2017-18
Graduate Bulletin

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GRADUATE BULLETIN

The Virginia Commonwealth University bulletins are published yearly for each of the student populations served by the institution. The Graduate Bulletin contains information about university policies, course descriptions and academic requirements for the programs offered to graduate students.

Visit our FAQ page for additional information.
ABOUT VCU

Located in the heart of Richmond, the capital of Virginia since 1779, Virginia Commonwealth University serves an integral role in the economic health of the city and the state, educating the current and future workforce, reaching out to the community, advancing research and enhancing patient care.

VCU was founded in 1838 as the medical department of Hampden-Sydney College, becoming the Medical College of Virginia in 1854. In 1968, the General Assembly merged MCV with the Richmond Professional Institute, founded in 1917, to create Virginia Commonwealth University.

Today, VCU offers comprehensive undergraduate, master's, doctoral and professional programs and encompasses one of the largest academic health centers in the nation. With $271.2 million in externally funded research awards for the 2016 fiscal year, VCU is one of only 28 public universities in the country with an academic medical center to be designated as a research university with very high research activity as well as a Community Engaged Institution, both by the Carnegie Foundation. Its centers and institutes of excellence support the university's research mission and involve faculty from multiple disciplines in the arts, public policy, biotechnology and health care discoveries.

VCU enrolls more than 31,000 students in 220 degree and certificate programs in the arts, sciences and humanities. Fifty-two of the programs are unique in Virginia, many of them crossing the disciplines of VCU's 13 schools and one college. VCU has a full-time instructional faculty of more than 2,200 who are nationally and internationally recognized for excellence in the arts, business, education, engineering, the humanities, the life sciences, social work and all the health care professions. With more than 22,000 employees, VCU and the VCU Health System also have a significant impact on Central Virginia's economy.

Building on the foundation of VCU's nationally ranked academic programs and academic medical center, research and scholarly productivity, and engagement with the communities it serves, the university's strategic plan, Quest for Distinction, launches a new vision for VCU, to elevate its stature and become the nation's top urban, public research university. This focused plan capitalizes on the outstanding assets of the VCU experience and truly distinguishes VCU as a major research university committed to academic quality and student success at all levels.

Quest for Distinction also embodies VCU's commitment to human health through the VCU Medical Center, which includes the university's health sciences schools and offers state-of-the-art care in more than 200 specialty areas, many of national and international note, including organ transplantation, head and spinal cord trauma, burn healing and cancer treatment.

VCU and the VCU Health System have been honored with prestigious national and international recognition for top-quality graduate, professional and medical-care programs, reflecting a commitment to be among America's top research universities focused on student learning.

Nondiscrimination

VCU does not discriminate in admissions, treatment, employment or access to its programs or activities on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin (including ethnicity), age, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth and related medical conditions), parenting status, marital status, political affiliation, veteran status, genetic information (including family medical history), sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression or disability, consistent with applicable law.

VCU's notice of nondiscrimination and nondiscrimination policies, with contact information for the office and individuals responsible for enforcement, are in the university's policy library (https://policy.vcu.edu).

Administration

VCU administration provides leadership and organizational structure for the university, overseeing its goals and mission. Refer to each unit's website (http://atoz.vcu.edu/administration) for a current listing of administrators.

Deans

Deans provide leadership for their respective school or college. Refer to each unit's website (http://atoz.vcu.edu/academic+departments/organizations) for a current listing of its deans, departmental chairs and program heads.

Accreditation

Virginia Commonwealth University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award baccalaureate, master's, doctoral and first professional degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, GA 30033-4097; telephone: (404) 679-4500. Note: The Commission is to be contacted only if there is evidence that appears to support an institution's significant noncompliance with a requirement or standard.

Academic program accreditation

See the college/schools for detailed information about program accreditation.

Specialized program accreditation or certification

Campus Police

Police Department

International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators

Police Academy

Certified by the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services

Division of Student Affairs

University Counseling Services

American Psychological Association

Student Health Services

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations

Hospital accreditation

VCU Health System

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations

Mission statement

As the premier urban, public research university in Virginia, VCU's mission is to advance knowledge and student success through its commitments to:
• An engaged, learner-centered environment that fosters inquiry, discovery and innovation in a global setting
• Research that expands the boundaries of new knowledge and creative expression and promotes translational applications to improve human health
• Interdisciplinary collaborations that bring new perspectives to complex problems and mobilize creative energies that advance innovation and solve global challenges
• Health care that strives to preserve and restore health for all people, to seek the cause and cure of diseases through groundbreaking research, and to educate those who serve humanity
• Diversity that provides a climate of inclusion, a dedication to addressing disparities wherever they exist, and an opportunity to explore and create in an environment of trust
• Sustainable, university-community partnerships that enhance the educational, economic and cultural vitality of the communities VCU serves in Virginia and around the world

Vision statement
VCU will be a premier urban, public research university distinguished by its commitment to:
• The intellectual and academic success of a diverse student body
• Research and discovery that advances knowledge, inspires creativity and improves human health
• The global engagement of students, faculty and staff that transforms lives and communities

Core values
1. Accountability – committing to the efficient and transparent stewardship of our resources to achieve institutional excellence
2. Achievement – ensuring distinction in learning, research and scholarly pursuits, service, and patient care
3. Collaboration – fostering collegiality and cooperation to advance learning, entrepreneurship and inquiry
4. Freedom – striving for intellectual truth with responsibility and civility, respecting the dignity of all individuals
5. Innovation – cultivating discovery, creativity, originality, inventiveness and talent
6. Service – engaging in the application of learning and discovery to improve the human condition and support the public good at home and abroad
7. Diversity – ensuring a climate of trust, honesty and integrity where all people are valued and differences are recognized as an asset
8. Integrity – adhering to the highest standards of honesty, respect and professional and scholarly ethics

Oak Ridge Associate Universities
Consortium
Since 1963, students and faculty have benefited from VCU’s membership in Oak Ridge Associated Universities, a consortium of 115 colleges and universities and a contractor for the U.S. Department of Energy. ORAU works with its member institutions to help students and faculty gain access to federal research facilities, to keep its members informed about opportunities for scholarship and research appointments and to organize research alliances among its members.

Faculty, graduate students and undergraduate students may access a wide range of opportunities for study and research, including the Lindau-Nobel Laureates and Powe Junior Faculty programs. Many of these programs are designed to increase the numbers of underrepresented minority students pursuing degrees in science- and engineering-related disciplines.

For more information about ORAU and its programs, contact:
• Francis L. Macrina, Ph.D., ORAU Councilor for VCU
  (804) 827-2262
• Monnie E. Champion, ORAU Corporate Secretary
  (865) 576-2206

Interested parties may also visit the ORAU website at orau.org (http://www.orau.org).

VCU Health System Authority
In April 1996, Gov. George Allen signed legislation that established the Medical College of Virginia Hospitals Authority. Effective July 1, 1997, the operations, employees and obligations of MCV Hospitals (formerly a division of VCU) were transferred to the Authority. Three years later, in connection with legislation signed by Gov. James Gilmore, the MCV Hospitals Authority became the Virginia Commonwealth University Health System Authority. The clinical activities of MCV Hospitals, MCV Physicians and the VCU School of Medicine are now coordinated and integrated by and through VCU Health.

The VCU Health System Authority is charged by statute with the missions of operating MCV Hospitals as teaching hospitals for the benefit of the health sciences schools of VCU, providing high quality patient care and providing a site for medical and biomedical research, all of which missions are required to be performed in close affiliation with the Office of the Vice President for Health Sciences. VCU’s vice president for health sciences also serves as the CEO of the VCU Health System Authority, and five VCU faculty physicians serve as members of the VCU Health board of directors.

Board of Visitors
The Board of Visitors is the voting body of Virginia Commonwealth University. Each year, the governor of Virginia appoints members. Refer to Office of the President’s website (http://www.president.vcu.edu/board) for a current listing of board members.

Determination of student classification for in-state tuition purposes
Tuition is determined by the number of credit hours a student is taking, the student’s residency classification, course of study and classification level. For in-state tuition benefits, the student must comply with Section 23-7.4 of the Code of Virginia (http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+cod+23-7.4).

All applicants to VCU who wish to be considered for in-state tuition rates as Virginia residents must submit the Application for Virginia In-state Tuition Rates. This application is a part of the admissions packet and the nondegree-seeking student enrollment package. The residency determination of the applicant is conveyed at the time of admission as a degree-seeking student or nondegree-seeking student.
New and continuing students initially classified as non-Virginians for tuition purposes may request a review of the initial residency determination by completing an Application for Change of Domicile available from the Office of Records and Registration (online). The student must present clear and convincing evidence that he or she is not residing in the state primarily to attend school. The application deadline is the end of the add/drop period of the semester, and it is the responsibility of the student to establish or to file an appeal to change his/her residency classification prior to the start of classes for the semester under consideration. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, applications received after the deadline must be considered for the next semester. Submit completed applications with documentation to the university residency appeals officer. Processing may require four to six weeks; therefore it is strongly recommended that applications be submitted earlier than the stated deadline.

