

## **PACE MA/MS Degree Thematic Specializations (25 credits)**

The Thematic Specializations serve as a learning guide in assisting students with focusing and developing their PACE program of study. Thematic Specializations are not required to complete the program, but offer students the opportunity to pursue contemporary educational and professional training issues in greater depth. Students may choose one theme or combine courses from a variety of themes in developing their own unique focus. Each Thematic Specialization also corresponds with an optional Graduate Certificate (18 credits) which can be “counted” as part of the Master’s degree requirements.

Theme Specializations and Graduate Certificates\*:

### **Student Affairs in Higher Education**

This theme is designed for Student Affairs professionals or those interested in a career in student affairs in two- and four-year colleges and universities and related organizations serving diverse adults. Professionals help students begin their academic experience, meet their academic goals, gain leadership experiences, and define their future career path.

Required Courses:

- ELP 525 Student Services in Higher Education
- ELP 526 Facilitating Student Success in Postsecondary Education
- ELP 527 Legal Issues in Higher Education

Recommended Courses (select at least one for Graduate Certificate; 12 credits for Thematic Specialization)

- ELP 521 Adult Learning and Motivation
- ELP 528 Leadership in Postsecondary Education
- ELP 538 Contemporary Issues in Postsecondary Education
- ELP 541 The Community College
- ELP 542 Introduction to Service-Learning: Theory and Evidence-Based Best Practices
- ELP 543 Equity-Centered Civic Engagement: Curricular, Programmatic, and Leadership Strategies

\*Students completing the Graduate Certificate in Student Affairs must also enroll in ELP 506 or ELP 509 for 2 total credits.

### **Teaching Diverse Adult Learners**

Be an empowered educator and personnel trainer! Leading equity-centered educational and workplace change in schools, colleges, business, government agencies, and non-profit organizations requires continued professional development and life-long learning of knowledge

and skills.

**Required Courses:**

- ELP 520 Developmental Perspectives of Adult Learners
- ELP 521 Adult Learning and Motivation
- ELP 522 Teaching Diverse Adult Learners

**Recommended Courses (select at least one for Graduate Certificate; 12 credits for Thematic Specialization)**

- ELP 523 Assessing Adult Learning
- ELP 525 Student Services in Higher Education
- ELP 526 Facilitating Student Success in Postsecondary Education
- ELP 529 Principles of Training and Development
- ELP 531 Contemporary Issues in Training and Development
- ELP 532 Training Methods
- ELP 534 Leadership of the Training Function
- ELP 535 Organizational Transformation through Training & Development
- ELP 536 Postsecondary Curriculum
- ELP 538 Contemporary Issues in Postsecondary Education
- ELP 539 Developing Training Materials
- ELP 544 Instructional Design for Online Training
- ELP 545 Building Online Training

\*Students completing the Graduate Certificate must also enroll in ELP 506 or ELP 509 for 2 total credits.

**Training and Development**

This theme prepares professionals who teach, train, manage, and/or consult in the area of workforce (employee and volunteer) development. Students will apply current theory as they plan, create, deliver, and evaluate high quality training programs for their organizations.

**Required Courses**

- ELP 529 Principles of Training and Development
- ELP 530 Course Design and Evaluation OR ELP 584 Strategies for eLearning
- ELP 532 Training Methods
- ELP 539 Developing Training Materials

**Recommended Courses (select at least one for Graduate Certificate; 10-12 credits for Thematic Specialization)**

- ELP 508 Project Management for Instructional Design Workshop
- ELP 531 Contemporary Issues in Training and Development
- ELP 532 Training Methods

- ELP 534 Leadership of the Training Function
- ELP 535 Organizational Transformation through Training & Development
- ELP 539 Developing Training Materials
- ELP 544 Instructional Design for Online Training
- ELP 545 Building Online Training

\*Students completing the Graduate Certificate must also enroll in ELP 506 or ELP 509 for 2 total credits.

**\*\*Not currently being offered as of Summer 2025\*\***

### **Service-Learning and Community-Based Learning**

This theme will help you gain high impact and equity-centered strategies for how to teach, coordinate, lead, research, and assess service-learning for educational improvement and community enhancement. Students, faculty, administrators, and community partners from around the world connect with PSU each year to learn programmatic, teaching, learning, and engaged scholarship techniques of service-learning.

Required Courses:

- ELP 542 Introduction to Service-Learning: Theory and Evidence-Based Best Practices
- ELP 543 Equity-Centered Civic Engagement: Curricular, Programmatic, and Leadership Strategies
- ELP 522 Teaching Diverse Adult Learners
- Recommended Courses (select at least one for Graduate Certificate; 12 credits for Thematic Specialization)
- ELP 520 Developmental Perspectives on Adult Learning
- ELP 521 Adult Learning & Motivation
- ELP 525 Introduction to Student Services
- ELP 526 Facilitating Student Success
- ELP 527 Legal Issues in Higher Education
- ELP 529 Principles of Training & Development
- ELP 541 The Community College
- ELP 551 Social Foundations of Education
- ELP 568 Educational Organization & Administration

\*Students completing the Graduate Certificate must also enroll in ELP 509 for 2 total credits.