

Matthew D. Varga, Ph.D.

Department of Communication Sciences and Professional Counseling
College of Education
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Education

Doctor of Philosophy in Higher Education Administration	University of Tennessee, Knoxville	2012
Master of Science in College Student Personnel	University of Tennessee, Knoxville	2007
Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Religious Studies	Christopher Newport University	2004

Ph.D. Dissertation

Prescription Stimulant use by Graduate Students, under the advisement of Dr. Norma Mertz

Work Experience

2019 – Present	Department Chair	Department of Communication Sciences and Professional Counseling University of West Georgia	Carrollton, GA
2018 – Present	Director	Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration University of West Georgia	Carrollton, GA
2017 – Present	Associate Professor	University of West Georgia	Carrollton, GA
2017 – Present	Co-Program Coordinator	Ed.S. in Professional Counseling University of West Georgia	Carrollton, GA
2016 – 2019	Director	Ed.D in Professional Counseling and Supervision University of West Georgia	Carrollton, GA
2014 – Fall 2018	Program Coordinator	M.Ed in College Student Affairs, Professional Counseling University of West Georgia	Carrollton, GA
2014 – Present	Graduate Faculty	Ed.D. in Student Affairs Leadership University of Georgia	Athens, GA
2013 – 2017	Assistant Professor	University of West Georgia	Carrollton, GA
2012 – 2013	Adjunct Faculty	M.Ed in Professional Counseling University of West Georgia	Carrollton, GA
2007 – 2012	Hall Director	Housing and Residence Life University of Tennessee, Knoxville	Knoxville, TN
2005 – 2007	Assistant Hall Director	Housing and Residence Life University of Tennessee, Knoxville	Knoxville, TN

2005 – 2007	Intern	Student Success Center University of Tennessee, Knoxville	Knoxville, TN
2005	Housing Coordinator	Housing and Residence Life Shenandoah University	Winchester, VA

TEACHING

Courses Taught

Summer 2019, Summer 2020	CEPD 9217	Ethics and Values
Spring 2019, Spring 2020	CEPD 9213	Critical Issues and Trends in HE
Spring 2019	CEPD 6176	Campus Crisis, Legal Issues and Ethics
Fall 2018	CEPD 9210	History of Higher Education
Fall 2018	CEPD 9212	Advanced Seminar in Leadership
Fall 2017	CEPD 7185	Special Topics: Program Evaluability
Summer 2017	CEPD 9184	Professional Issues
Spring 2017, 2018	CEPD 9183	Directed Doctoral Research
Fall 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016	CEPD 6172	Theories of College Student Development
Spring 2015	CEPD 6179	Capstone: Seminar in Student Affairs
Fall 2012, 2013, 2014, Spring 2013, 2014, 2016		
Summer 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017	CEPD 6175	Practicum
Summer 2014, 2015	CEPD 6178	The American College Student
Spring 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016	CEPD 6176	Legal Issues in Higher Education
Summer 2013, Spring 2014	CEPD 7152	Research and Program Evaluation
Fall 2013, 2014, 2015, Spring 2014	EDSI 9998	Doctoral Research
Summer 2014, 2015, 2016	CEPD 7181	Seminar in University Education

Courses Designed

Summer 2019	CEPD 9217	Ethics and Values
Spring 2019	CEPD 9213	Critical Issues and Trends in HE
Fall 2018	CEPD 9210	History of Higher Education
Fall 2018	CEPD 9212	Advanced Seminar in Leadership
Fall 2012	CEPD 6172	Theories of College Student Development
Spring 2013	CEPD 6176	Legal Issues in Higher Education
Summer 2014	CEPD 6178	The American College Student
Spring 2015	CEPD 6179	Capstone: Seminar in Student Affairs
Summer 2014	CEPD 7181	Seminar in University Education

Programs Designed

Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration – Approved (January 2018)

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Membership and offices in professional organizations

President	SACSA, Southern Association for College Student Affairs	2015 – 2018
Vice President	SACSA, Marketing and Outreach	2013 – 2015
Webmaster	SACSA	2007 – 2015