The university’s service to students is limited to assuring that they understand the procedures for appealing and that they have access to information about the relevant sections of the Code of Virginia. The university provides information about the steps of the process and access to the applicable sections of the statute and the associated guidelines. The university provides qualified staff to review the appeals and make decisions based on the information students provide. The university representative cannot provide advisement to students as to how to present their case for review; neither can they become the student’s advocate since these university representatives must make the decision.

Students approved for a change to in-state status for tuition purposes are notified by mail with copies of their approval letters sent to the Office of Financial Aid and the Office of Student Accounting. Students denied this status are also notified by mail. The denial letter informs the student of procedures for appeal of this decision, to include filing an appeal with the university residency appeals committee. Students who submit fraudulent applications, falsify documentation or conceal information will be subject to reclassification, payment of all nonresident fees owed and university discipline.

Please note that a student with in-state status for tuition purposes who exceeds 125 percent of the credit hours needed to complete his program will be assessed a tuition surcharge.

Rights of students under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

Pursuant to a federal statute enacted to protect the privacy rights of students (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 [FERPA], as amended, enacted as Section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act), eligible students of Virginia Commonwealth University are permitted to inspect and review education records of which the student is the subject. A statement of university policy concerning inspection and disclosure of education records has been formulated in compliance with the federal statute. Copies of the policy also are available from the Office of Records and Registration or on the Web at rar.vcu.edu/registration/familyed.html (http://rar.vcu.edu/registration/familyed.html).

Generally, the act provides that no personally identifiable information will be disclosed without the student’s consent, except for directory information and information to other school officials with a legitimate educational interest. When personally identifiable information, other than directory information, is disclosed, a record will be maintained of these disclosures. This record also is available for inspection and review by the student.

If an eligible student feels that his or her education record is inaccurate, misleading or otherwise in violation of the student’s privacy or other rights, the student may request an amendment to the record.

Should the university fail to comply with the requirements of the act, the student has the right to file a complaint with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C. 20202-5901.

Parental notification amendment

Amendments to FERPA signed into federal law in fall 1998 specifically allow notification to the parents or guardians of students under the age of 21 who violate any law or university rule regarding use or possession of alcohol or other controlled substance. The Virginia Attorney General’s Task Force on Drinking by College Students also recommended such notification in its 1998 report.

In accordance with these documents, a parental notification procedure has been included in the VCU Drug Free Schools and Workplace Policy.

Consumer information

The federal Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 requires that institutions of higher education disclose certain consumer information to current students, prospective students, current employees and/or prospective employees. This consumer information (http://www.opds.vcu.edu/consumer-info) for VCU is maintained by the Office of Planning and Decision Support.
GRADUATE STUDY

Graduate programs are administered by the individual departments, schools and centers with assistance from the Graduate School. Major coordination of the various degree programs is performed by the University Graduate Council, which is chaired by the dean of the Graduate School. The University Graduate Council comprises two elected faculty members from each school and one elected faculty member from VCU Life Sciences.

The Graduate School section of the VCU Bulletins documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education at the university. The University Graduate Council determines these policies.

Bulletins and course descriptions for the current and past years are now archived in the VCU Scholars Compass (http://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/vcubulletins) hosted by the VCU Libraries.

Graduate programs

In-depth descriptions of all graduate programs at VCU are provided in the individual school and program sections of this bulletin. The Graduate School website (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu) provides links and contact information for all graduate programs offered at VCU. The website also provides updates that occur throughout the academic year, as well as the Application to Graduate Study and complete instructions for applying to all graduate programs.

Refer to the program index for a complete listing of all graduate programs, as well as application deadline dates, and special admission requirements and contact information. Applicants are encouraged to contact the school/department sponsoring the intended program of study at the telephone numbers and/or email addresses provided. Other important contact information is provided on the Graduate School (http://www.vcu.edu/graduate) website as well.

Welcome from the graduate dean

Important information for all graduate students

On behalf of the graduate faculty, I welcome you to graduate study at Virginia Commonwealth University. At VCU you will find a comprehensive array of academic programs, outstanding faculty and a supportive environment conducive to graduate study and research. The university offers nationally and internationally acclaimed graduate and research programs that meet the many needs of the commonwealth of Virginia, the United States and the world.

The University Graduate Council, chaired by the dean of the Graduate School, provides academic and administrative oversight and coordination of all graduate programs in accordance with the Graduate School’s mission: to provide leadership in all matters relating to graduate education at Virginia Commonwealth University in order to create a stimulating environment for teaching, learning, research, creative expression and public service. Academic departments and schools administer individual graduate degree programs with the assistance and support of the VCU Graduate School. In-depth descriptions of all graduate programs at VCU are provided in the individual school and program sections of this bulletin.

VCU Graduate Bulletin

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 Graduate Bulletin as well as the 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 this Graduate Bulletin website and on the Graduate School website, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Bulletins and course descriptions for the current and past years are now archived in the VCU Scholars Compass (http://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/vcubulletins) hosted by the VCU Libraries.

Students who maintain continuous enrollment are subject to the curricular requirements of the bulletin in effect at the time of admission and to subsequent policy changes approved by the University Graduate Council for immediate implementation.

Students who do not maintain continuous enrollment must reapply for admission and will be subject to the requirements of the bulletin in effect at the time of readmission and to subsequent policy changes approved by the University Graduate Council for immediate implementation. (See policy on Exceptions (p. 33).)

Graduate students should contact the Graduate School at any time regarding questions relating to graduate study at VCU.

I commend you for your decision to pursue graduate study, and I wish you every success in the pursuit of your educational goals at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Sincerely,

F. Douglas Boudinot
Dean of the Graduate School

Revised 5/11/2010
University Graduate Council

Administration and contact information

Blair House
408 West Franklin Street
P.O. Box 843051
Richmond, Virginia 23284-3051
Phone: (804) 828-2233
Fax (804) 827-0724
Email: gradschool@vcu.edu
graduate.vcu.edu (http://graduate.vcu.edu)

F. Douglas Boudinot, Ph.D.
Dean
Phone: (804) 828-2233
Email: fdboudinot@vcu.edu

Mark J. Schaefermeyer, Ph.D.
Associate dean
Phone: (804) 828-4696
Admission to graduate study

The Board of Visitors, the administration and the faculty of VCU are committed to a policy of equal opportunity in education and employment without regard to age, race, color, national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, veteran’s status, political affiliation or disability.

Admission requirements

Minimum admission requirements for graduate study at VCU are outlined below. Individual departments and programs may set more stringent requirements as described in relevant sections of the Graduate Bulletin. Each department/program determines how to evaluate the individual requirements in a holistic assessment of the applicant’s potential for success in graduate study in a particular field. Additional factors, such as prior professional experience, may also be taken into consideration.

1. Graduation from a regionally accredited college or university or its equivalent. Departments may admit graduate applicants with three-year bachelor’s degrees provided these three-year degrees allow the students to pursue graduate studies in their countries. Further, the department will require prerequisite/foundation courses as needed to fill in any gaps in the student’s educational background.

2. Required grade point average. For admission to graduate study at VCU, the Graduate School requires a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0. For students with earned graduate degrees from accredited institutions, the graduate GPA may be the primary basis for consideration.

3. Entrance examinations. Submission of standardized graduate-level test scores (fewer than five years old) may be required by the individual program/department. Note: Not all programs require standardized test scores. Applicants are encouraged to visit individual department and program sections of the Graduate Bulletin for information about specific test score requirements.

4. Letters of recommendation. Three letters of recommendation from instructors or professional references in the applicant’s intended field of study are required. Letters should address the applicant’s academic and professional abilities and preparation for graduate study.

5. Statement of intent. Applicants must state their reasons for pursuing graduate education in the planned course of study at VCU.

6. Such additional requirements as may be established by individual programs and schools. These may include personal interviews, auditions, submission of a portfolio or other materials.

An exception to the general admissions requirements is made for students entering through the Guaranteed Admissions Programs of the VCU Honors College. (See the heading Guaranteed admission through The Honors College (p. 19) in this section.)

University Graduate Council

Types of admissions

Students may be admitted to graduate study under one of the following classifications:

Degree-seeking student

An applicant who meets all requirements for admission to a degree program and who has been recommended by the department or school in which the applicant proposes to study may be admitted as a degree-seeking student.

In order to finalize admission, an official transcript showing degree(s) awarded and any other required documentation must be provided by the end of the fourth week of the first semester of matriculation in the program. Holds will be placed by the Graduate School on all future registrations for students who do not submit required documentation by this deadline.

Revised 4/8/2014
University Graduate Council

Nondegree-seeking student

An individual who wishes to take graduate courses without formal admission to a degree program is classified as a nondegree-seeking student. There is no limit to the total number of credits a nondegree-seeking student may take, as long as the student’s academic performance is credible. In courses where enrollment is limited, first priority is given to students admitted to the program, followed by other VCU graduate degree-seeking students. Nondegree-seeking students are not exempt from any prerequisite that may be specified for a course. A nondegree-seeking student who is later admitted as a degree-seeking student will not be allowed to apply toward a degree more than six credits earned as a nondegree-seeking student.

In order to enroll in graduate courses as a nondegree-seeking student, students must have graduated (or be in final term expecting to graduate) from a regionally accredited college or university or its equivalent. Information and forms certifying eligibility (http://rar.vcu.edu/forms) to take graduate courses are available at VCU Records and Registration service centers or from the Office of Admissions.

