EDUCATION, DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN SPORT LEADERSHIP

Program goal
The sport leadership concentration is designed for students to research, comprehend and interpret contemporary literature as it relates to leadership in the sport industry and to extend knowledge and understanding of leadership in that industry. Students will have the opportunity to integrate theory and practice in the specific areas of economics, finance, marketing, management, communications and sociology of sport. Upon completion of the doctoral course work and dissertation, students will be prepared for higher education positions in sport management/administration and/or sport leadership programs across the U.S.

Student learning outcomes
1. Apply skills in external setting (externship component): Students will demonstrate their knowledge and skills in a professional placement in a school, agency or corporate setting. The faculty adviser and the externship site supervisor work together to evaluate the student.
2. Develop research knowledge and skills (research component): Students will acquire the prerequisite skills essential to designing, conducting and interpreting qualitative and quantitative design research. Students will demonstrate this knowledge and skill set on a qualifying examination, which is independently evaluated by at least two faculty members. To address inter-rater reliability, if the two faculty members disagree on the student’s level of knowledge, a third faculty member is called in to evaluate the student’s responses on the qualifying examination. This exam is also graded “blindly,” meaning that the evaluator does not know which student he or she is evaluating.
3. Develop in-depth knowledge in one area of study (concentration component): Students will demonstrate in-depth knowledge and skills in an area of study that is congruent with their current or projected career goals. Content will differ according to chosen concentration.
4. Complete an original research study (dissertation component): Students will design, implement, analyze and defend an original research study. Once a student passes the prospectus hearing, he or she will collect and analyze the data and finish writing the last two chapters of their dissertation. Students have a committee of a minimum of four faculty members. Typically, this consists of a chair, a methodologist, a subject-matter expert and an expert outside of the School of Education. Each committee member independently reviews the student’s work. Once the dissertation defense has occurred, the committee discusses their thoughts on the quality of the student work. Once members approve, the student is granted a Ph.D.

Graduation requirements
As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to continue master’s or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student’s graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student’s faculty regarding the student’s academic achievements and the student’s readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

Admission requirements
Degree: Ph.D.
Semester(s) of entry: Summer or fall
Deadline dates: Dec 15
Test requirements: GRE

Other information
For additional information about the Ph.D. in Education program, please see the doctoral student handbook (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/grad/candidacy).

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reg/grad/candidacy)

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on graduation requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reg/grad/graduation-info)

Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on graduation requirements. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-reg/grad/graduation-info)

For additional information about the Ph.D. in Education program, please see the doctoral student handbook (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/files/2016/01/Ph.DHandbook2017.pdf).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).
In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements), the following represent the minimum requirements for admission:

1. Master’s degree in an appropriate discipline
2. Three letters of recommendation addressing the student’s potential for graduate study in education
3. Student’s written statement concerning career interests
4. Transcripts of all previous college work
5. A personal interview and writing sample (may be requested
6. Professional vitae/resume
7. Satisfactory scores on the GRE

Please see doctoral admissions information on the School of Education website for details.

Degree requirements
In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 48-54 credit hours depending on concentration.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in three courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Externship requirement: Students must complete an approved externship.
4. Examination requirements: Students must pass both a qualifying examination early in the program and a comprehensive examination near the end of the program.
5. Dissertation requirements: Students must complete and defend a research dissertation.

Curriculum requirements

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<th>Foundation</th>
<th>EDUS 702</th>
<th>Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship I</th>
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<td>Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship II</td>
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<td>Educational Statistics</td>
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<td>EDUS 710</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Design</td>
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<td>Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
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<td>Dissertation</td>
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<td>Dissertation Research (minimum of six credit hours)</td>
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<td>EDUS 890</td>
<td>Dissertation Seminar</td>
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<td>Concentration courses</td>
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<td>Applied Multivariate Methods</td>
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<td>SPTL 701</td>
<td>Seminar in Sport Research (repeated for three credits)</td>
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<td>SPTL elective</td>
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<td>Universitywide electives to be selected in consultation with adviser</td>
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Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48

Graduate program coordinator
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Program website: soe.vcu.edu (http://www.soe.vcu.edu)