Chair	SACSA, Taskforce for Communication and Technology	2015
Member	SACSA	2007 – Present
Member	SACSA, Taskforce for the College Student Affairs Journal	2013
Member	SACSA, RFP Reviewer for College Student Affairs Journal	2013
Member	SACSA, Dissertation of the Year	2014
Member	SACSA, Research committee	2012 – 2014
Member	National Association for Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA)	2005 – Present
Chair	NASPA, Dissertation of the Year Committee	2018 – Present
Co-Coordinator	NASPA, Emerging Faculty Leadership Academy	2018 – 2019
Coordinator	NASPA, Emerging Faculty Leadership Academy	2019 – Present
Member	NASPA, Faculty Council	2015 – 2017
Blog Master	NASPA, Faculty Council	2014 – 2015
Member	NASPA, Dissertation of the Year Committee	2015 – 2018
Reviewer	NASPA, Alcohol and Drug Program Reviewer	2015
Reviewer	NASPA, Annual Conference Programs	2012 – Present
Member	NASPA Region III, Grant Reviewer	2013
Member	NASPA Region III Executive Board, Alcohol and Drug Rep	2014 – 2016
Member	NASPA Region III Executive Board, SACSA Liaison	2016 – 2017
Member	Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)	2015 – present
Member	Southeastern Association of Housing Officers (SEAHO)	2007 – Present
Chair	SEAHO, Technology Chair for 2012 Annual Conference	2012
Member	American College Personnel Association (ACPA)	2005 – Present
Reviewer	ACPA, Annual Conference Programs	2012 – Present
Member	American College Health Association	2012 – 2014

Grants

- 2016 Funded. *Seminar in University and Community College Education*. University of West Georgia College of Education Dean’s Office Innovation Award (\$4,225). **Matt Varga** & Danielle Molina
- 2015 Funded. *Seminar in University and Community College Education*. University of West Georgia President’s Development Award Grant (\$5,000). **Matt Varga**
- 2015 Funded. *Seminar in University and Community College Education*. NASPA Region III Grant (\$750). Danielle Molina, April Heiselt, & **Matt Varga**
- 2014 Funded. *Graduate students prescription stimulant use, a qualitative study*. Southern Association for College Student Affairs (\$200). **Matt Varga**, & Danielle Molina.
- 2014 Funded. *Research on Supporting Grieving Students at the University of West Georgia*. University of West Georgia President’s Development Award Grant (\$3,400). Mary Alice Varga, **Matt Varga**, & Jessica N. Lester.
- 2014 Funded. *Seminar in University and Community College Education*. University of West Georgia College of Education Innovative Teaching Grant (\$3,000). **Matt Varga**, Danielle Molina & April Heiselt.

Publications

Edited Works

Kniess, D., Varga, M., & Lichterman, H. (2019). *Journal of College and University Student Housing*.
https://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/acuho/journal_vol45no3/index.php#/0

Refereed

Varga, M. A. & **Varga, M.** (2019). Grieving College Students Use of Social Media. *Illness, Crisis & Loss*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1054137319827426>

Townsley, M., & **Varga, M.** (2018). Getting High School Students Ready for College: A Quantitative Study of Standards-Based Grading Practices. *Journal of Research in Education*, 28(1), 92-112.

Varga, M. & Varga, M. A. (2015). Prescription Stimulant Use among Graduate Students. *College Student Affairs Journal*. 33:1, 124 – 145.

Varga, M. & Parrish, M. (2015). Prescription Opiate Use among Graduate Students. *Journal of Evidenced-Informed Social Work*, DOI: 10.1080/15433714.2014.889586.

Varga, M. (2012). Adderall Abuse on College Campuses: A Comprehensive Literature Review. *Journal of Evidenced-Based Social Work*. 9:3, 293-313 DOI:10.1080/15433714.2010.525402

Book Chapters

Bronkema, R. & **Varga, M.** (2016). Intentional mentoring of TA's. In C. Van Zile-Tamsen & C. Morreale (Eds.), *Handbook for College Teaching Assistants*. New York: Nova Science Publishers.

Varga, M. & Lingrell, S. (2016). The College Arm's Race. In J. DeVitis & P. Sasso (Eds.), *Colleges at the Crossroads: Taking Sides on Contested Issues*. Peter Lang Press.

Varga, M. & Hopper, J. (2015). Residential experience. In J. DeVitis & P. Sasso (Eds.), *Today's College Student: A Reader*. Peter Lang Press.

Varga, M. (2014). Substance use and resiliency among adolescents. In M. Garrett (Eds.), *Youth and Adversity: Psychology and Influences of Child and Adolescent Resilience and Coping*. Hauppauge, NY: Nova Science Publisher.

Varga, M. (2014). Adderall Abuse on College Campuses: A Comprehensive Literature Review. In Inciardi, J & McElrath, K (Eds.), *The American Drug Scene*. New York: Oxford Press.