Revised 4/8/2014
University Graduate Council
Guaranteed admission through The Honors College

Active members of The Honors College may apply to The Honors College Guaranteed Admission Program for certain graduate programs either before matriculation at VCU or early in their undergraduate studies. The specific deadline for applying is set by the program. Upon graduation, honors students in the Guaranteed Admission Program may enter the graduate program to which they have applied, provided they have satisfied all of the program requirements.

Interested students should meet with the senior associate dean of The Honors College prior to making application for guaranteed admission to a graduate program. Following that meeting, the student must submit a completed graduate application form with three letters of recommendation to Graduate Admissions. To be accepted into The Honors College Guaranteed Admission Program, a student must be accepted by the university, by the Office of Admissions and by the admissions committee of the program the student wishes to enter. The admissions committee may require an interview. Final notification of guaranteed admission is made by the Office of Admissions.

For additional information, refer to The Honors College (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/honors-college) section of the Undergraduate Bulletin, or contact The Honors College at P.O. Box 843010, Richmond, VA 23284-3010; (804) 828-1803; or honors.vcu.edu (http://www.honors.vcu.edu).

Revised 4/8/2014
University Graduate Council

Programs that offer guaranteed admission through The Honors College include:

- Doctor of Dental Surgery
- Doctor of Medicine
- Doctor of Occupational Therapy
- Doctor of Physical Therapy
- Doctor of Philosophy
  - Anatomy and Neurobiology
  - Biochemistry
  - Biomedical Engineering
  - Biostatistics
  - Human Genetics
  - Microbiology and Immunology
  - Neuroscience
  - Nursing
- Pharmacology and Toxicology
- Physiology
- Psychology
- Systems Modeling and Analysis
- Master of Accountancy
- Master of Arts
  - Economics
  - History
- Master of Bioinformatics
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Education
- Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia
- Master of Science in Occupational Therapy
- Master of Taxation
- Master of Teaching
- Master of Urban and Regional Planning

Multiple admissions

Students may not be admitted and enrolled in more than one graduate program or in an undergraduate and graduate degree program, except as part of an approved bachelor’s-to-master’s curriculum without petitioning and receiving written permission from the program director of each program in which the student is enrolled and the dean of the Graduate School.

Revised 4/8/2014
University Graduate Council
**International students**

The university encourages qualified international students to seek admission to VCU. U.S. government regulations and VCU admission policies require nonimmigrant applicants to demonstrate:

- Satisfactory academic achievement
- Adequate English language proficiency
- Ability to finance all educational and living expenses

International students are advised to refer to university and program admission requirements in this bulletin for other information requested of all applicants. An applicant must have earned a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution in the United States or an equivalent degree from a recognized foreign institution. Official academic records must be submitted.

**English language proficiency requirement**

To ensure maximum benefit from academic study at VCU, all non-native English-speaking applicants, regardless of immigration status, must provide evidence of English language proficiency before admission and/or enrollment in the university.

An applicant may satisfy university English proficiency requirements by obtaining a satisfactory score on the TOEFL. The university minimum TOEFL score requirement is 550 (paper-based) or 80 (Internet-based). Some graduate programs will accept satisfactory scores on the IELTS as evidence of English proficiency. The university minimum IELTS score requirement is 6.5. The PTE is also accepted with a minimum score of 65. Individual programs may require higher scores. TOEFL, IELTS and PTE scores are valid for two years.

The Office of Admissions reserves the right to require additional testing and study in the VCU English Language Program prior to full-time enrollment in university courses. The university offers a full-time English-as-a-Second-Language noncredit program. For information on the VCU English Language Program, including fees, international students can contact the English Language Program, Virginia Commonwealth University, P.O. Box 843043, Richmond, VA 23284-3043, United States; (804) 828-2551, or by email: oie-elp@vcu.edu; or online at global.vcu.edu/elp (http://www.global.vcu.edu/elp).

**Nonimmigrants (students with temporary U.S. visas)**

Because of the amount of time required to process applications from international students and for international students to obtain their visas, prospective students should apply well in advance of the international application deadlines. The deadlines are April 1 for fall semester, Oct. 1 for spring semester and Feb. 1 for summer session. Students also must meet specific program deadlines. All required admission documents must be submitted no later than eight weeks prior to registration if appropriate immigration documents are to be issued. Applicants who are unable to meet this credential deadline will need to defer the intended semester of entry.

Revised 4/08/2014
University Graduate Council

As VCU does not generally provide financial support for graduate international students, applicants needing a student visa (F-1) or a visiting scholar visa (J-1) also must present documented evidence of available financial support to cover annual living and educational expenses while studying at VCU.

Proof of current visa type must be submitted with the application for applicants who are in the United States on student visas. F-1 students and J-1 visiting scholars admitted to VCU must submit copies of all immigration documents to the VCU international student adviser prior to enrolling in classes.

**Immigrants (permanent residents, resident aliens and asylum/refugee applicants)**

Because immigrant applicants usually are in the United States at the time applications are submitted, these students are required to meet the same application deadlines as U.S. citizens.

If educated in the United States, immigrant students will be considered for admission under the same academic policies as those applied to U.S. citizens. If educated outside the United States, the same academic records are required as those for nonimmigrant students.

VCU requires detailed information concerning U.S. immigration status. Proof of permanent residency or application for permanent residency must be submitted with the admission application.

**Admissions appeals**

The Office of Admissions will hold denied applicants’ transcripts and test scores for one year. To reapply within this period, applicants should first contact the department or program. Additional materials should be supplied to strengthen the application, such as new test scores, new letters of recommendation or a new statement of intent.

**Application procedures**

A link to the online application, other supplemental forms and instructions for applying to all graduate programs are available on the Graduate Admissions website at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu/apply (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu/apply).

A $65 nonrefundable application fee must accompany each application. This fee will not be credited toward tuition payment.

Completed applications and all supporting materials must be submitted according to the application guidelines provided in this bulletin and before the program deadlines specified throughout this website. Late applications for some programs may be considered when possible but may require provisional action.

**Note:** Reference letters, the statement of intent/personal essay and any other supplementary materials such as art portfolios, resume/vita or specific program-required documents should be submitted to the address specific to the program to which you are applying. However, some programs require that all application materials be sent directly to the Graduate School.

Application instructions, including how to submit supplementary materials, and a list of program-specific addresses for supplemental materials (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu/apply/instructions) is available on the Graduate Admissions website. All transcripts and test scores must be submitted to Graduate Admissions. Supporting documentation submitted by mail should be addressed to Virginia Commonwealth University, Office of Admissions, P.O. Box 843051, Richmond, VA 23284-3051. Application materials submitted in person
may be delivered to the Graduate Admissions office on the third floor of Blair House, 408 W. Franklin St., Richmond, Virginia.

Graduate students must use the Office of Admissions' online graduate application (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu/apply). Supporting materials for online applications must be submitted promptly. An application cannot be given final consideration until all required documentation and the application fee have been received. Applicants are strongly encouraged to pay by credit card when submitting the online application.

Students are encouraged to apply well before the program deadline to ensure receipt of all application materials. Program deadlines are found with degree/program information elsewhere in this bulletin. Use the program index to navigate to the program(s) of interest.

Completed applications and supporting materials are reviewed by the graduate faculty of the intended program, and final official notification of acceptance is made by the Office of Admissions.

Admission to a graduate program may be contingent upon the successful completion of undergraduate course work, degrees or other prerequisites that may be specified by the program or school. Remedial course work will not apply toward a graduate degree.

Students who do not apply at least one month prior to the beginning of any semester risk their financial aid eligibility in the event that the admission process is not completed prior to the first day of classes.

Apply (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu/apply/instructions)

Financing graduate school

Current information on financial aid programs, policies and procedures are available on the VCU website at finaid.vcu.edu (http://finaid.vcu.edu). To obtain printed materials or additional information, call or visit the appropriate financial aid office listed.

Monroe Park Campus programs
Grace E. Harris Hall
1015 Floyd Avenue, First Floor
P.O. Box 843026
Richmond, Virginia 23284-3026
Phone: (804) 828-6669
Fax: (804) 827-0060

Schools of Allied Health Professions, Nursing and Pharmacy
VMI Building, Room 334
1000 East Marshall Street
P.O. Box 980277
Richmond, Virginia 23298-0277
Phone: (804) 828-2702
Fax: (804) 827-0060

School of Dentistry
Lyons Building, Room 309
520 North 12th Street
P.O. Box 980566
Richmond, Virginia 23298-0566
Phone: (804) 828-9953
Fax: (804) 828-6072

School of Medicine
McGlothlin Medical Education Center
1201 East Marshall Street, Room 4-306

P.O. Box 980565
Richmond, Virginia 23298-0565
Phone: (804) 828-4006
Fax: (804) 827-5555

Policies and procedures on graduate fellowships and assistantships

University graduate teaching and research assistantships and fellowships are awarded to continuing and newly admitted graduate students. These awards are provided with funds from the university, government, foundations, industrial sources, alumni and other private sources. Most fellowships and assistantships are granted on a competitive basis to eligible applicants and determined based on scholarly potential and excellence. Awards range from assistance for tuition and fees and research expenses to stipend support for full-time study and research in programs leading to graduate degrees.

