What can I do with a degree in College Student Personnel Services?
You will have the background to work in entry or mid-level positions in many student affairs offices such as: admissions, financial aid, first year experience, orientation, advising, enrollment management, athletics, academic support, international student services, overseas study, student activities, Greek life, career counseling, residence life and others.

What information do I need to apply?
The Graduate School requires that you complete an online application, pay a fee, and submit GRE scores and transcripts from all previous institutions. The CPS program, in addition, requires that you also submit 1) a résumé, 2) a letter of intent explaining your interest in the program and semester you want to start, 3) three letters of recommendation addressing your ability to conduct graduate work from individuals familiar with your academic ability or student affairs experience, 4) a student affairs belief essay, and 6) an essay addressing a critical issue facing student affairs. The admissions committee may request additional materials including, for example, an additional writing sample.

Does my undergraduate degree need to be in a particular area?
No, we admit students from many different academic backgrounds including education, business, arts and sciences, allied health, nursing, etc.

Is the GRE required for admissions?
Yes. It is a part of the admissions process; however it is weighted equally with all other application materials.

Are applications due at a certain time of year?
We practice continuous admissions and you may begin the program in any semester. However, the majority of our students begin the program in Fall semester.

How long after I apply will I find out whether I’m admitted?
Once your application is complete, the Graduate School will notify us and we will review your file to make an admission decision. Students are notified of the admissions status by the Graduate School.

Are assistantships available?
Assistantships across campus are available, and they are competitive. Students must be proactive about seeking out and obtaining assistantships. Students also may earn work study if they have it in their financial aid package.

How many courses can I transfer in to this degree?
Students may be allowed to transfer in a maximum of 6 credit hours, or two 3 credit courses. This decision will be made in consultation with your advisor. You should provide course syllabi for those courses you wish to be considered for transfer.

Who is my advisor?
Your advisor will be assigned when you are admitted to the program and you will be informed of this by letter. Your advisor will assist you in selecting courses and understanding program requirements.

Can I take classes outside the program and department?
You have two elective courses; these typically come from within HE; however, students also take courses in psychology, sports and recreation, business, etc. This decision needs to be made in consultation with your advisor.

When do I take the comprehensive exam?
Comprehensive exams are scheduled in the last semester of coursework. The decision of when to schedule comprehensive examinations will be made in consultation with the student’s advisor.

Do I have to have a computer to complete the program?
A computer is not required but is highly advisable because the program requires considerable out-of-class work. Computers are available in Cook Library and the Liberal Arts buildings on the Hattiesburg campus and at the Gulf Coast Service Center.