Non-Refereed Publications

Varga, M. (2012). Stages of the Entry Level Professional. *Seaho Report*. Retrieved from <http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/seaho/2012winter/>

Varga, M. (2010, Fall). The get it done attitude: How simply getting it done is never enough. *Seaho Report*. Retrieved from http://www.seaho.org/resource/resmgr/docs/seaho_report_fall_2010.pdf

Editorial Positions

Editorial Board	College Student Affairs Journal	2015 – Present
Reviewer	College Student Affairs Journal	2014 – Present
Reviewer	Journal of Education Research	2012

National Presentations

Walker, K., Cawthon, T., & Varga, M. (2020, March). Considering a Terminal Degree? Decision Points, Process, and Resources. Presentation at the NASPA, Austin, Texas.

Varga, M., Molina, D., & Jackson, T. (2020, March) Administrator to Faculty: Why graduate programs need scholarly practitioners and how to navigate the transition. Presentation at the NASPA, Austin, Texas.

Jones, S. & Varga, M. (2020, March). What works: Helping foster kids in college. Presentation at the NASPA, Austin, Texas.

Tolman, S., Sasso, P., & **Varga, M.** (2019, March). “Are Colleges Spending Too Much on Amenities?” Presentation at the NASPA, Los Angeles, LA.

Varga, M. & Saunders, J. (2017, March). “Big Ideas: Reinventing the way Graduate Students apply student development theory. Presentation at the NASPA, San Antonio, TX.

Cawthon, T., Havice, P., Walker, K., & **Varga, M.** (2017, March). “Teaching strategies that foster student success: Assisting practitioners with classroom success.” Presentation at the NASPA, San Antonio, TX.

Molina, D., **Varga, M.**, & Mullen, J. (2017, March). “Round pegs in square holes: Helping new student affairs professional navigate personal identities in challenging institutional contexts. Presentation at the NASPA, San Antonio, TX

Molina, D., Heiselt, A., & **Varga, M.** (2015, March). “From Bob Jones to Berea: Hitting the Road to Develop Multicultural Competency through an Intensive Service-Learning Project”. Presentation at the NASPA, New Orleans, LA.

Varga, M., Richardson, E., Patrick, V., Chan, V., Chinnery, J., Bruce, G., & Holmes, M. (2015, March). “Finding Our Way: Exploring Higher Education in the Southeast”. Presentation at the NASPA, New Orleans, LA.

Varga, M. (2015, January). “Prescription drugs and graduate students: The unknown world.” Presentation at the NASPA Alcohol and Other Drug Conference, National Harbor, MD.

Greer, J & **Varga, M.** (2014, March). “Transforming Student Engagement through Technology”. Presentation at the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators Conference, Baltimore, Maryland.

Varga, M., Jones, S., & Steele, H. (2013, October). “Transition to Full Admission”. Presentation at the National Conference on Students in Transition, Atlanta, Georgia.

Varga, M. (2013, March). Adderall abuse among graduate students. Paper Presentation at the NASPA Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Invited Panelist for Havice, P., & Jacob, S. (2015, March). “Promoting Student Success and Persistence by Developing Active Student Learning Environments”. Presentation at the NASPA, New Orleans, LA.

Varga, M. (2014, January). Mentoring as a Training Tool. Presented to National Association for Campus Activities via Webinar.

Regional Presentations

Varga, M. & Jones, S. (2018, November). "SA Fit: Becoming a Healthier Me to Serve and Cultivate Students." Presentation at SACSA, Myrtle Beach, SC. Presented in Absentia.

Varga, M. & Nelson, C. (2018, November). "Residence Life Assessment: Utilizing Assessment to Heighten Our Trainings." Presentation at SACSA, Myrtle Beach, SC. Presented in Absentia.

Varga, M. (2018, November). "Grad Prep Health: Cultivating a Healthier Lifestyle for Graduate Students." Presentation at SACSA, Myrtle Beach, SC. Presentation accepted, work completed, unable to present.

Kniess, D., Cawthon., T., & **Varga, M.** (2018, November). "Considering Becoming a Faculty Member: Learning From Our Journey" Presentation at SACSA, Myrtle Beach, SC. Presented in Absentia.

Kniess, D., **Varga, M.**, & Jones, S. (2018 November). "Teaching Strategies that Cultivate Student Learning: Advice and Strategies for Practitioners in the Classroom" Presentation at SACSA, Myrtle Beach, SC. Presented in Absentia.

Cawthon, T, Havice, P., Walker, K., & **Varga, M.** (2016, November). "Teaching strategies that foster student success: Assisting practitioners with classroom success." Presentation at SACSA, Jacksonville, FL.

Varga, M., McDonald, W. & Bronkema, R., (2015, November). "Making it matter: Supervising the new professional." Presentation at SACSA, Greenville, SC.

