FSU Higher Education
Visiting Days Guide
February 16-18, 2023
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Welcome to FSU!

Congratulations on your recommended admission into Florida State University’s Higher Education program! We would like to take a moment and welcome you to one of the top nationally recognized programs in the Higher Education and Student Affairs professions. On behalf of the Higher Education Student Association (HESA), current students, faculty, and staff, we are thrilled to have you join the program and the LifeNet at Florida State University.

Since the Higher Education program began in 1957, we have consistently been one of the top programs in the United States. Many FSU Higher Education graduates hold positions as top administrators and faculty on college, university, and community college campuses as well as noted public policy researchers. Our program combines a solid grasp of theory and practice, and consistently produces highly qualified graduates at both the master’s and doctoral level. We hope you will be challenged, supported, and have the opportunity for professional development during your time at FSU.

Your future faculty members are confident in your skills and abilities, and we are excited for your contributions in making Florida State University’s Higher Education program even stronger. Visiting Days is your opportunity to learn more about the program, interview for graduate assistantship positions, and meet FSU’s students, faculty and staff.

This guide will tell you a little more about the Higher Education program, FSU, and Visiting Days 2023. The Visiting Days Committee is here to help with anything you may need. Please do not hesitate to contact any committee member if you have questions or concerns. You will find that current students, faculty, and staff are eager to help you succeed in any way possible.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

Cassie Kepple
Graduate Assistant
Higher Education Program

Dr. Cameron Beatty
Higher Education Program Coordinator

Cassie Kepple
Graduate Assistant
Higher Education Program

Ashlee Chensky & Adarius Simpkins
Master’s Visiting Days Coordinators

Ashley Archer Doehling & Holly Henning
Doctoral Visiting Days Coordinators
Schedule Overview

All times reflect Eastern Standard (EST) time.

Thursday, February 16:
Program begins at 9:30 AM and ends at 5 PM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>PhD</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00-9:30 AM</td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30-11:00 AM</td>
<td>Welcome Breakfast with Employers</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00-11:45 AM</td>
<td>MS Prog Overview</td>
<td>Faculty Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:45-12:30 PM</td>
<td>Faculty Time</td>
<td>PhD Prog Overview</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:30-1:15 PM</td>
<td>Lunch (BREAK - Lunch Provided)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:30-5:00 PM</td>
<td>Prospective Student Interviews</td>
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Friday, February 17:
Program begins at 10 AM and ends at 5:30 PM

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>PhD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-12:00 PM</td>
<td>Prospective Student Interviews</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-12:45 PM</td>
<td>Lunch (BREAK - Lunch Provided)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00-5:00 PM</td>
<td>Prospective Student Interviews</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5:00-5:30 PM</td>
<td>Wrap-up for all Interviewing Students</td>
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Saturday, February 18:
Program begins at 10 AM and ends at 1:30 PM

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>PhD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00-11:00 AM</td>
<td>MS Student Panel</td>
<td>Doc Student Panel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00-11:15 AM</td>
<td>Hardee Program Overview</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:15-11:30 AM</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:30AM-1:00PM</td>
<td>Affinity Group time</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-1:30PM</td>
<td>Program Wrap-up for All Students</td>
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Navigating the Assistantship Process

We understand going through an in-person interview (or multiple) can be stressful and overwhelming. Different institutions may have different procedures related to assistantships, as well as the interview and selection process. We want you to feel as comfortable with Florida State's process as possible before coming to campus, and we are here to answer any questions you may have.

PRE-VISITING DAYS: Interview Scheduling

- **REGISTER** for Visiting Days, selecting up to 8 assistantships in which you are interested in interviewing. Submit the assistantship application via the registration form.
- All employers will review your materials. Some may make a request with the Visiting Days Committee to interview you even if you did not preference their position; we may schedule them with you if you selected that you were open to this in your registration.
- Once employer requests are received, the Visiting Days Committee will match you with interviews. We will work to maximize the number of interviews you receive, and you will receive your individualized interview schedule around a week prior to Visiting Days.

