

The Student Affairs Practitioner

Purpose, Functions, and Activities

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Senior Student Affairs Practitioner

- The Senior Student Affairs Practitioner/Officer (SSAO) is the **administrative leader of the Division of Student Affairs & Services** (MacKinnon, 2004)
- Establishes vision, assesses student needs, and directs non-academic student services (Culp, 2012)

Why Student Affairs?

- Construction of meaning in college no longer occurs in the academic setting only
- Learning requires all resources of a college to function together in an integrated manner
- **Link undergraduate students' academic and co-curricular experiences to create a seamless learning environment focussed on academic success and learning**

Division of Student Affairs

- Academic Advising
 - Admissions
 - Alumni Relations
 - Athletics
 - Campus Security
 - Career Services
 - Commuter Student Services
 - Counseling
 - Dining
 - Disability Services
 - Financial Aid
 - Greek Life
 - Health & Wellness
 - Housing & Residence Life
 - International Student Services
 - Leadership Development
 - LGBTQ+ Student Services
 - Multicultural Affairs
 - Non-Traditional Student Services
 - Orientation
 - Parent Programs
 - Service Learning
 - Student Activities
 - Student Conduct/Discipline
 - Study Abroad
 - **AND MANY MORE...**
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Purpose of Student Affairs Officer

Educator, Leader & Manager

- Accomplish the mission
 - Provide leadership
 - **Identifying student needs**
 - **Delivery of student services**
 - Support needs & interests
 - Institutional policies
 - Allocate government resources
 - Diversity & inclusion
 - Multiculturalism
 - Forms of technology
 - Integrator of functions
 - Integrate mission, programs & services
 - Effective steward of resources
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Typical Activities

Student Affairs Officer

- Ethical framework
 - Long-range plans & policies
 - Budgets
 - Institutional priorities
 - Advising Student Leaders
 - Represent Student Affairs
 - Conduct research
 - Safe & secure campus
 - Faculty involvement
 - Diverse learning communities
 - Student conduct
 - Evaluation & assessment
 - Staff supervision
 - Student activities
 - Program development
 - Fund-raising
 - Public spokesperson for student needs
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Student Affairs @NYU Shanghai

NYU Shanghai

- Founded in 2012 as **China's first Sino-US research university**
- Third degree-granting campus of New York University
- ~2000 undergraduate & graduate students
 - 51% from China, 49% from 70 countries around the world
- Celebrating 10-year anniversary
- Move to new campus in Fall 2022

Student Affairs @NYU Shanghai

- **Deans of Students' Office**

- Dean of Students &
- Two Assistant Deans oversee Offices of
 - Student Mobility
 - Orientation, New Student Programs & Diversity Programs
 - Residential Life & Student Conduct
 - Student Involvement
 - Health & Wellness
 - Career Development Center
 - Athletics & Fitness
- ~47 Staff Members
- Student Leaders
- Student Workers
- Campus partners

Recent Trends @NYU Shanghai

- **High degree of uncertainty**
- Loss of traditional college experience
- High emotional needs and mental health issues
- Parental involvement
- Higher degree of support needed in absence of travel home
- Need to develop grit & resilience
- Being comfortable being uncomfortable

Strengthening Research on Student Affairs

- Impact of Covid-19
- Orientation/Student Life: Changing needs of undergraduate students
- Mobility: Visa & Mobility issues
- Diversity Programs: Lack of student diversity on campus
- Residential Life/Student Involvement/Athletics: Community Building & Community Identity
- Academic Affairs: Effective use of technology
- Health & Wellness: Student Wellness & Mental Health
- Counseling Services: Strength & resilience

Q & A

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