The decision to award most stipends is determined by the department or school to which the applicant is seeking admission. Applicants for fellowship and assistantship support are notified by the department or school soon after the decision has been made. Fellowship and assistantship awards for new and continuing students are granted on a competitive basis, normally for a period of one academic year.

Inquiry about such awards should be made directly to the school or department in which the student intends to enroll. Students in the process of applying for admission should indicate their interest in such support. Some programs include a separate application for support with the application for admission. Refer to the individual chapters in this Bulletin, program websites and the Graduate School website (http://graduate.vcu.edu) for additional information on graduate student support and funding opportunities.

VCU fully subscribes to the following resolution of the Council of Graduate Schools (http://cgsnet.org) in the U.S. and Canada regarding graduate scholars, fellows, trainees and assistants:

“Acceptance of an offer of financial support (such as graduate scholarship, fellowship, traineeship or assistantship) for the next academic year by a prospective or enrolled graduate student completes an agreement that both student and graduate school expect to honor. In that context, the conditions affecting such offers and their acceptance must be defined carefully and understood by all parties.”

The council provides the following comments on the CGS resolution:

“Students are under no obligation to respond to offers of financial support prior to April 15; earlier deadlines for acceptance of such offers violate the intent of this Resolution. In those instances in which the student accepts an offer before April 15 and subsequently desires to withdraw that acceptance, the student may submit in writing a resignation of the appointment at any time through April 15. However, an acceptance given or left in force after April 15 commits the student not to accept another offer without first obtaining a written release from the institution to which commitment has been made. Similarly, an offer by an institution after April 15 is conditional on presentation by the student of the written release from any previously accepted offer. It is further agreed by the institutions and organizations subscribing to this resolution that a copy of this resolution should accompany every scholarship, fellowship, traineeship and assistantship offer.”
Graduate fellowships

Fellowships are not work-related and are designed to free students to spend all of their time on graduate studies and research. Fellowships are awarded on the basis of a student’s demonstrated academic achievement, promise and need.

Fellows are required to maintain strong academic records and to remain in residence as full-time students during the fellowship period unless special approval is given by the dean of the Graduate School.

Requests for graduate fellowships from students seeking admission to the university should be included in the personal statement submitted with the application for admission and/or on supplemental forms required by individual departments or programs. To be considered for a fellowship, students must return application forms to the university in accordance with deadlines established by the individual departments or programs.

Fellowships for minority students, such as those provided by the National Science Foundation and Ford Foundation, are made by the sponsoring agencies to individual students. Applications are submitted directly by the students to the sponsor, usually in early fall.

A number of graduate tuition fellowships are funded by the commonwealth of Virginia. Funding for this program is allocated by the Graduate School to individual schools and program directors who, in turn, identify recipients. These fellowships are awarded in most graduate departments with preference given to Virginia residents. Tuition fellowships may range from a minimum of $500 a semester to full tuition and fees for an entire academic year.

Fellowships are awarded for not longer than one calendar year and are not renewed automatically from year to year unless specifically stated in writing. Graduate program directors generally determine eligibility for renewal of fellowship awards in subsequent years.

Graduate assistantships

Graduate assistants are typically more effective members of their chosen fields due to formal instruction and close interaction with faculty by assisting faculty in classrooms, research or administrative endeavors. All graduate assistant duties are designed to foster student training and graduate learning experiences.

Although assigned teaching, research or administrative support duties, graduate assistants are regarded by the university as students and not as employees. As such, graduate assistants do not accrue paid sick leave, annual leave or holiday leave.

A number of graduate assistantships are awarded each year on the basis of exceptional scholastic achievement, promise and competence for service in the departments of the university. Assistantships are generally also available in those departments which have government, foundation, business and industrial research grants and contracts.

The duties of graduate assistants require work from 10 to 20 hours per week, depending on the stipend awarded. Graduate assistants must satisfactorily perform the duties assigned by their departments; make satisfactory progress in their programs as defined by the degree requirements and the regulations of their departments; and may not hold any employment or appointment of a remunerative nature during the term of their assistantship.

Additional opportunities for involvement in outside activities may arise in the course of the training period, some of which may provide for additional/supplementary compensation. Involvement and/or participation in such opportunities may assist the department in maintaining the research infrastructure, provide additional experience in instructional activity, assist other units of the university in the delivery of programs consistent with the missions of the institution, involve participation in university organizations and so forth. Such activities may include those for which supplementary compensation is provided. While such activities have the potential for enriching the development of the individual graduate student, they also hold the potential for interfering with the graduate student’s responsibilities to his/her department or program and her/his timely progress toward the completion of his/her educational degree requirements.

Therefore, graduate students must consult with their advisers prior to undertaking additional activities that may detract, or which have the potential for detracting, from their timely progress to degree completion. Advisers are encouraged to provide encourage opportunities which broaden the training experience for students in preparation for the wide variety of career opportunities now available. The graduate program director should also be made aware of any such activities to ensure that completion of degree requirements is not compromised.

Some graduate assistants are appointed to support faculty when conducting research. Whenever possible, these assistants will be assigned to faculty who are working in a variety of areas to extend the student research experience and professional development. Graduate assistantships that involve research are generally assigned to those students pursuing degrees that require a thesis or a dissertation.

Other graduate assistants are assigned to departments, divisions, institutes, schools and other offices of the university to assist in the administration of these units. Such assignments are generally given to those pursuing professional degrees in the management sciences. These assistants will be exposed to a variety of administrative experiences and tasks as an integral part of their academic endeavors to prepare them for future professional roles as administrators.

Graduate assistantships are awarded for not longer than one calendar year and are not renewed automatically from year to year unless specifically stated in writing. Graduate program directors generally determine eligibility for renewal of graduate assistantship awards in subsequent academic years. Specific work assignments, scheduling and arrangements relating to vacation and personal leave are determined by the department, program or administrative unit to which the graduate student is assigned.

Doctoral assistants at candidacy

The Graduate School will provide one-third university tuition only (not fees) for doctoral students who have advanced to candidacy and are being funded as a graduate assistant. The school/department/grant must provide two-thirds of tuition support. Graduate assistants approved for candidacy must register for nine semester hours of graduate course work, for credit, at VCU each fall and spring semester until the degree is awarded (including the semester of graduation). In order to be considered for doctoral tuition support at candidacy, an approved degree candidacy form must be on file with the Graduate School prior to the start of the current semester that funding is being requested and before the student formally begins the final thesis/dissertation/research project.

Doctoral tuition support at candidacy funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis for the academic year. Once all candidacy tuition
support funds have been expensed, no additional support from the Graduate School will be provided.

**Required compliance with the commonwealth of Virginia Manpower Control Program**

VCU is an agency of the executive branch of the commonwealth of Virginia. The commonwealth’s Manpower Control Program stipulates that employees in the executive branch who are not eligible for benefits under a health care plan established by the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management or by an agency administering its own health care plan may not work more than 29 hours per week on average over a 12-month period. Eligibility for the health care plans is limited to classified state employees, salaried faculty as defined in the state health insurance manual and postdoctoral scholars paid through the university.

All other employees, including graduate assistants, may not work more than 29 hours per week on average over a 12-month period, regardless of the number of positions they hold at VCU that are ineligible for the health care plans. Graduate students should not hold both an assistantship and an hourly or adjunct instructor position at the same time. In exceptional cases, schools/colleges may authorize graduate assistants to have additional jobs, but only if both jobs do not exceed 29 hours total in a work week in compliance with the Manpower Control Program. Noncompliance with the Manpower Control Program exposes VCU to the risk of significant penalties and costs and constitutes a violation of state requirements.

**Eligibility**

Students who are candidates for appointment as graduate fellows and assistants are responsible for meeting the following eligibility requirements and for taking the initiative in ascertaining that all have been fulfilled. The requirements are described here to provide graduate student applicants with an understanding of the usual conditions for awarding fellowships and assistantships; however, individual schools, departments or programs may set more rigorous standards.

An entering student is awarded an assistantship or fellowship on the basis of academic potential. The student is expected to have been admitted fully and without academic provision, having achieved a minimum grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for the last 60 semester hours of academic credit earned. Another indicator of academic potential is a score on the Graduate Record Examination that places the applicant above the 50th percentile of all students who take this examination. In those disciplines requiring GRE subject tests, an upper 50th percentile achievement is required. An equally high achievement level is expected on the Graduate Management Admissions Test, the Law School Admissions Test or the Miller Analogies Test. Students applying for studio and performing arts must demonstrate potential through the quality and promise of their portfolio or audition.

Graduate fellows and assistants, once appointed, must maintain a minimum grade point average of 3.0. Graduate students may be retained as fellows and assistants only as long as they are registered as current, full-time students in good academic standing and are satisfactorily performing their teaching, research or administrative duties.

**Appointment and notification**

Each year the dean of the Graduate School will notify individual department chairs, program directors and deans of the allocation of the university’s graduate student support funds. This notification will include detailed award criteria and instructions for processing these funds. It is the responsibility of each awarding unit to provide funded graduate students with award letters which clearly define the amount, term of appointment and conditions of the award, including the job description of assistantships, renewal criteria, associated tuition and fee support, disbursement information, and minimum enrollment requirements. Award letters should also be provided to students funded by other sources, such as department funds, grants and overhead accounts.