POST-VISITING DAYS: Candidate-Employer Matching

- After Visiting Days, you will be emailed a form to rank your employer preferences. Employers will complete a similar form.
- The Visiting Days Committee will review results from both of these forms and make matches as appropriate.
- Your employer will contact you directly with an offer if you are successfully matched with a position. If you are not initially offered a position, you will be placed on our "available students" list. You may receive requests for additional interviews and/or receive an offer after matching is complete.
- NOTE: You will only receive one offer from FSU, so carefully consider the one offer you receive.
As part of FSU's HESA Visiting Days experience, we aim to pair candidates with current students who can help guide you through the process. We will use your responses to the Buddy Information section of your Visiting Days Registration to pair you with a buddy who will reach out to you closer to Visiting Days. Your buddy will be available to Zoom, call, text, or FaceTime should you have questions or concerns throughout the weekend.

We are hopeful these folks will provide helpful context about our program and inspire confidence as you navigate the FSU graduate student experience. Keep an eye out for a text or email from your VisDays Buddy!
Tuition Waivers:
Florida State University is committed to your academic success. While tuition will be covered by your assistantship for 9 hours each spring and fall semester, you are still responsible for paying your student fees each semester. If you take summer courses, you may be responsible for paying tuition. Some internships and assistantships may come with a summer tuition waiver depending on the office. This is a great question to discuss with employers!

**NOTE:** Tuition waivers will also cover those coming from out-of-state, but only for the first year. When you move to Tallahassee, you will start the process of acquiring residency so that you are an in-state student during your second year.

Stipend:
Effective August 8, 2022, each graduate assistant on a 0.50 FTE academic year appointment (19.5 pay periods) is guaranteed a minimum stipend of $16,250 or prorated to that value in accordance with Article 23.1 (B) with a minimum of $20.83 per hour. For more information, visit our Human Resources webpage. However, some departments pay may vary. It is perfectly acceptable to clarify the pay rate for the position for which you're interested.

Health Insurance Subsidy:
For the 2023-2024 academic year, the University will pay a portion of the student health insurance premium for individual coverage of those employees on at least a 0.25 FTE appointment for the fall and spring semesters who are not enrolled in any other state or University health insurance program and who elect coverage under the Student Health Insurance Plan. For more information, visit this website.

Housing Accommodations:
Some graduate assistantship positions include on-campus living requirements. In those cases, housing accommodations are another expense which could potentially be covered through your assistantship depending on the position you are offered. For most other positions, the cost is not covered. However, the cost of many rental properties in Tallahassee are affordable. Many HESA students choose to live together and there are numerous rental options and complexes in and around town.

Scholarships & Grants:
http://gradschool.fsu.edu/funding-awards/graduate-school-fellowships-and-grants
https://education.fsu.edu/student-resources/scholarships-and-aid

Conference Funding
As an FSU graduate student you will be able to apply for conference and professional development funding through the Congress of Graduate Students and the College of Education. Some GA positions also supply funding for conferences. It is perfectly acceptable to ask about this in your interviews.
What is HESA?

The Higher Education Student Association (HESA) is a registered student organization that serves as the collective voice of all students associated with the Higher Education program at FSU, functioning as the liaison between students, faculty, and university constituents. Current students hold positions on the board including HESA Master’s and Doctoral Chairs, Finance Chair, Communications Chair, Events/Visiting Days Coordinators, Social Justice and Inclusion Coordinator, and class reps. HESA supports the academic study and professional development of its members, as well as enhances and supplements the overall graduate student experience. We hope that you will get involved on the board and at HESA-sponsored events!

Professional Development

HESA offers regular professional development opportunities on a range of topics to support student networking, resume building, conference preparation, and applying for internships & jobs!

Social Events

HESA also facilitates opportunities to strengthen relationships in the program! In addition to monthly general body meetings, HESA also hosts study groups, coffee breaks, fair and trivia nights, and more!

Connect with Us!