McDonald, W. & **Varga, M.** (2015, November). "Knowing where to stand when integrity matters." Presentation at SACSA, Greenville, SC.

Varga, M., Richardson, E., Patrick, V., Chan, V., Chinnery., J., & Holmes, M. (2014, November). "Take Off the Blinders: Viewing your institution from a different lens". Presentation at the Southern Association for College Student Administrations, Louisville, KY.

Varga, M., & Ramirez, J. (2014, November). "Including International Students in Our Student Affairs Mind". Presentation at the Southern Association for College Student Administrations, Louisville, KY.

Varga, M., & Cawthon, T. (2014, November). "Achieving the Triple Crown in Mentoring: How to use Mentoring as a Training Tool". Presentation at the Southern Association for College Student Administrations, Louisville, KY.

Varga, M., Jones, S., & Steele, H. (2013, November). "Igniting the flame for student engagement in at risk students". Presentation at the Southern Association for College Student Administrations, Norfolk, Virginia.

Varga, M., Ucci, M., Taniguchi, S., & Shoemaker, G. (2013, November). "Setting Sail for an inclusive campus climate: Exploring the differences between LGBT and Heterosexual students' campus climate perception". Presentation at the Southern Association for College Student Administrations, Norfolk, Virginia.

Axson-Lawrence, D., & **Varga, M.** (2013, November). "If you really know me: Understanding & Engaging African American Students at Predominantly White Institutions". Presentation at the Southern Association for College Student Administrations, Norfolk, Virginia.

Varga, M. (2010, November). Can I Get an Addy: Adderall Abuse on College Campuses. Presented at the Southern Association of College Student Administrators Annual Conference in Pensacola, Florida.

Lambert, J & **Varga, M.** (2007, November). How the Skills Competencies and Knowledge Areas necessary for Success as an Entry-level Student Affairs Professional are Learned. Presented at the Southern Association of College Student Administrators Annual Conference in Dallas, Texas.

State and Local

Varga, M. (2018, November). "Academic Advisors: Crash course in student development theory" Presentation to UWG Advisors.

Varga, M. (2015, November). Utilizing Educational Benchmarking Data for Improving the Department of Housing and Residence Life. Presented to Department of Housing and Residence at the University of West Georgia.

Varga, M. (2014, September). Using Theory to Understand First Year Students. Presented to UWG 1101 Faculty.

Varga, M. (2014, January). Prescription Drug Abuse. Presented to Sigma Kappa Sorority at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton, Georgia.

Varga, M. (2013, February). Leadership Practices Inventory. Presented to Greek Leadership at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton, Georgia.

Varga, M. (2013, January). The Adderall Dilemma. Presented at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton, GA

Varga, M. (2012 & 2009, August). Overcoming Burn Out as a Resident Assistant. Presented at Resident Assistant Training for the University of Tennessee.

Varga, M. (2012, 2011 & 2010, July). Drug Searches and Protocol Situations for Graduate Assistants. Presented at Graduate Assistant Training for the University of Tennessee.

Varga, M. (2011, November). Utilizing Educational Benchmarking Data for Improving the Department of University Housing. Presented to Central Staff Administrators for the University of Tennessee.

Varga, M. (2011, July). Understanding and Using Educational Benchmarking Institute Data. Presented at Hall Director Training for the University of Tennessee.

Varga, M. (2010, November). Can I Get an Addy: Adderall Abuse on College Campuses. Presented at the University of Tennessee.

Varga, M. (2010 & 2011, August). Using SharePoint: How to Maximize Your Experience with SharePoint 2010. Presented at the University of Tennessee.

Varga, M. (2009, August). Overcoming Burn Out as a Resident Assistant. Presented at Resident Assistant Training for the University of Tennessee.

Varga, M. (2008, October). How to Read Body Language. Presented at Resident Assistant In-service training at the University of Tennessee.

Varga, M. (2008, August). Importance of Time Management as a Resident Assistant. Presented at Resident Assistant Training at the University of Tennessee.

Varga, M. (2008, July). Advisor versus Supervisor for Graduate Assistants. Presented at Graduate Assistant Training at the University of Tennessee.