Notices of awards should include the Graduate School policy statement on graduate fellowships and assistantships and the university’s student tax guide [PDF] (http://www.hr.vcu.edu/media/hr/documents/studenttaxguide.pdf). Graduate students should be instructed to return signed copies of award letters to the awarding unit(s) in order to acknowledge that they have read these documents and to indicate acceptance of the award and its conditions. All newly appointed graduate assistants will be subject to a criminal records check as a condition of employment at VCU.

**Termination of appointments**

Graduate assistantships and fellowships normally end when the period of appointment is concluded and the term of the assistantship or fellowship agreement is fulfilled. An appointment may also end when the grant or contract supporting the student expires, even if that occurs before the end of the student’s current appointment. Otherwise, a graduate fellowship or assistantship may be terminated for the following reasons:

1. Resignation for cause by the student. Such resignation is to be in writing for approval by the department chair or program director, with a copy to the dean of the Graduate School.

2. Failure of the graduate fellow or assistant to perform assigned duties adequately or to behave professionally. Termination of assistantship or fellowship appointments requires written documentation to support the action. Documentation should clearly show that the infraction, any needed remedy and consequences were conveyed to the graduate student in writing in a timely manner. Such termination is to be recommended by the department chair or program director, with a copy to the dean of the Graduate School.

3. Failure of the graduate fellow or assistant to remain in good academic standing or to adhere to enrollment policies in accordance with this policy statement.

Any stipend funds remaining after termination of a graduate fellowship or assistantship revert to the funding department or program and may be reallocated to another graduate student. If students withdraw from classes or programs or reduce enrollment below full time, tuition and fees and stipends may be rescinded and students will be responsible for returning all funds to the university. Exceptions are made on a case-by-case basis by the dean of the Graduate School on the recommendation of the student’s graduate program director.

A graduate student who believes that his or her graduate fellowship or assistantship has been terminated unjustly, and who has exhausted all departmental and school appeal procedures, may appeal the decision in writing to the dean of the Graduate School. A student who wishes to appeal a termination of a graduate fellowship or assistantship must notify the graduate dean in writing within 10 business days after the decision to terminate has been upheld by departmental and school appeal procedures.

**Minimum course load**

During the academic year, all graduate fellows or assistants whose tuition is being paid by the university must enroll for at least nine
hours of graduate course work each semester. Undergraduate credits may be included in the minimum, provided they are relevant to the student’s degree program and approved by an adviser and the dean of the Graduate School. Courses taken for audit are not counted toward the enrollment requirement. Students awarded summer stipends and tuition are expected to enroll for at least three credit hours during the summer session [change approved by the Graduate Council April 14, 2009, effective summer 2009]. All students are subject to the continuous enrollment rules (p. 35) published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin.

Stipends

Stipends for graduate assistantships vary by discipline, level of degree, hours of work required and availability of funds. All graduate assistantships, however, are subject to the university’s minimum stipend levels. For nine- and 10-month assistantships, minimum stipends are $4,000 for 10 hours of work per week and $7,500 for 20 hours of work per week. For 12-month assistantships, minimum stipend levels are $5,000 for 10 hours of work per week and $9,000 for 20 hours of work per week. Not all appointments guarantee payment of tuition and fees, nor do payment schedules necessarily coincide with registration dates.

Tuition and fee support

Tuition and fee support associated with graduate fellowships and graduate assistantships varies from year to year and by program. Some awards consist of a base stipend only. In such cases, students are responsible for payment of tuition and fees. Some awards may include the base stipend plus tuition and fees. Payment of special program or class fees is optional and varies from program to program. University awards that include tuition and fee support do not cover special fees. Students are responsible for settling their accounts according to the rules and procedures of the university’s Student Accounting Department (http://www.enrollment.vcu.edu/accounting).

Tuition will be charged according to a student’s official residency status as determined by the university’s residency office (http://www.enrollment.vcu.edu/rar/residency). Questions related to residency status should be directed to that office.

Payments and tax status

The stipend portion of a graduate assistantship package is designated by the Internal Revenue Service as wages for work performed, is processed through the university’s Payroll Office and is subject to withholding taxes. A graduate assistantship stipend is reported to the IRS as earned income. Tuition and fee support, if provided, is processed through the university’s Office of Financial Aid and is applied directly to the student’s account.

A graduate fellowship stipend is not work-related and is not reported to the IRS as earned income. A recipient of a graduate fellowship, however, may be required to report fellowship support as other income and to pay quarterly withholding taxes. Graduate fellowship stipends and tuition and fee support are processed through the university’s Office of Financial Aid (http://www.enrollment.vcu.edu/finaid) and are applied directly to the student’s account. Once all outstanding tuition, fees and other charges are paid, excess funds are refunded to the student.

For additional information about the tax status of student awards, students are referred to the student tax guide [PDF] (http://www.hr.vcu.edu/media/hr/documents/studenttaxguide.pdf) published by the Office of the Vice Provost for Student Affairs and the Office of Payroll Accounting. In all cases, final decisions and interpretations as to the tax status of graduate assistantship or fellowship stipends or tuition and fee awards are made solely by the IRS and, ultimately, it is the student’s responsibility to ensure accurate reporting of such support.

Need-based financial aid

All graduate fellowship and tuition and fee awards are reported to the university’s Office of Financial Aid and are included in any calculation of financial aid need. Fellowship funding impacts need-based financial aid eligibility differently than funding received from graduate teaching and research assistantships. Students with questions about their need-based financial aid packaging should contact their financial aid advisers, graduate program directors or departmental fiscal administrators about the status of their funding before accepting offers.

Revised 7/17/2014; 6/16/2015
University Graduate Council

Email – official method of communication

Students are required to obtain an official VCU student email account within one week of the beginning of their first semester of enrollment. Students are responsible for reading in a timely fashion university-related communications sent to their official VCU student email account. The Office of Financial Aid uses email to provide financial aid information, to request documentation to support financial aid application data and to provide financial aid application status and award information. Information on how to set up an account is available online (http://www.ts.vcu.edu/askit/email).

Identification requirements

Students must provide picture identification, preferably a VCUCard, for in-person access to financial aid records. For the student’s protection, information provided over the telephone and email may be limited if the financial aid staff member is not confident of the student’s identity.

Eligibility for financial aid

Most students are eligible for some type of financial aid regardless of family financial circumstances. Basically, to receive aid from any of the federal or state student aid programs, students must:

- Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid or Renewal FAFSA designating VCU (school code 003735) to receive FAFSA results
- Demonstrate financial need, except for some loan programs
- Have a high school diploma or a General Education Development certificate
- Be enrolled or accepted for enrollment to an eligible degree or certificate program
- Be enrolled at least half time (five or more graduate credit hours)
- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible noncitizen
- Have a valid Social Security number (unless from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of Palau)
• Meet Satisfactory Academic Progress standards as defined by the VCU Office of Financial Aid (The full VCU SAP policy is available on the Web at finaid.vcu.edu/progress/gradrequirements.html (http://finaid.vcu.edu/progress/gradrequirements.html)).

• Certify that federal and state financial aid will be used for educational purposes only

• Not be in default on a federal student loan and not owe money on a federal student grant

• Comply with Selective Service registration, if required

• Not be convicted under federal or state law of sale or possession of illegal drugs

Students admitted as provisional graduate students are eligible for federal loans at the fifth-year undergraduate level.

Detailed information can be found in the federal Student Guide, available in print form from the VCU Office of Financial Aid or electronically at studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide (http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/student_guide) and on the VCU Office of Financial Aid website. (http://finaid.vcu.edu)

Applying for financial aid

The financial aid application process for the academic year begins Jan. 1. All students are encouraged to complete and submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after Jan. 1, designating VCU (school code 003735) to receive the results. In order to reduce problems, errors and omissions on the FAFSA, students are encouraged to apply electronically using FAFSA on the Web (available online at fafsa.ed.gov (http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)). Once the FAFSA is filed, the federal processor will send the student a Student Aid Report or electronic SAR acknowledgement and also will electronically send the information to the VCU Office of Financial Aid, if VCU was listed as a school to receive the data. If additional information is needed to complete processing of the application, the VCU Office of Financial Aid will send the student a request for additional information. Responding promptly to such requests will ensure timely processing of the application. Once the review of FAFSA data has been completed, the Office of Financial Aid will send the student a financial aid award notification.

Please note that health professions students (dentistry, medicine, nursing or pharmacy) must provide both student and parental information on the FAFSA to apply and receive consideration for Title VII grants and loans from the Department of Health and Human Services.

Priority filing dates

The VCU Office of Financial Aid recommends electronically filing the FAFSA by March 1. Students who do not have access to the Web may apply using the paper FAFSA, available through VCU, high schools, colleges and most public libraries. Those students completing a paper application should mail it to the federal processor by Feb. 1.

1 Students who do not have access to the Web apply using the paper FAFSA (http://finaid.vcu.edu/resources/forms.html)

Summer studies

Limited financial aid may be available during the summer semester. Students applying for the summer semester must file the FAFSA by March 1. Students also should complete a VCU summer aid application, available on the Financial Aid website under “Forms (http://finaid.vcu.edu/resources/forms.html)”

Students interested in financial aid for the summer semester should obtain a VCU Summer Studies Schedule of Classes (http://www.vcu.edu/schedule) (available in March) for more details.