Website: fsuhesa.org
Meet the Faculty

**Dr. Cameron Beatty** (Ph.D., Iowa State University) is an Assistant Professor of Higher Education and the Leadership Learning Research Center as well as the Higher Education Program Coordinator. Dr. Beatty’s research explores the intersections of gender and race in leadership education, leadership development of students of color, and global leadership education for undergraduate students. He is a scholar passionate about deconstructing race, systemic racism, and hegemonic masculinity in postsecondary education environments.

**Dr. Brad Cox** (Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University) is an Associate Professor of Higher Education and Co-Founder of the College Autism Network. Dr. Cox’s research explores student success for college students with Autism. He is currently the PI for the PEACES Project, a grant-funded effort to develop a searchable, comprehensive online database of research studies and programs related to adults with Autism in the context of employment and higher education.

**Dr. Walt Ecton** (Ph.D., Vanderbilt University) is an Assistant Professor of Higher Education. Dr. Ecton’s research lies at the intersections between high school, higher education, and the workforce, and the pathways students take as they navigate those sectors. His work primarily focuses on students who take nontraditional pathways through education, with particular focuses on high school students in career and technical education, students who attend community college, and students who return to higher education later in life.
Meet the Faculty

**Dr. Kathy Guthrie** (Ph.D., University of Illinois) is an Associate Professor of Higher Education. She leads the Leadership Learning Research Center and undergraduate certificate in leadership studies. Her research focuses on the learning outcomes and environment of leadership and civic education, online teaching and learning, and professional development for student affairs professionals. She is Editor-in-Chief for the New Directions in Student Leadership series.

**Dr. Shouping Hu** (Ph.D., Indiana University) is Louis W. and Elizabeth N.Bender Endowed Professor in the Higher Education program and founding director of the Center for Postsecondary Success at FSU. Dr. Hu has authored more than 60 journal articles and book chapters, and has served on the editorial boards of Journal of Higher Education, Educational Researcher, Research in Higher Education, Journal of College Student Development, and the ASHE Higher Education Report series.

**Dr. Tamara Bertrand Jones** (Ph.D., Florida State University) is an Associate Professor in the Higher Education program. Prior to joining the faculty, Dr. Bertrand Jones was coordinator of the Office of Research for student affairs at Florida State. Her research interests include assessment, culturally responsive evaluation, mentoring, and the transition of graduate students into junior faculty roles. She is founder and past president of Sisters of the Academy Institute, co-author of two books, and past recipient of the McKnight Junior Faculty Fellowship.
Meet the Faculty

**Dr. Christine Mokher** (Ph.D., Vanderbilt University) is an Associate Professor of Higher Education and serves as Associate Chair of the ELPS department. Dr. Mokher is also affiliated with the Center for Postsecondary Success. Her research expertise is in college- and career-readiness and student transitions from secondary to postsecondary education. Her publications can be found in outlets including Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning, American Journal of Education, and Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis.

**Dr. Joe O'Shea** (Ph.D., University of Oxford) is an Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, as well as FSU's Associate Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Studies. As Dean, Joe helps lead the university's award-winning student success initiatives. Joe also serves in expert roles for the Institute of Education Sciences and co-editor of the Journal of Postsecondary Student Success. Dr. O'Shea has published two books and is currently working on another.

**Dr. Lara Perez-Felkner** (Ph.D., University of Chicago) is an Associate Professor, an affiliated faculty member in FSU's department of sociology, an affiliate of the Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice, and senior research associate in the Center for Postsecondary Success. Her research examines the social context of schools in relation to adolescents' college and career outcomes. Dr. Perez-Felkner also serves on the President's Council for Diversity and Inclusion. In 2019, Dr. Perez-Felkner won the Graduate Faculty Mentor award from FSU's Graduate School.
Meet the Faculty

Dr. Sally Watkins (Ph.D., Florida State University) is a Visiting Teaching Faculty with the Leadership Learning Research Center. She has taught a variety of the LDR courses offered at Florida State. Her research focuses on the history of leadership education at the collegiate level, socially responsible leadership development, and leadership learning and pedagogy. Additionally, Sally is interested in the history of higher education, institutional presidents, and career readiness.

