

# **UMSL** Division of Student Affairs

Supporting the Student Experience Since 1963



## **Mission Statement:**

“Provide quality programs and services that complement the academic experience and provide opportunities that enhance the development of our students”

## **As a division:**

We recognize the worth and dignity of all students and their diverse needs.  
We believe students who are broadly educated will make a significant contribution to society.  
We serve our customers in an ethical, effective, and friendly manner.  
We work as partners with the campus and the community.

**Overall Budget 2012-2013:** \$21.6 Million

**Number of Employees:** 297 faculty/staff and over 146 students

**Number of Departments:** 18

The Division of Student Affairs works collaboratively with the University community to support and positively influence the student experience by offering a variety of student focused services:

## Enrollment Services



The purpose of enrollment services is to shape the composition of the student body, reduce attrition rates, and develop appropriate publications and services to assist the campus community (Komives & Woodward et al., 2003). Student Affairs assists the University community by coordinating campus recruitment efforts, preparing and disseminating marketing materials for prospective students, creating and upholding admissions standards, offering tours to prospective students and families, providing information about the campus, coordinating new student orientation and programs, administering financial aid, processing grades and transcripts, maintaining academic records, and assisting with course registration.

## Academic/Student Support



According to the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), a good practice in student affairs is to engage students in active learning. In order to complement the academic experience, Student Affairs strives to provide high quality learning opportunities such as professional speaker series, leadership workshops, residential learning communities, and daily access to three national newspapers. Additionally, Student Affairs creates opportunities for students to practically apply course material through high impact learning activities including, but not limited to, student leadership, peer mentoring, resident advising, collective decision making, service learning, and structured group experiences such as community service.

The American College Personnel Association (ACPA) notes that student populations today are becoming more diverse in regards to family configuration, socioeconomic status, time commitments, reason for enrollment, physical and intellectual characteristics, and level of pre-college preparation. Understanding that some UMSL students possess unique needs and responsibilities, which can adversely impact their academic experiences, Student Affairs provides our students with monitored study halls, disability support services, tutoring assistance, peer mentoring, social work-based services, access to discounted public transportation, personal advising, general study skills, academic goal setting, test-taking strategies, time management skills, and test anxiety reduction.

In alignment with the six best practices established by the National College Access Network (NCAN), Student Affairs promotes and encourages post-secondary education in the larger community by offering junior high and high school students college access and preparation programs including, but not limited to, ACT and SAT preparation, college admissions application assistance, experiential learning programs, financial aid workshops, speaker series, counseling-based support groups, college resource fairs, and informative campus tours.

## Professional Development/ Career Preparation



The Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS) asserts that colleges and universities should assist students in developing, evaluating, and implementing career, education, and employment plans. Student Affairs assists our students in preparing for professional careers by offering assistance with résumé writing, business etiquette, interviewing skills, career coaching, career development counseling, job search strategies, and salary negotiation. Furthermore, Student Affairs fosters relationships with employers in the local community in order to maintain an updated list of available professional positions for our graduates, host job fairs, and provide networking opportunities and field-based learning experiences, such as internships, for our students.

## Campus Engagement



Most scholars who study the impact of college on students agree that what occurs outside the classroom contributes significantly to student learning outcomes (Astin 1993; Pascarella & Terenzini, 1991). Furthermore, a large body of theory and research has concluded that there is a positive correlation between student engagement and persistence (Astin, 1985; Pace, 1984; Tinto, 1993). In order to positively influence student learning outcomes and increase the rate of student persistence, Student Affairs offers UMSL students a variety of social experiences which help foster campus engagement including, but not limited to, 120 student organizations and clubs, Division II Athletics, peer mentoring programs, student carnivals, school spirit events, family-oriented programs,

student engagement fairs, welcome events for new students, welcome back events for returning students, recreational/intramural sports, and access to local community activities and events.

Additionally, Student Affairs provides our students with environments which foster social interaction and campus engagement such as residential housing, study lounges, game rooms, student organization work stations, recreational spaces, fitness facilities, programming spaces, and campus dining and food services.



According to the Council for Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS), institutions should strive to respond to the diverse health and wellness needs of its students by reducing incidences of mental/physical distress and illness/injury. Furthermore, CAS suggests that institutions should promote health and wellness as a strategy to support student learning; and advocate for the safety of its students. Student Affairs strives to meet the health and wellness needs of our students by providing a variety of services: health services, health screenings and assessments, suicide and violence prevention initiatives, stress management skills, alcohol and substance abuse screenings and assessments, wellness education programs, and counseling in the areas of personal, educational, interpersonal relationships, family, social, alcohol and substance abuse, and psychological issues.



Research on moral development in college students indicates that university life can positively influence moral reasoning (Rest, 2000). In order to promote the ethical development of our students, Student Affairs creates and maintains community standards, presents professional speakers series and panel discussions focused on ethical decision-making, assists student groups with establishing and adhering to organizational constitutions/bylaws, utilizes developmental approaches to address behavioral concerns, educates students on the consequences of unethical decision-making, ensures student athlete compliance with NCAA regulations, and creates opportunities for students to