Study abroad

Financial assistance is available to eligible students enrolled in approved study abroad programs. All study abroad programs must be coordinated through the Global Education Office at (804) 827-7882. Students should work with a financial aid counselor to coordinate aid for their study abroad program. Information about financial aid and study abroad is available online at global.vcu.edu/abroad/students/funding (http://global.vcu.edu/abroad/students/funding).

All study abroad course work is subject to the criteria articulated in the transfer credit policy.

Quality assurance

To ensure that information provided on the FAFSA is accurate, a student’s application may be selected for review at any time during an enrollment period, and the student will be requested to provide documentation that supports the information. By signing the FAFSA, the student (and the student’s parents or spouse, if applicable) agreed to furnish such documentation. If the documentation is not provided when requested, financial aid awards will be canceled and any funds already disbursed may need to be repaid.

University bill

The Student Accounting Department issues online bills for tuition, fees and other university charges. When financial aid awards (grants, scholarships and loans) are not enough to pay university charges, the remaining balance must be paid from personal funds, credit card or the VCU installment payment plan. Federal work-study awards will not be deducted from university charges because those funds are paid directly to the student, based on hours worked. Any outstanding balance owed will prevent a student from registering for courses and receiving official transcripts. Students who fail to pay their balance on time may be assessed a late payment fee and have a financial hold placed on their account. If the balance remains outstanding after the semester ends, their account may be referred to the VCU collection unit at which time collection costs will be assessed.

Financial aid appeals

Financial aid eligibility decisions are made using federal, state and institutional regulations and policies. Students may appeal their eligibility...
if special circumstances warrant a review. Reasons for an appeal might include one of the following documented unusual circumstances:

- Loss or reduction of employment earnings
- Disability or death of parent or spouse
- Separation or divorce
- Loss or reduction of untaxed income
- Losses due to a natural disaster
- Unusually high educational program costs
- Unusual medical expenses
- Dependent and child care expenses

Any financial aid staff member can advise a student about the procedures on how to file an appeal.

Federal financial aid refund policy

Students who receive federal Title IV grant or loan assistance and withdraw from VCU before completing 60 percent of the semester (as measured in calendar days) must have their eligibility recalculated based on the federal return of Title IV funds formula. This federal formula specifies that a student’s financial aid eligibility must be recalculated based on the aid the student has “earned” (based on the number of days that the student was enrolled or attending VCU prior to withdrawal). Any unearned aid (for the period of enrollment that the student did not complete from the date of withdrawal to the end of the semester) must be returned to the appropriate Title IV programs from which the student was awarded.

For VCU students who withdraw prior to completing 60 percent of the semester, they will have to return or repay all or a portion of the aid funds that had been disbursed to their VCU account. As a result, students who withdraw prior to completing 60 percent of the semester may be responsible for all or a portion of their tuition/fee bill that was previously paid by financial aid sources.

If a student does not officially withdraw from all classes but fails to earn a passing grade in at least one course, federal aid regulations require that the student be considered “unofficially withdrawn,” unless it can be documented that the student completed the enrollment period. Unofficial withdrawals require a Title IV refund calculation at the midpoint of the enrollment period. The reduction of federal aid will create a balance due to the university that must be repaid.

Graduate students in undergraduate courses

Students who are classified as graduate students will be eligible for federal financial aid only if they are enrolled at least half time in courses that can be applied toward their graduate degree. The Office of Financial Aid will identify all graduate students who have applied for financial aid but have registered for less than half-time graduate course work. In these cases, the student will be eligible for federal financial aid, but it will be based on the fifth-year undergraduate loan limits. Students who have been admitted to a dual-degree program can take any amount of required undergraduate course work and will still be eligible for graduate loan limits.

Satisfactory academic progress for financial aid purposes

To be eligible to receive financial aid at VCU, students must make satisfactory academic progress. SAP is a combination of qualitative and quantitative components. SAP is measured by:

- GPA. Generally, graduate students are expected to maintain at least a 3.0 GPA as specified by their departments.
- Completion rate. The completion rate is measured by the number of credit hours earned divided by the number of credit hours attempted. All students must successfully complete at least 67 percent of all credit hours attempted (withdrawals, incompletes and repeated courses also are considered attempted credit hours).

The Office of Financial Aid will perform a periodic SAP review for students who receive or apply for financial aid. The reviews are typically performed at the end of the spring semester and must be completed at least once per academic year. Students will be alerted with warning letters, whenever possible, to provide them with notice that their financial aid may be in danger of being suspended. When students fail to meet SAP requirements, they will receive suspension letters indicating that they are ineligible to receive further financial aid. Students whose eligibility for financial aid has been suspended may submit an appeal if mitigating circumstances prevented the student from maintaining SAP.

For more detailed information about the VCU Satisfactory Academic Progress (http://finaid.vcu.edu/progress) policy, visit the Office of Financial Aid website.

Types of financial aid

There are three basic types of financial aid: loans, grants and work-study. Each type has different features and advantages.

Loans

In terms of total dollars available, long-term federal loan programs provide the most dollars. Federal loans must be repaid after the grace period and/or deferment periods have expired. Students must generally remain enrolled at least half time (five credit hours for graduate students). Multiple repayment plans may be available for most federal loans. Selected loan programs include:

- Federal Direct Loan (unsubsidized)
- Health Professions Student Loan
- Loan for Disadvantaged Students
- Nursing Student Loan

To ensure that students understand the responsibility and the obligation they are assuming as a Federal Direct Loan borrower, the U.S. Department of Education requires participation in entrance counseling prior to receiving a Federal Direct Loan if the student has not previously received a Direct Loan, Federal Family Education Loan or Supplemental Loans to Students Loan. The entrance counseling requirement must be satisfied prior to the first loan disbursement. To complete entrance counseling for the Federal Direct Loan Program, go to finaid.vcu.edu/assistance/loans/entrance.html (http://www.finaid.vcu.edu/assistance/loans/entrance.html).
A student will also be required to complete exit counseling before they graduate, withdraw or drop below half-time status. To complete exit counseling for the Federal Direct Loan program, go to finaid.vcu.edu/assistance/loans/exit.html (http://www.finaid.vcu.edu/assistance/loans/exit.html).

Grants
Contact individual academic departments for information about grant or scholarship programs.

Work-study
Work-study is a form of financial aid that pays wages for work performed through employment. Work-study positions are located on-campus and in approved off-campus locations. Hourly wages will vary depending on skills and experience. Job listings are posted online at finaid.vcu.edu/federalworkstudy (http://www.finaid.vcu.edu/federalworkstudy). When interviewing for work-study positions, students should take copies of their financial aid award notifications to show prospective employers. Graduate students usually work 15 to 25 hours per week.

Veteran and reservist educational benefits
Military Student Services is located in Harris Hall on the Monroe Park Campus. Detailed information about eligibility for the programs listed below is available on the Military Student Services website (http://www.militaryservices.vcu.edu). You also may contact the office to obtain printed material.

Military Student Services
Harris Hall, Room 3122
1015 Floyd Avenue
P.O. Box 842536
Richmond, Virginia 23284-2536
(804) 828-6563
Fax (804) 827-0096
E-mail: militaryserv@vcu.edu
Web: militaryservices.vcu.edu (http://www.militaryservices.vcu.edu)

Available programs
For details on any of these programs, please visit the Military Student Services website benefits overview (http://www.militaryservices.vcu.edu/veterans).

- Montgomery – GI Bill Active Duty (Chapter 30)
- Vocational Rehabilitation (Voc Rehab, Chapter 31)
- Veterans Education Assistance Program (VEAP, Chapter 32)
- Post 9-11 GI Bill (Chapter 33)
- Survivors’ and Dependent Educational Assistance Program (DEA, Chapter 35)
- Montgomery – GI Bill Selected Reserves (Chapter 1606)
- Reserve Education Assistance Program/Reap (Chapter 1607)
- Tutorial Assistance Program
- VA Work-Study Program
- Virginia Military Survivors and Dependents Education Program
- Post 9-11 – Active Duty (Chapter 33)/Yellow Ribbon Program
- Yellow Ribbon Program
- Transferability of Benefit

Eligibility requirements
Eligible veterans/spouses/dependents must comply with the following requirements to receive educational benefits as students:

1. The veteran/spouse/dependent must be accepted into a degree or certificate program or be matriculating as a nondegree-seeking student for only two semesters before having to declare a major.
2. The veteran/spouse/dependent must request certification by completing and submitting VCU’s VA education assistance form after obtaining approval via signature of their academic adviser and registering for courses each semester and each summer session from the Veterans Affairs Office.
3. The veteran/spouse/dependent is eligible to use benefits for only those courses taken toward a degree, certificate program or as prerequisite courses (only two semesters).
4. The veteran/spouse/dependent is not eligible to use benefits for courses taken on an audit basis, or if eliminating a course previously taken and paid for by the VA to remove a punitive grade not counted in GPA calculations via VCU’s historical repeat option. The repeated course(s) will be paid for by the VA but the student will incur a debt to the VA for the course(s) eliminated from the student’s GPA. The VA does not pay for courses that earn no credit.
5. The veteran/spouse/dependent is responsible for ensuring that transcripts are evaluated for transfer credits to be accepted by VCU. Students must submit this information to the Veterans Affairs Office for transmittal to the Veteran’s Administration Regional Office.
6. The Veterans Affairs Office must be notified by the student/veteran/spouse/dependent if they change, add, drop or withdraw from courses originally approved by the student/veteran/spouse/dependent’s academic adviser and certified by VCU’s Veterans Affairs coordinator/certifying official.

