**Fertile Land: College Degree Program**

**The following information was taken from multiple secondary sources and try to give a holistic picture of the given fertile land.**

**Degree Programs**

An academic degree is a qualification awarded to students upon successful completion of a course of study in higher education, usually at a college or university. These institutions commonly offer degrees at various levels, usually including bachelor's, master's and doctorates, often alongside other academic certificates and professional degrees. The most common undergraduate degree is the bachelor's degree, although in some countries there are lower level higher education qualifications that are also titled degrees.

**Program Administrators**

College administrators make recommendations about admissions; oversee the disbursement of university materials; plan curricula; oversee all budgets from payroll to maintenance of the physical plant; supervise personnel; keep track of university records (everything from student transcripts to library archives); and help students navigate the university bureaucracy for financial aid, housing, job placement, alumni development, and all the other services a college provides.

Many administrators eventually specialize in one field, such as financial aid, in which responsibilities include the preparation and maintenance of financial records and student counseling about financial aid. Specialists in information management are responsible for coordinating and producing the majority of university publications.

Administrators who specialize in student affairs (sometimes referred to as student services) deal with residence life, student activities, career services, athletic administration, service learning, health education, and counseling. Competition begins with the onset of a specialization. At upper levels, a graduate degree in education, business, student personnel administration, counseling, or information management is required. The hours increase, and administrators spend even more time away from the office at university events or other schools.

**Requirements to be an academic program director**

There are stringent academic requirements for positions as college administrators. While entry-level positions in financial aid offices, registrar’s offices, and admissions and academic offices often require only a bachelor’s degree, a PhD or an EdD is standard among those who hold influential positions in college administrations. Candidates for administrative positions should have good managerial instincts, strong interpersonal skills, and the ability to work effectively with faculty and students. People involved in the financial aspects of administration, including administering financial aid, should have significant statistics backgrounds and mathematical skills. Computer proficiency is necessary at all levels. Universities are just that: miniature universes. Most of their administrations involve all functions of a big corporation, even a small city, within the larger community in which they are located. A person can work for the same university for 20 years and have 20 different jobs during that time!

### **Present and Future** In 1865, the average-sized university in the United States employed approximately four administrators for all its students. By 1965, the average administrative staff at a United States university averaged more than 225 people. Today the number is closer to 500 employees. The number of administrators at a university depends on funding, except for admissions offices, which exist nearly independently of funding decisions. As state education budgets wax and wane, the number of jobs available at publicly funded schools (roughly 25 percent of all institutions of higher education in the United States) varies.

**5 years out**

University administrators break into two tracks at the five-year point. People who are happy with their positions frequently begin taking classes at the university that employs them. Administrators who enjoy the profession but dislike their positions aggressively pursue other university administration positions. The majority of position switching among university administrators happens in years three to seven. Geographical mobility is frequently a factor in obtaining the best opportunities.

**10 years out**

Ten-year veterans have supervisory authority and administrative responsibility. Many administrators have complete responsibility for the administration of substantial budgets and become more personnel managers than student advocates, a trend that may explain the sag that occurs between years 7 and 11 in terms of satisfaction. Pay increases; the hours remain stable.

### **How To Become a Program Administrator** If you're interested in becoming a program administrator, one of the first things to consider is how much education you need. We've determined that 57.9% of program administrators have a bachelor's degree. In terms of higher education levels, we found that 15.8% of program administrators have master's degrees. Even though most program administrators have a college degree, it's possible to become one with only a high school degree or GED.

Choosing the right major is always an important step when researching how to become a program administrator. When we researched the most common majors for a program administrator, we found that they most commonly earn bachelor's degree degrees or master's degree degrees. Other degrees that we often see on program administrator resumes include associate degree degrees or high school diploma degrees.

You may find that experience in other jobs will help you become a program administrator. In fact, many program administrator jobs require experience in a role such as administrative assistant. Meanwhile, many program administrators also have previous career experience in roles such as internship or program coordinator.

**Challenges for Program Administrators  
1.** Construction and Repair

Most colleges and universities are coping with increasing numbers of students, evolving programs and aging facilities. That means many schools will be constructing new buildings and sprucing up old facilities in the near future to help attract the best and brightest students.

2. Funding

To accommodate more students, as well as add the variety of programs required to meet diverse desires, colleges and universities need funding to pay for improvements.

**3.** Housing

Colleges and universities have to offer housing that consists of more than just a bed and a desk. Students want the comforts of home in their residence halls, and schools are building new residence halls and renovating old housing to provide more amenities.

**4.** Improving the Learning Environment

Students are more likely to perform well in conditions that are conducive to learning, so colleges and universities that provide these kinds of environments will be more successful in attracting students.

Links:  
<https://www.princetonreview.com/careers/40/college-administrator>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_degree>

<https://www.zippia.com/program-administrator-jobs/>

<https://www.asumag.com/planning-design/facility-planning/article/20851194/top-ten-issues-impacting-college-administrators>