SERVICE

University Service

Chair	Graduate Programs Committee	2016 – 2017
Member	Faculty Senate	2015 – 2018
Member	Graduate Programs Committee	2015 – 2018
Member	Academic Calendar Committee	2015
Member	LEAP Initiative, Provost's Office	2014 – 2015
Reviewer	University of West Georgia Student Handbook	2015
Member	Student Affairs Faculty Senate Committee	2013 – 2015
Member	Ignite Steering Committee	2013
Member	First Year Experience Search Committee	2012
Member	Assistant Vice President and Dean of Students Search Committee	2015
Chair	Assessment and Research Consultant for Housing and Residence Life	2015 – 2016
Chair	Program Evaluator for Ignite	2012 – 2014

College of Education Service

Member	PSC Reaccreditation Committee	2018 – Present
Panelist	OSRP Brown Bag Lunch	2016
Panelist	Dissertation Brown Bag Lunch	2014
Member	Faculty Governance Committee	2013 – 2015
Member	FGC, Subcommittee on Committee's	2014
Member	FGC, Technology Committee	2013 – 2014
Member	EDSI Orientation	2014 – 2015
Member	EDSI Application Review	2014 – 2015
Member	EDSI Advisory Board	2014 – 2015
Reviewer	EDSI 9902 Dissertation Mentoring Review of Literature Reviews	2013
Panelist	Dissertation Boot Camp	2013

Department of Communication Sciences and Professional Counseling

Chair	Search Committee for 2 Tenure Track Assistant Professor	2019
Chair	Search Committee for Limited Term Counselor	2019
Chair	Search Committee for Tenure Track Assistant Professor	2018
Chair	Search Committee for 2 Tenure Track Assistant Professor	2016
Chair	Student Suspension and Reinstatement Workgroup	2015 – 2016
Chair	Search Committee for Tenure Track Assistant Professor	2013

Chair	Search Committee for Non-Tenure Track Assistant Professor	2013
Member	Program Assessment Leader	2013 – 2014

Advisement of Student Organizations

Advisor	Alpha Phi Alpha	2014 – 2015
Advisor	Sigma Phi Epsilon, Emory University	2015 – 2018

Completed Doctoral Advisees

Elemen, Jennifer (2015). Opportunities for Student Participation in High School Organizational Leadership Dialogue and Decision-Making and their Effects on Academic Achievement and Civic Participation. Advisor: Dr. Matt Varga

Townsley, Matt (2017). A quantitative study of standards-based grading practices. Advisor: Dr. Matt Varga

Mahone, LaRia (2018). Assessing Preparedness Using Different Levels of Analysis: A Program Evaluation. Advisor: Dr. Matt Varga

Walker, LaShonda (2018). 21st Century Community Learning Centers After School Program: A Program Evaluation. Advisor: Dr. Matt Varga

Completed Doctoral Committee Member

Mitchell, Jennifer (2019). Strong enough to bear the children, then get back to business: The experiences of black mothers in higher education doctoral programs at predominately white institutions. Advisor: Dr. Diane Cooper.

Scott, Kimberly (2019). Bridge programs happening within schools. Advisor: Dr. Julia Chibbaro

Snowden, Thelbert (2019). You want to be the first, but you don't want to be the last": Career pathways and experiences of African American/Black Presidents at historically white liberal arts colleges. Advisor: Dr. Georgianna Martin

Wheelus, Angela (2019). Serving our veterans in higher education: An evaluation of collegiate veteran affairs program. Advisor: Dr. Julia Whisenhunt

Jenkins, David (2018). Understanding the experiences of dual enrolled students and the influence on the college admissions decision. Advisor: Dr. Diane Cooper.

Yarbrough, Ambra (2017) Social Innovation in Higher Education: A Case Study. Advisor: Dr. Dianne Cooper

Mitchell, Janekia (2017). Program Evaluation of Veterans Upward Bound: An Academic Support Program for Student Veterans. Advisor: Dr. Susan Boes

Cooper, Felicia (2017) School-Based Peer Mentoring in High School: A Program Evaluation. Advisor: Dr. Susan Boes

Pinkard, Chaja (2016) Perceived Autonomy, Competence, and Relatedness in a Performance Learning Center High School Environment Advisor: Dr. Mark Parrish

Stewart, Michael (2016). From the Big House to the School House: Admittance of Convicted Felons into Colleges and Universities. Advisor: Dr. Dianne Cooper

Temple, Michell (2015). From Process to Outcomes: An Evaluation of a University's Student Affairs' Cultural Program. Advisor: Dr. Mark Parrish.

Birkenfield, Karen (2014). Preservice Perceptions: A K – 12 University Partnership. Advisor: Dr. Julie Chibbaro.

Jones, Della (2014). Evaluation of a Cross-Age Peer Tutoring Mathematics Program. Advisor: Dr. Mark Parrish.

Honors and Awards

Regent's Teaching Excellence	University of West Georgia	2016
Outstanding Graduate Teacher	University of West Georgia	2016
Cross-Divisional Engage West	University of West Georgia	2015
Howard Davis Sr. Award	Southern Association for College Student Affairs	2014