Hello, I'm Dr. Pam Havice at Clemson University. I have the privilege of being the coordinator for the Student Affairs Master’s Program at our university. I also coordinate the higher education doctorate program, but the purpose of this video is to give you a quick overview about our program and hopefully give you a little bit more information.

I would like to tell you that we have a great faculty. We have several faculty who have had years of experience in student affairs, we have a faculty that are very student centered, and we try to role model what we actually talk about in our classes, utilizing student development theory. Most of our faculty have a very open door policy where students’ needs do come first, and I do think that makes us unique, particularly at the graduate school level.

But to talk specifically about the program, we have a hybrid program. If you have been doing your research, which I imagine most of you are looking at a number of programs across the country, you know that there is a wide range of foci or focuses on in the different programs. Ours kind of falls in the middle. It’s a hybrid program.

Our program is housed within a counselor education program and so we have a core set of counseling courses around which the Student Affairs and Higher Ed Administration courses are arranged. But within that curriculum, we have research courses, we have administrative courses, we have student development theory courses and we have a very strong field experience base where students earn four hundred hours of field experiences across three different semesters to help build that hybrid approach to working on a campus and in particular working in student affairs.

Currently our program is a forty-two hour program and it takes two years. Most students go a fall/spring/summer/fall/spring, but it also depends on assistantships. The majority of our students are also on graduate assistantships. Within that forty-two hour curriculum, there are three core courses, for a total of nine hours and there are thirty-three hours’ worth of administrative research based student affairs courses including the practicum and internship classes.

So it’s a very linear program. We do admit twice a year, but most of our students come in August because most of them start on assistantships that start in the fall. With this linear approach, it means that advising is particularly important so once you are admitted to our program you are assigned an advisor and working with that advisor to make sure that you are in the right combination of courses in the right semester is going to be critical.

One of the things I think that makes our program somewhat unique is that we do offer several opportunities for study abroad experiences. Between the first and second year, that summer, we offer a number of study abroad internships, and they vary from year to year according to number and also to sites.

But this past year, we had four students at the University of Sheffield in England, we had two students at American University in Rome, Italy, and we had one student at University College in Dublin, and I’m hoping that we can replicate the same kind of combination for next year, maybe even hopefully expanding it.
In the past, we have also offered a two week course, usually in the month of July, to contrast and compare higher education and student services in a country in Europe. In the past, that trip has cycled between England, Scotland and Ireland. At the present we are planning on trying to offer that course next summer, summer of 2014, in England. That particular course is open, not only to our students in our program, but also open to graduate students in masters programs and doctorate programs across the country, and it is also open to professionals in student affairs across the country. So be on the lookout for those kinds of experiences, too.

Now, I have briefly mentioned that we do have two admission dates. We do the primary admission is for fall, and that particular application deadline is February 1. So if you are seeking fall admission, February 1st is the deadline. If you are wanting to be a part-time student, we have reserved a special admission just for part-time students and that is for the spring. The application deadline for a spring admission is October 1, and again, spring admission is only reserved for part-time students.

Now, when you are admitted to our program, I know that many of you are probably going to be applying also for graduate assistantships, so the way our admission process works is that we admit people, but only will you be able to register for courses if you have gained an assistantship or if you are working full-time in Higher Education or Student Affairs. So you have to have a graduate assistantship or you have to be working full-time in Higher Education / Student Affairs to be able to be registered for our classes and enter our program.

I did mention the graduate assistantship process. There are usually lots of questions about that. It is a competitive application also, and the time frame is very much the same as the application process for fall. The deadline for graduate assistantship application is February 1 also. The way that happens or the way those two processes work in joint with each other is that you are applying for the academic program first. Once your online application is received, your contact information is shared with the person coordinating the graduate assistantship process, and that person will then send you the web link and the information about applying for assistantships.

When February 1 hits, the faculty then look at all the applications for the fall and within a seven to ten day window, makes the decision about who they will admit. And then we send informal emails letting you know that you are being admitted or suggested for admission to the graduate school. Your official graduate school admission letter could possibly come a little bit later, but we try to turn that decision around very quickly because we realize, as you are applying for graduate assistantships, typically the interview weekend for those assistantships is at the very end of February or maybe the first of March, so there’s not very much time in between. So we try to let you know what your status is so you know whether you can go ahead and plan on coming and interviewing for a graduate assistantship.

You must complete the online admission form to the program in order to receive the graduate assistantship information, and I want to stress that over and over again because you are supposed to be applying for an academic program; that should be your priority. The assistantship is the piece that will just help augment that experience, and hopefully, give you a little bit of a financial break to make that graduate experience even more meaningful. But your first focus should be on the academic experience.

So, in a really brief few moments I’ve tried to give you an overview about our program. I think we have a terrific program. Our graduates from our program are employed all over the country and internationally. They are our best ambassadors, and if I can ever be of any assistance, if you
need more information or have specific questions that I have not answered in this video or that you cannot find on the website, please do not hesitate to contact me. We would love to show you our campus! Thank you.