

Why NLU for a MASTER'S DEGREE IN HUMAN SERVICES MANAGEMENT

NLU recognizes many students are balancing work and family while in school, so courses are scheduled to accommodate those important commitments. NLU's Master of Science in Human Services Management is a comprehensive program designed specifically for the needs of adult students with features that set it apart:

- Accelerated format — Our 12 course, 36 semester hour program is a comprehensive curriculum that can be completed in as few as 7 quarters. Our Six-Week Accelerated Course Structure works as follows:
 - Students take two courses throughout a 12-week term. With this approach, students will take one course every six weeks, for a total of two courses taken during each 12-week period in the fall, winter and spring and one course taken during the shortened summer period.
- Low cost — NLU strives to deliver a high-quality education while taking measures to keep costs as low as possible by:
 - Targeting program courses that focus primarily on human service management and eliminating unnecessary courses that drive up student tuition;
 - Not requiring Practicum in Human Service courses that log hours of field experience for those who have been working for more than 5 years in the Human Service field;
 - Our open cohort model also contributes to cost effectiveness for course offerings, allowing students from multiple cohorts to enroll in the same course offering;
 - Credit for Prior Learning which grants credit towards courses which students have a proven and documented history of prior learning and knowledge;
 - Securing course materials in our library which students can access for free and the use of e-books to keep instructional material cost to a minimum;
 - Offering a 20% tuition discount for students who begin the program by April 2018;
 - Securing scholarships for qualified students to assist those who come from low-wage positions who seek to advance their skills and employment opportunities and strengthen the overall quality of human services through improved management capabilities;
 - Working with Human Service agencies to identify financial assistance such as tuition stipends based on years of service and other resources such as agency foundation sponsorships to assist their employee in acquiring or strengthening management capabilities;
 - Online blended coursework that reduces travel time and expenses;
 - Offering flexible tuition payment plans;
 - Whatever financial situation, the Office of Student Finance will work with students to build a customized financial aid package.



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PROFESSIONALS WHO ACHIEVE.
PEOPLE WHO INSPIRE.

- Flexible schedule — Evening and online blended coursework designed for busy adults.
- Blended course format — Combines on-campus sessions with online learning allowing greater flexibility to complete coursework when it is convenient. Some courses may also be offered in a fully online format to increase the number of options available to students and expand the geographic reach of the disciplinary offerings in Human Services Management. Through our online blended coursework, students:
 - Access learning content (Articles, Textbook readings, Media, Case studies, Professional journals, Videos, etc.), online;
 - Complete assignments and engage in discussions online;
 - Complete course assessments (graded items/ online discussions, quizzes, group paper, research paper, case study analysis) online;
 - Participate in face-to-face class activity either in weeks 1, 3, and 5 or weeks 2, 4, and 6;
 - Face-to-face class sessions focus on concept management through instructor facilitated interactive project-based or active learning (group work, class debate, case project application), not a lecture;
 - Face-to-face classes can be held at any one of our 5 area campuses or a host Human Service agency sites;
 - Face-to-face class sessions are led by caring, dedicated and experienced instructors from the human service field or the specific discipline of study.
- Small class sizes — Provide students with a support network for study and professional development. In our cohort structure, students' progress through the program with the same group of peers.
- Gateway Cohort Structure — In this model, students start their major coursework by taking a gateway course, which also serves as a prerequisite to other courses in the major; proceed to the core courses which typically have a simple prerequisite system and may be taken in any order, with few exceptions; and complete their major course sequence by taking a capstone course. This Gateway Cohort model creates flexibility for students, enabling them to enroll during any term start.
- Renowned faculty — Full-time and part-time credentialed instructors with years of applied experience in the field.
- Direct and immediate application of learning — Course activities and discussions that facilitate specific back-at-work application addressing real issues.
- Shared courses from other NLU College of Professional Studies and Advancement programs — Allows for networking opportunities with other students, access to expert faculty and a rich assortment of management focused curriculum content.
- Access to best practice, evidence-based content — Our courses direct students' to the most current curriculum content (articles, textbook readings, media, case studies, professional journals, videos, etc.) in the field.
- Professionally focused — Career planning interwoven throughout the program, connecting each student with his or her potential career path.
- Connections after graduation — Students will become members of a professional community of human services graduates with enhanced opportunities for ongoing career development.