Consistent with standards and beliefs outlined by the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) and the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), Graduate Assistantships offered through the Division of Student Affairs offer opportunities to experience reciprocity between theory and practice. Graduate assistants are expected to meet the intellectual challenges of coursework, along with their responsibilities associated with their assistantship.

Assistantships will afford students opportunities to participate in learning experiences leading to an understanding of:

- College student development,
- Collegiate subcultures,
- Organizational dynamics,
- The nature of higher education as an institution,
- Personal and professional development

Graduate assistants will develop a set of practical competencies, which include:

- Developing effective communication, interpersonal and written skills
- Developing skills to effectively manage a variety of tasks
- Developing ability to coordinate programs consistent with assistantship responsibilities

Graduate assistants will develop a set of core competencies, which include:

- Understanding of the development of Student Affairs as a profession and the role it plays in contemporary higher education
- Understanding of student development, counseling techniques, planning, program management and office mission through purposeful assistantship responsibilities
- Develop awareness of self and the connection of personal values and professional goals

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