Dr. Annie Wofford (Ph.D., University of California, Los Angeles) is an Assistant Professor in Higher Education. Dr. Wofford's research explores inequities in higher education, with an emphasis on equity minded structures of support in students' mentoring relationships and STEM graduate school trajectories. Dr. Wofford's current research projects focus on (in)equity within the pathways to and through graduate school in computing-related fields, using critical quantitative and qualitative methods to address related questions in this area.
FSU at a Glance

One of the nation's elite research universities, Florida State University preserves, expands, and disseminates knowledge in the sciences, technology, arts, humanities, and professions, while embracing a philosophy of learning strongly rooted in the traditions of the liberal arts and critical thinking. FSU's welcoming campus is located on the oldest continuous site of higher education in Florida, in a community that fosters free inquiry and embraces diversity, along with championship athletics, and a prime location in the heart of the state capital. Our core values include transformative daring, inspired excellence, dynamic inclusiveness, engaged community, & responsible stewardship.

Fast Facts:
- FSU was founded in 1851 and is the oldest continuous site of higher education in Florida.
- There are 41,900 enrolled students from every Florida county and 129 countries.
- There is a 93% retention rate for freshmen and a 80% graduation rate by sixth year.
- FSU offers 301 degree programs, including bachelor's, master's, doctoral, specialist, & professional programs.
- For a period of time in the early 1900s, Florida State University was a women's only college.
- Florida State loves its athletic programs, and for good reason! We've beaten our rivals at the University of Florida in football the past seven out of eight years. Our other sports programs are just as exciting (check out women's soccer, women's softball, beach volleyball, and more).
- The Flying High Circus is one of two collegiate circuses in the nation. Florida State is the only university with its own big top circus tent!

Traditions:
- Swing by a Market Wednesday.
- Visit the Sod Cemetery by the football stadium.
- See the spear lit on the Unconquered statue before home football games.
- Jump into Westcott Fountain on your birthday.
Florida State University is located in the heart of Florida’s capital, Tallahassee. This beautiful city offers an endless amount of things to see and do. There are a variety of day and evening entertainment options including everything such as art and cultural events, local eateries, fun festivals, concerts, athletic events, and more. We are also within driving distance of big southern cities like Atlanta, New Orleans, Orlando, and Savannah. If you are interested in learning more, visit [www.visittallahassee.com](http://www.visittallahassee.com)

**Tallahassee Overview**

**Things to Do & See:**
- Wakulla Springs
- Cascades Park
- Dorothy B. Oven Park
- Alfred B. Maclay Gardens
- Football games
- Downtown Get Down
- Tallahassee Festivals
- Lake Ella
- Free movies at FSU’s cinema
- Mission San Luis de Apalachee

**Travel To See:**
- Beaches like St. George’s Island, Alligator Point, and Destin Beach
- Disney Word (with a Florida resident discount!)
- Universal Studios (with a Florida resident discount!)
- National Memorial For Peace And Justice on Thursday in Montgomery, Alabama

**Local Food Venues:**
- 4 Rivers Barbecue
- The Bark
- Gaines Street Pies
- Gordo’s Cuban Cuisine
- Hobbit American Grill
- Maria Maria’s
- Maple Street Biscuit Co.
- Midtown Caboose
- Momo’s Pizza
- Mr. Roboto’s
- La Tiendita
- Uptown Cafe
Closing Thoughts

Take advantage of the opportunity to meet a variety of people during your time with us; these could be your future classmates, colleagues, and friends. Take time to do what you need to do to be most successful during Visiting Days. Whether it is taking time alone to process or making connections with your fellow candidates, do what you need for you. Everyone has different strategies for success and we support your self-care.

The graduate school application and interview process can be stressful and potentially overwhelming. Other applicants might look like they have it all together and cause you to doubt yourself or your experiences. Trust us, we’ve been there and remember that feeling - everyone is a little stressed. We’re all in this together.

Remember, your story has power. Embrace your experiences. Find your niche. Explore offices and positions you never thought could be a fit. Ask questions. Enjoy yourself and take care of yourself, too. Most importantly: Have fun!

Let us know what we can do to make your Visiting Days experience more comfortable. We look forward to seeing you soon!