Graduate tuition and student fees
Students must pay all applicable tuition, housing and dining charges, and other fees when due, as described in this section. Students who fail to pay these charges on time may be assessed a late payment fee. The university reserves the right to revise or alter all tuition and fees, regulations pertaining to student fees, and collection procedures at any time. In addition to expenses billed by the university, students should make allowances for books, clothing, supplies, travel and other out-of-pocket costs when figuring their total yearly expenses at the university.

Student financial responsibilities
Students who enroll are responsible for:

- Full payment of tuition and fees generated from their registration.
- Full payment of all charges for housing and dining services, and other applicable miscellaneous charges.
- Keeping a current mailing address on file with Enrollment Services. Refunds and tax forms are not issued to students with inactive mailing addresses.
- Establishing an official VCU email address and reading their email on a regular basis, since email will be used to notify students when their invoices are available in the payment and billing site. Paper bills are not sent to enrolled students. Failure to acknowledge and review the electronic invoice does not relieve responsibility for timely payments. Other important notifications are also sent to the official VCU email address.
Tuition and fees are categorized and described on the Student Accounting website at enrollment.vcu.edu/accounting/tuition_fees.html (http://www.enrollment.vcu.edu/accounting/tuition_fees.html).

**Full-time and part-time graduate study**

Graduate students registered for nine to 15 credit hours are considered full-time and are charged a flat rate for tuition and fees. Graduate students registered for more than 15 credit hours during any semester will be charged an overload graduate tuition fee on a per-credit-hour basis above the full-time tuition rate. Graduate students registered for fewer than nine credit hours are charged a graduate per-credit-hour rate based on their program. Graduate students fully funded as graduate assistants or graduate fellows with tuition remission must register for at least nine credit hours per semester (three credit hours during the summer if funded on a 12-month stipend). Departmental requirements may vary; therefore, students should verify expected course loads with their graduate program directors.

Nondegree-seeking students who hold bachelor's degrees are classified as DHG (degree-holder graduate) if they enroll in one or more graduate courses. DHG students are charged the graduate rate regardless of whether they enroll in graduate- or undergraduate-level courses. If they enroll for nine or more credits, they are charged at the full-time graduate rate.

**Tuition and fee schedule**

Tuition and fees are categorized and described on the Student Accounting website at accounting.vcu.edu/tuition (http://accounting.vcu.edu/tuition). Questions regarding tuition and fees may be directed to the Student Accounting Department at (804) 828-2228, or by emailing stuacctg@vcu.edu. The university reserves the right to revise or alter all fees, regulations pertaining to student fees, and fee collection procedures at any time.

**University fee**

This fee is used by the university to support student services, campus development, intercollegiate athletics and other programs. Full-time students pay a flat-rate university fee each semester. Part-time students pay this fee on a per-credit basis.

**Student activity fee**

This fee is used to support social, cultural and other student activities on the Monroe Park Campus. These activities include concerts, plays, student organizations and publications. Full-time students on the Monroe Park Campus pay a flat-rate student activity fee, while part-time students on the same campus pay this fee on a per-credit basis. Students on the MCV Campus are not charged this fee.

**Student Government Association fee**

This fee is used to support social, cultural and other student activities on the MCV Campus. The fee is charged to all full-time and part-time MCV Campus students. Monroe Park Campus students are not charged this fee.

**Student health fee**

All full-time students on both campuses must pay the student health fee. Part-time students may participate in the University Student Health Services on an elective basis by paying the student health fee. USHS offers unlimited office visits for acute and chronic ailments, after-hours phone advice for an urgent medical problem and most laboratory tests associated with acute illnesses ordered by the USHS staff, among other services. The fee does not cover accidental injury, emergency room visits or hospitalization. More specific information as to what is covered and not covered by the fee is available on the USHS website (http://www.students.vcu.edu/health/about/eligibility-and-charges).

**Technology fee**

The technology fee is charged to all full-time and part-time non-resident, on-campus students. The fee is mandated by the General Assembly to reimburse the State for debt service costs attributable to non-resident students related to the financing of buildings and equipment.

**Capital outlay fee**

This fee is charged to all undergraduate, graduate and professional students in all programs. Full-time students pay a flat rate. Part-time students pay a per-credit-hour rate. The fee is used to provide for students' technological needs and to support university-wide technological initiatives.

**Off-campus fees**

The university fee, the student activity fee, the student government association fee (except School of Social Work) and the student health fee are not charged to students taking off-campus classes.

**Online course fee**

The online course fee is charged for undergraduate and graduate online courses. The fee covers operational and personnel support to develop and maintain online courses.

**Special fee charges**

Because of specialized programs, various schools and departments may charge each student additional fees to cover special materials, equipment breakage and other costs. For specific information about special fees, refer to the Student Accounting Department website or to the specific school or department section in this bulletin.

**Student billing**

Students must pay all applicable tuition, fees, room and board when due. Students are notified at their official VCU email address when their bills are available on the billing and payment site. No paper bills are sent to enrolled students. Tuition and fees for preregistered students, along with charges for housing and dining plans where applicable, are due by the official start of each semester. After the registration period all other students are sent a notification at their official VCU email address when their electronic bill has been issued and should pay by the payment due date indicated on the electronic invoice. Students who fail to pay these charges on time may be assessed a late payment fee. The university reserves the right to revise or alter all tuition and fees, regulations pertaining to student fees, and fee collection procedures at any time.

The installment payment plan assists students in meeting the cost of their higher education by offering a convenient payment option. The university-administered IPP is offered only during the fall and spring semesters. The plan distributes the cost of tuition, fees, housing and dining charges for a semester into four equal installments.
All students attending the university with current charges of $100 or more are eligible to participate. All prior semester balances must be paid in full to be eligible.

Students who receive financial aid are also eligible for participation in the IPP. These students may deduct their aid to determine the net total due. If it is $100 or more, the remaining amount may be paid in installments.

In some cases, a student may receive a financial aid refund, and then subsequent charges for the semester are added to the student’s account. If the student has received a refund, he or she is ineligible to participate in the IPP unless the refund has been repaid to the university in full. The student must then pay the first installment and follow the instructions to enroll in the IPP.

There is a $25 nonrefundable application fee payable with the first installment of each semester. Interest is not assessed on the outstanding balance; however, installments not paid by the payment due date are subject to a late payment penalty. Information about how to participate in the IPP is available online at accounting.vcu.edu/installment (http://accounting.vcu.edu/installment).

Drop vs. withdraw
Drop charges are removed to indicate that the student never attended the class. The student is not eligible to receive financial aid, and any financial aid already credited to the student’s account based on the original course registration will be removed from the student’s account, which may create a balance due to the university.

Withdraw results in the academic grade of W. Charges are assessed and adjusted according to the University Refund Policy. Students may owe a balance to the university.

Refund of tuition and fees
The official university tuition and fees refund policy is applicable only for the fall and spring semesters. This table pertains to both complete withdrawals and reduced course loads for standard classes (excluding short/nonstandard courses). The policy is based on the weeks of the semester and not the class meeting days (if the semester begins on a Thursday, the first week of classes is from Thursday through the following Wednesday).

Refunds (reduction of charges) are calculated on a course-by-course, per-credit-hour basis, disregarding the full-time cap amounts and discounted tuition. Charges are recalculated based on the number of credit hours in which the student remains enrolled in addition to the nonrefundable percentage portion of credit hours for the withdrawn course(s). Students who are enrolled and withdraw from courses may not receive a reduction in charges.

- Students dropping/withdrawing from courses through the first week of class will be entitled to a 100 percent refund of tuition and fees.
- Students withdrawing from courses through the second week of class may be entitled to an 80 percent refund of tuition and the university fee.
- Students withdrawing from courses through the third week of class may be entitled to a 60 percent refund of tuition and the university fee.
- Students withdrawing from courses through the fourth week of class may be entitled to a 40 percent refund of tuition and the university fee.
- Students withdrawing from courses after the fourth week of class are not entitled to receive a refund of tuition and fees.

The refund policy and deadlines of the English Language Program are different from the university’s refund policy for academic courses. Details of the policy may be obtained from the English Language Program office.

A full refund for holiday intersession will be granted if the course is dropped before 4:30 p.m. on the day of the first class meeting. Partial refunds are not granted.

A full refund for a short/nonstandard course’s tuition and applicable fees will be granted if the course is dropped no later than the day following the first day of a given class. No refund of tuition and fees is given for withdrawals of short and nonstandard courses. Students should contact their program administrator for withdrawals from nonstandard classes that are longer than standard classes.

A full refund for summer tuition and applicable fees will be granted if the course is dropped no later than the day following the first day of a given class. (This policy also is applicable if the class does not meet on two consecutive days.) Students reducing their academic course loads to less than full-time (12 credits for undergraduates and nine credits for graduates) before the end of the last day to drop a course will be entitled to a refund of tuition and applicable fees reflecting the reduced course load. Partial refunds are not granted for the summer session.

