, how we do it and why it matters.

The results affirmed what we suspected – TCU is a powerful academic community made up of passionate and ethical leaders, all striving to become a force for the greater good.

We prepare global leaders through community of growth to become a force for the greater good. We equip and empower individuals to make a positive impact on the world. TCU fosters a community that grows individuals to have the tools, values, and outlook to be well-rounded world citizens. The world needs leaders who have the capacity and conscience to make a difference for the greater good. Horned Frogs are those leaders.

As we move forward, TCU will continue to highlight the experiences of Horned Frogs who are leading where they are – whether it’s in a science lab, on an athletic field or in the board room. Horned Frogs are positive change agents around the globe, striving for excellence with integrity.

We are TCU. Lead On.

Visit www.leadon.tcu.edu for more information.
TCU values academic achievement, personal freedom, integrity, and the dignity and respect of the individual. We celebrate a heritage of inclusiveness and service. These values flow from our long-standing relationship with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a Protestant denomination embracing both faith and reason. While the church plays no formal role in day-to-day university operations, it is a significant part of our history and tradition. There are 25 recognized religious organizations on campus, including groups for Christian, Jewish, and Muslim students, faculty and staff. At TCU, students of all faith traditions are encouraged to explore their faith, their spiritual selves, and their quest for meaning and purpose.

I love Fort Worth! It is the perfect balance between a hometown feel and the city. Anything you need whether it's great bbq, a little retail therapy, or a therapeutic run is all within walking distance of campus. Fort Worth has so much to offer no matter your interest and all these things are within a few miles of each other. You have the top-ranked Fort Worth Zoo, Botanic Gardens, Arts District, Bass Hall, and so much more right at your finger tips! The city itself is so friendly and welcoming, not to mention the love it has for TCU and its students!

—Brittany Washington

Graduate school has helped me explore new opportunities that I never thought I would get experience in. These opportunities are helping me narrow down where I want to develop my expertise on when I enter the field as a professional.

—Kyle Dupper

So far, my most memorable moment from TCU was having a discussion with a panel of women in highly esteemed leadership positions. There were three women and they included Dr. Kathy Cavins-Tull, Dr. Melody Johnson and Ann Zadeh. It was so inspiring to hear their stories and experiences and get advice from them. It’s amazing as a woman to see other women in leadership roles impacting our society in a positive way and making a difference.

—Kelsey Graham
**HISTORY**

Fort Worth is known for its food and for its history! If you’d like to see why Fort Worth is called Cow Town you can head on down to the Fort Worth Stockyards. Here you will find cobble stone roads, our historic train station, and daily cattle drives. If you’re looking for some Texas BBQ this area will not leave you disappointed. If you’re looking to try our most famous tex-mex spot, enjoy the outdoor seating area at Joe T. Garcia’s. End the night enjoying the world’s largest honky-tonk at Billy Bob’s with live bull riding every night!

**ENTERTAINMENT**

West 7th is our young up-and-coming area with plenty of great food and nightlife. Whether you are looking for a great burger or a delectable dessert, you can find it in the West 7th district. As for nightlife, the options are endless depending on your style. Enjoy a Texas evening with outdoor games at Varsity or American Gardens, ride a mechanical bull at Landmark, or enjoy an outdoor concert at Capital Bar.

**DOWNTOWN**

Head downtown to see our beautiful skyline and enjoy downtown Fort Worth. Enjoy Sundance Square with live concerts and beautiful water fountains. If you enjoy musicals or a beautiful ballet, then check out what’s showing at Bass Hall. For some nightlife, make your way to the swanky Scat Lounge for some great live jazz. Thompson’s for a more intimate speakeasy (check out our social media for the secret password), or Pete’s Piano Bar for some sing along dueling pianos.

**RESTAURANTS**

Magnolia is our eclectic street with all of our favorite local restaurants and bars that have such a personal taste to each one. Avoca Coffee is a Fort Worth favorite coffee shop with a great atmosphere. Cross the street and you get to Spiral Diner which has an all vegan menu. [Their snickerdoodle cookies are to die for- and yes they’re vegan!] The Proper and The Usual are two bar favorites with specialty cocktails and intimate settings. If you’re into ice cream you must stop by MELT for some delicious homemade ice cream!

**CULTURE**

The Fort Worth Cultural District features five internationally acclaimed museums in a beautiful, park-like setting. The Fort Worth Botanic & Japanese Gardens, Will Rogers Memorial Center and Casa Manana Theatre border this beloved area.
What is the Master's Degree in Higher Educational Leadership?
The M.Ed. in Educational Leadership, Higher Educational Leadership Program is designed to prepare students for administrative roles in a variety of higher education settings, especially Student Affairs. The program provides an academic experience constructed to improve the practice and understanding of those engaged in Student Affairs and other administrative functions in a variety of higher education settings.

In addition to coursework, what are the program requirements?
Each student will complete an assessment at the end of the first year of study. This assessment is designed to provide timely and constructive feedback to students pursuing the M.Ed. in the Educational Leadership Higher Education program. During the final semester of the student's program, the students complete a M.Ed. Portfolio Assessment/Culminating Project. The purpose of the M.Ed. Portfolio Assessment/Culminating Project is to provide students on the cusp of completing the M.Ed. a platform to present their work and to reflect on their development as an educational leader over the course of the program. Additional information is in the Graduate Studies in Educational Leadership Policies and Procedures handbook.

What will my degree prepare me to do?
Most graduates obtain positions in Student Affairs at institutions across the country. Some choose higher education positions that are not in Student Affairs. Many students intend to continue their academic work in doctoral programs. The TCU Educational Leadership Higher Education program certainly will prepare you for doctoral studies. The program requires considerable writing and research, which are core elements of a doctoral program. Students take a minimum of three Inquiry/Research courses and writing is stressed in all classes. Students are exposed to a wide range of ideas and opportunities that will prepare them well for doctoral studies.

What are the costs for the students?
Students who receive assistantships receive a tuition grant that covers up to 18 semester hours annually. Additionally, graduate assistants receive a stipend between $16,000-$18,000. Assistantships which include room and board have their cash stipend adjusted. Students who do not receive an assistantship are also eligible for significant financial assistance that may cover 50% of tuition costs. Students are responsible for all other living expenses.

TCU Traditions

TCU is full of unique traditions and school spirit that allow you to feel part of the Horned Frog family. The annual Tree Lighting hosts over 7,000 people from the Fort Worth Community in our Campus Commons to celebrate the holiday season in a place that is home away from home for many. theEnd is a student run organization that hosts events like Saturday Night Live comedians, newly released movies out on the Commons, and concerts every weekend and all events are FREE to students!

“Frequently Asked Questions

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My favorite TCU tradition is the Christmas Tree Lighting. This celebration starts the festive season off with the whole TCU and Fort Worth communities. Fireworks, music, and holiday cheer fill the air to create an unforgettable experience.

—Karina Hinz