

# EDUCATION, DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

## Program goal

The educational psychology concentration is designed to train research-oriented doctoral students who want to promote the success of students in educational environments. Doctoral students will integrate theory and research in the areas of developmental psychology, cognition, social psychology, motivation, assessment and diversity to better study learning in schools or school-like settings. This doctoral program is ideal for students who want to specialize in scholarship related to cognitive, motivational, social and environmental factors that shape teaching and students' learning.

## Student learning outcomes

### Education core outcomes

- 1. Knowledge of foundations of educational research and design:** Students will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of theoretical and social issues of scholarly inquiry, policy and ethics of educational research and will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge and skills essential to designing, conducting and interpreting qualitative and quantitative design research.
- 2. Application of leadership, research and/or professional skills:** Graduates will engage in and practice leadership, research and/or professional skills in a professional placement in a school, agency or corporate setting (e.g., school, agency, corporation).
- 3. Research design and implementation:** Graduates will design and conduct original educational research, including developing novel educational research questions, demonstrating proficiency in selecting the most appropriate study designs, demonstrating proficiency in data collection, analysis and synthesis within the identified theoretical/ conceptual framework of study.
- 4. Oral and written communication skills:** Students will demonstrate effective oral communication skills, framing questions appropriately and implementing active listening skills, developing effective presentations with respect to content, organization and appropriate use of language. Students will demonstrate proficiency in academic writing, including writing for publications and presentations.

### Education psychology concentration-specific outcome

1. Students will demonstrate general and applied knowledge of different theoretical/conceptual approaches that are used in educational psychology. Students will demonstrate the ability to critically analyze, synthesize, and critique (e.g., strengths and weaknesses in methodology, gaps in literature) educational psychology literature.

## VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs

The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all

graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the VCU Graduate Bulletin as well as the Graduate School website (<http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/>) and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program websites. However, in all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

**Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.** (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/>)

## Degree candidacy requirements

A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing 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.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

**Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.** (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/candidacy/>)

## Graduation requirements

As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to graduate. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate has been finalized.

Graduate students and program directors should refer to the following graduation requirements as published in the Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

**Visit the academic regulations section for additional information on graduation requirements.** (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/academic-regs/grad/graduation-info/>)

Apply online today. (<https://www.vcu.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/>)

## Admission requirements

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

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (<https://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements/>), the following represent the minimum requirements for admission:

1. Baccalaureate or master's degree in psychology, educational psychology or related discipline

2. Three letters of recommendation addressing the student's potential for graduate study in education
3. Statement of intent
4. Transcripts of all previous college work
5. Academic writing sample
6. Professional vitae/resume
7. A personal interview (may be requested)

If an applicant chooses to submit a GRE score, it will be considered holistically with other application materials. If an applicant chooses not to submit a GRE score, that decision will have no impact on the application review.

Please visit the School of Education website (<https://soe.vcu.edu/academics/doctoral-programs/phd-educational-psychology/>) for further information.

## Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (<https://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 60 credit hours.
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

Students admitted with only a baccalaureate degree are required to take an additional 15 credits of 600 level didactic courses in EDUS, PSYC, SEDP, TEDU or another subject, selected in consultation with an adviser.

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Foundation</b>		
EDUS 702	Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship I	3
EDUS 703	Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship II	3
<b>Research</b>		
EDUS 608	Educational Statistics	3
EDUS 710	Quantitative Research Design	3
EDUS 711	Qualitative Methods and Analysis	3
• Collaborative research		3
EDUC 697 or EDUC 797	Collaborative Scholarship Directed Research	
• Research elective		3
<b>Externship</b>		
EDUC 700	Externship	3
<b>Dissertation</b>		

EDUC 899	Dissertation Research (minimum of six credit hours)	6
EDUS 890	Dissertation Seminar	3
<b>Concentration courses</b>		
EDUS 620	Human Development in Education	3
EDUS 621	Motivation in Education	3
EDUS 662	Educational Measurement and Evaluation	3
EDUS 690	Academic Writing and Publishing	3
EDUS 720	Seminar in Cognition and School Learning	3
EDUS 721	Advanced Seminar in Social Processes in Education	3
Methods electives selected in consultation with adviser		6
Elective selected in consultation with adviser		3
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>60</b>

**The minimum number of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 60.**

Students who complete the requirements for this concentration will receive a Doctor of Philosophy in Education.

### Contact

Office of Strategic Recruitment  
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### Additional contact

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**Program website:** [soe.vcu.edu/academics/educational-psychology/phd/](https://soe.vcu.edu/academics/educational-psychology/phd/)  
(<https://soe.vcu.edu/academics/educational-psychology/phd/>)