

Springfield College's Executive Master's Program

Frequently Asked Questions



What are the benefits of enrolling in the Executive Master's Program?



The Executive Master's Program offers a unique opportunity for senior executives at the multi-team or organizational leader level to develop personal and professional leadership and management skills toward significantly impacting people, organizations, and communities. During the program, all students participate in an action research project of importance at the YMCA and spend 18 months identifying a need, conducting research, and developing an intervention/program. Students also have an opportunity to participate in a unique "network" of peers that involves executive mentoring long after the academic program has concluded. Completion of the Executive Masters Program will automatically earn a graduate 20 hours of continuing education credit required to maintain certification at the Multi-team or Organizational Leader level.



What degree will I earn upon completion of this program?



You will earn a Master of Science degree (M.S.) in Human Services with a concentration in Organizational Management and Leadership, joining over 40,000 other alumni worldwide who have received degrees from Springfield College.



How does the Executive Master's Program work?



The Executive Master's Program follows an innovative schedule that recognizes the work, community, and family responsibilities of its students and makes it possible to complete the degree in as little as 18 months. The cohort comes together for four focused two-week residencies. The four residencies provide intense immersion in classes, discussions, and project planning, yet offer minimal disruptions to professional and personal schedules. Learning continues between the sessions through the use of Pride Online, the college's learning management platform that allows ongoing student/instructor and student/student interaction.



What are the dates of the next cohort residency sessions?



The program will begin March 12-23, 2012, at the Springfield College campus in Tampa, Florida. The second residency will be September 10-21, 2012, at the college's main campus in Springfield, Massachusetts. The locations of the third and fourth residencies are cohort-selected from any of the College's other nine campuses across the United States.



What are the admissions criteria for this program?



In addition to a signed completed application form, candidates must be at the Multi-Team/Branch Leader level or higher and have their Multi-Team/Branch Leader or Organizational Leader Certification. Candidates must also have at least 8 years of management-level experience along with a bachelor's degree reflecting a 2.5 GPA or better for their undergraduate studies. All college transcripts, a written personal statement, a current job description, a letter of reference, résumé, and letter of sponsorship from the CEO or Board chair are also reviewed as a part of the admissions process.



What is the deadline for admissions into cohort VII?



All required information must be received by Springfield College by December 1, 2011. Please note that incomplete applications cannot be reviewed.



How will participants be selected from the pool of applicants?



Applications are reviewed by an Admissions Committee made up of both Springfield College Admissions personnel and YMCA of the USA's Training & Leadership Development team members. Admission into the program is made according to the criteria listed on the application. Applicants will be notified of the decision of the Admissions Committee on December 30, 2011 by an official letter from Springfield College.



What is the cost of this program?



The cost of the program is \$19,000. This amount covers tuition, texts and materials, and breakfasts and lunches on each day of the on-site sessions. Transportation, lodging, and evening meals are paid by the participant. You will be eligible for up to \$8,000 through the YMCA of the USA Mott Scholarship Fund. Many of the current participants have also received support from their local YMCA associations.



If I receive Mott scholarship money, when will I receive it?



The John R. Mott Scholarship monies will be paid directly to Springfield College once the individual has been accepted and enrolled. It is paid in two equal payments.



Is there additional scholarship assistance available through Springfield College?



Springfield College offers the YMCA Matching Scholarship, a scholarship program in which the College will match tuition assistance from a local YMCA up to \$5000 per academic year per branch of an association. In addition, you may apply for federal student loans through Springfield College.



How is room and board handled with this program?



During each of the two-week sessions, you will be responsible for hotel/lodging expenses as well as your evening meals. Breakfasts and lunches for on-site sessions are included in the tuition. Springfield College and YUSA will make recommendations for hotels that are convenient and affordable.



What kind of reading and writing assignments will be included in the coursework for this program?



Since the residency sessions are relatively short, you will be responsible for completing pre-assignments before each residency begins. In this way, you are prepared to contribute fully to the class discussions. Between residencies, you will also be expected to complete reading, research, and written assignments, some of which may involve the use of technology; utilizing Springfield College's learning management system.



What is the Graduate Research project all about?



The Graduate Research Project provides you with an opportunity to focus on your passion and/or a topic of interest to you. It is also a chance for you to link your academic work with practical applications to your YMCA. The expectation for the four residency course is that you will complete an action research project that will in some way benefit an identified community and advance your career.



What kind of support will I receive during this program?



Springfield College provides an academic advisor who will help you to receive information about and assistance with academic requirements such as writing, technology, learning styles, and research. You are encouraged to identify a YMCA mentor to work with during this eighteen-month program, selected based on your goals and aspirations for the future. If you need assistance in identifying a mentor, former program graduates have expressed an interest in mentoring new students. Please let us know and we will work with you.

In addition, your cohort will consist of approximately 18 YMCA executives who will be an additional network of support and resources for you during your time in the program and in the future. The graduates of the previous cohorts can also be a source of support.

Finally, your family and local YMCA staff can also support you throughout the program as you need time and encouragement for studying and being away from work and home during the residencies.



How can I find out more about the Executive Master's Program and have my questions answered?



Interested individuals may contact Dr. Gary Lacy or Angelina Garcia at Springfield College at 413-748-3973 or agarcia3@spfldcol.edu. Or you may contact Soukie Chanhara at the YMCA of the USA at 800-872-9622, extension 8784 or soukie.chanhara@ymca.net.