Department of Graduate Higher Education

Preparing College and University Leaders for a Changing World
Student Learning Outcomes

Students who complete the M.A. in Higher Education will be able to:

- Apply their understanding of the relationship of higher education to the development of college students of various ages and demographics.
- Apply legal and ethical principles to decision-making within higher education settings.
- Evaluate current trends and forces impacting higher education in the United States in light of history and social context.
- Evaluate and apply research related the study of higher education.
- Describe the internal and public governance dynamics of colleges and universities.
- Implement responses to problems or opportunities facing higher education institutions.

Welcome from Department Chair

Colleges focus on the future. Being part of a college or university means equipping people and institutions for change and innovation. A career in higher education gives you the opportunity to help students thrive and help universities further their missions. Whether working directly with students in residence life or indirectly in institutional administration, the ultimate goal of university leaders is to empower college students to succeed.

Students in JBU’s M.A. in Higher Education program are early and mid-career professionals or individuals seeking to enter higher education as a career. The program is designed to be flexible, achievable and affordable. The required coursework will guide you in understanding how universities are organized and operate, including legal and financial components, and how people change and develop through their time as college students regardless of their age. Building on these key components, you focus your studies on an area of higher education that will further your career or address your area of special interest, culminating in an in-depth self-directed project of your choosing.

The 30-hour degree is designed to be completed in less than two years by taking one course at a time, all online. You will learn from faculty with advanced degrees and many years of relevant experience working in the subjects they teach. Your classmates represent many different kinds of institutions and agencies from across the country.

Earn your M.A. in Higher Education at John Brown University. It’s the right choice for your future.

Dr. Richard Ellis
Higher Education Department Chair
Dean of the College of Education and Social & Behavioral Sciences

Our Passion

The JBU Department of Higher Education prepares skilled and ethical professionals for leadership roles in colleges and universities and in agencies focused on higher and post-secondary education.
Master of Arts (MA) in Higher Education

- 30 hours, all online
- 8-week classes
- Finish in less than two years

The Highlight of the MA in HED is a student project on a topic of their choice. Recent HED research project topics include:

- Campus-based mental health services
- Effective online communication in Admissions
- Experiences of Latinx students at a Christian college
- First-generation student success and retention strategies
- Food insecurity among college students
- Identity formation in collegiate student athletes
- Intrusive advising at community college
- Mentoring in higher education
- Professional development of residence life staff
- Retention of students with disabilities in public institutions

Educational Organizations Employing JBU HED Students & Graduates

- 58% Private/Christian University
- 32% Public College or University
- 10% Other Educational Organization

College Choice ranks JBU’s MA in Higher Ed among the top 25 online higher education programs in the US for 2020.

Graduate School Pathways

Graduate School Pathways allow you to get started on your graduate degree while you’re working on your undergraduate degree. Whether you’re a traditional undergrad student taking classes on the main campus in Siloam Springs, or you’re finishing your bachelor’s through JBU Online, you may have the opportunity to finish your bachelor’s and master’s more quickly and at a better value.

You could have both your bachelor’s and master’s degrees in as little as five years! How? You can earn up to 12 graduate credit hours while completing your bachelor’s degree, and those hours will count as credit for both your bachelor’s and master’s degrees. This means you will take fewer courses overall.

Spend less time and money earning a master’s degree by participating in the Graduate School Pathways Program.

Learn more at jbu.edu/pathways.
John Brown University admits persons to its programs and activities without regard to race, color, national or ethnic origin, or gender. The university does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin, physical or mental disability, or gender in the administration of education policies, admission policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletics, and other school-sponsored programs.