

Multicultural Affairs



Background –

Those working in multicultural affairs work to create an inclusive space on campus that provides services and programs for the students at the college or university. Generally, each institution has its own vision and mission statement connected to the work of multicultural affairs. However, the duties of someone in the office might remain the same: collaborate with students, administrators and faculty to promote the growth of all diverse groups across campus. Budgeting, supervising and the development of programs may be included in job duties as you increase your job responsibilities.

What can I expect to make in this field? \$90, 760*

What classes at GVSU may help prepare me for work in this field? Discuss with your advisor which courses among those on this list, along with other courses not listed here, would best serve your career goals.

1. **PSY 360** – Social Psychology
2. **PSY 355** – Psychology & Culture
3. **PSY 325** – Educational Psychology
4. **COM 302** – Small Group Communication
5. **SW 150** – Human Needs in a Complex Society

What experiences outside of my courses could I explore to help prepare myself? Enroll in the Intercultural Training Certificate through Grand Valley

1. More information - <http://www.gvsu.edu/itc/mission-vision-and-goals-2.htm>
 - a. ITC 100 – Introduction
 - b. ITC 490 – Practicum, Intercultural Learning Experience
 - c. ITC 495 – Culminating Seminar in Intercultural Competence
2. Join ACPA as an undergraduate student to access network of professional, conferences, and publications
 - a. More information - <http://www.myacpa.org/full-time-undergraduate-student>
3. Seek opportunities to expose yourself to individuals from a variety of cultural backgrounds that differ from your own.

What skills are applicable to this field? Having strong communication skills (written and oral), interpersonal skills, the ability to build strong relationships with others, and organizational skills would all be important to have. In addition, the knowledge and passion to empower and support diverse students in education, mental health, service learning and self-growth.

Employer Possibilities - Colleges and universities hire workers in multiple departments to work in this capacity. Generally, at large institutions a Multicultural Center or Department will exist as well. Positions that may be available – “assistant director of the multicultural center, staff assistant, office for the student diversity and inclusion, academic advisor in multicultural center”

*bls.gov (2016) for “Post-Secondary Administrators”