Students who are financial aid recipients and withdraw from all courses prior to completing 60 percent of the semester are subject to the Federal Return of Title IV Funds Policy. For more details see Federal financial aid refund policy (p. 26).

Refunds will be computed based on the actual withdrawal date certified by the Office of Records and Registration. Refunds will not be made to students who do not attend classes and have not completed the required withdrawal procedure. Refund processing may take approximately two to three weeks. Exceptions to this refund policy are made only in rare instances. Written application for an exception must be filed in the Student Accounting Department to the refund appeals committee within three years.

Refer to the Residential Housing contract and Dining Services’ terms and conditions for housing and dining services refunds.

Requests for refunds that are not generated from the overpayment of financial aid should be made in writing to: VCU Student Accounting Department, P.O. Box 843036, Richmond, VA 23284-3036. Refund request forms are available at the Student Services Center, 1015 Floyd Ave. or 1000 E. Marshall St., Room 323, and on the Web at accounting.vcu.edu/refunds (http://accounting.vcu.edu/refunds).

In accordance with credit card regulations, the university will refund any credit balance that may result on a student’s account as the outcome of a credit card payment back to the credit card account. The remaining credit balance, if any, will be refunded to the student.

Students are responsible for paying any increase in charges that may occur after the generation of any refund.

Outstanding charges
Students who fail to meet payments when due will be assessed late payment penalties and will be denied registration for future classes until they have paid all accrued amounts owed. Students with balances owed
Military services tuition relief, refund and reinstatement guidelines

These guidelines apply to students whose service in the uniformed services (military) has necessitated their sudden withdrawal or prolonged absence from their enrollment at Virginia Commonwealth University and provides for the required re-enrollment of such students. Students are offered the following enrollment secession options:

1. Drop all courses before the end of the add/drop period and receive a full reduction of tuition and fee charges. Students residing in university housing and participating in a dining plan will be released from their housing and dining service contracts and will receive a prorated refund of these charges. Students will be asked to sign the drop request form with the director of military student services indicating that they are not receiving a financial aid refund. If the reduction of charges results in an overpayment on the account after any financial aid or third party awards have been reduced, the student will be issued a refund.

This option might best meet the needs of students who are called to active duty service during the first week of class and received a financial aid refund check or direct deposit.

2. Receive a grade of incomplete (IM – incomplete military) in one or all courses. Students residing in university housing will be released from their housing and dining service contracts and will receive a prorated refund of these charges. Students who chose to take a grade of IM will not have tuition and fees reduced for these courses because, upon receipt of an approved change of grade, credits will still be earned for the semester. Students will have 12 months from the date that they return from active service to complete the course work and earn a course grade. If a student received financial aid, the amount recovered to the financial aid accounts will follow the Federal Financial Aid Refund Policy.

This option might best meet the needs of students who have essentially completed all course work in a class for the semester, but have yet to turn in a final project, an exam or other materials. It should be agreed upon between the instructor and the student that the remaining course work can reasonably be completed during the 12-month period.

3. Accept administrative withdrawal (WM – withdrawn military) from all courses as of the effective date of the orders to active duty. If this option is elected, a full refund of all tuition, fees and prorated room and dining charges will be made. If a student received financial aid, the amount recovered to the financial aid accounts will follow the Federal Financial Aid Refund Policy. If the reductions of charges results in an overpayment on the account after any financial aid or third party awards have been reduced, the student will be issued a refund.

This option might best meet the needs of students who are called to national service in the middle of a semester and have not completed 75 percent of their class requirements. This option also might best meet the needs of students who are leaving the university during the first week of class and received a financial aid refund check or direct deposit as a result of their financial aid.

4. Students who have completed 75 percent of the course requirements at the time of military activation and, notwithstanding certain exceptions noted below, who meet requirements as determined and agreed upon by the faculty instructor and the student may receive full course credit.

Students may receive full course credit if 75 percent of course requirements have been completed, under certain circumstances. The instructor is responsible for determining what percentage of course requirements have been completed based on factors to include but not limited to contact time, examinations, projects, work experience and clinical experience. The awarding of full credit cannot be made where the incomplete requirements are essential components of the course or program required by law or regulatory bodies, required for competency in the work place, or required to complete licensure examinations.

Leaving the university

To initiate this process, the student must provide the Office of Military Student Services with a copy of his or her active duty orders in addition to a printed copy of his or her course registration for that semester and indicate Option 1, 2, 3 or 4 for each course. If Option 4 is selected, the student must provide documentation from the instructor. The director of military student services will forward all documentation to the university registrar to take the appropriate enrollment action, post the appropriate grades and send a copy of the orders and a copy of the student course request statement to the director of financial aid and the director of student accounting.

Returning to the university

Students who withdrew from the university as a result of military deployment, mobilizations or duty changes are entitled to return without having to requalify for admission so long as the student (a) returns after a cumulative absence of no more than five years and (b) notifies the appropriate admissions office of the intent to return to the university not later than three years after the completion of military service obligation. The student may return to the university in the same program of study. With the consultation of an adviser, a comparable program of study may be chosen for discontinued programs.

Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014

codified in 38USC3679(c)
The following individuals shall be charged a rate of tuition not to exceed the in-state rate for tuition and fees purposes:

- A veteran using educational assistance under either chapter 30 (Montgomery G.I. Bill – Active Duty Program) or chapter 33 (Post-9/11 G.I. Bill), of title 38, United States Code, who lives in Virginia while attending a school located in Virginia (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of discharge or release from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more

- Anyone using transferred Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits (38 U.S.C. § 3319) who lives in Virginia while attending a school located in Virginia (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and enrolls in the school within three years of the transferor’s discharge or release from a period of active duty service of 90 days or more

- Anyone described above while he or she remains continuously enrolled (other than during regularly scheduled breaks between courses, semesters or terms) at the same school. The person so described must have enrolled in the school prior to the expiration of the three year period following discharge or release as described above and must be using educational benefits under either chapter 30 or chapter 33, of title 38, United States Code

- Anyone using benefits under the Marine Gunnery Sergeant John David Fry Scholarship (38 U.S.C. § 3311(b)(9)) who lives in Virginia while attending a school located in Virginia (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and the transferor is a member of the uniformed service who is serving on active duty

- Anyone using transferred Post-9/11 G.I. Bill benefits (38 U.S.C. § 3319) who lives in Virginia while attending a school located in Virginia (regardless of his/her formal state of residence) and the transferor is a veteran using educational assistance under either chapter 30 or chapter 33, of title 38, United States Code

The policy shall be read to be amended as necessary to be compliant with the requirements of 38 U.S.C. 3679 as amended.

**Tuition determination and student classification**

Tuition is determined by the number of credit hours a student is taking, the student’s residency classification, course of study and classification level.

**In-state residency**

Eligibility for in-state tuition benefits is determined by Section 23-7.4 of the Code of Virginia. Refer to the Determination of student classification for in-state tuition purposes (p. 15) in the About VCU section of this bulletin for the complete code.

All applicants to VCU who want to be classified as Virginia residents must complete the application for Virginia in-state tuition rates included in the application for admission. The residency determination of the applicant will be conveyed at the time of admission. New and continuing students initially classified as non-Virginians for tuition purposes may request a review of the initial residency determination by completing an application for change of domicile available from the Office of Records and Registration (online). The student must present clear and convincing evidence that he or she is not residing in the state primarily to attend school. The application deadline is 30 days prior to the start of the semester, and it is the responsibility of the student to establish or to file an appeal to change his/her residency classification prior to the start of classes for the semester under consideration. In accordance with the Code of Virginia, applications received after the start of the semester must be considered for the next semester. Submit completed applications with documentation to the university residency appeals officer. Processing may require four to six weeks; therefore it is strongly recommended that applications be submitted earlier than the stated deadline.

The university’s service to students is limited to assuring that they understand the procedures for appealing and that they have access to information about the relevant sections of the Code of Virginia. VCU provides information about the steps of the process and access to the applicable sections of the statute and the associated guidelines. The university also provides qualified staff to review the appeals and make decisions based on the information students provide. The office cannot provide advisement to students as to how to present their case for review; staff members cannot become the student’s advocate since their office must make the decision.

Students approved for a change to in-state status for tuition purposes are notified by mail with copies of their approval letters sent to the Office of Financial Aid and the Student Accounting Department. Students denied this status also are notified by mail. The denial letter informs the student of procedures for appeal of this decision, to include filing an appeal with the University Residency Appeals Committee. Students who submit fraudulent applications, falsify documentation or conceal information will be subject to reclassification, payment of all nonresident fees owed and university discipline.

Please note that a student with in-state status for tuition purposes who exceeds 125 percent of the credit hours needed to complete his program will be assessed a tuition surcharge.

**General academic regulations for all graduate students**

**VCU Graduate Bulletin (catalog)**

The VCU Graduate Bulletin (catalog) 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 Graduate Bulletin (catalog) as well as the 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 this Graduate Bulletin website and on the Graduate School website, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

The archived (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/archive) copies of current and past bulletins (catalogs) reflect all policies and procedures in effect at the beginning of the stated academic year.

Students who maintain continuous enrollment are subject to the curricular requirements of the Graduate Bulletin (catalog) in effect at the time of admission, and to subsequent policy changes approved by the University Graduate Council for immediate implementation.
Students who do not maintain continuous enrollment must reapply for admission and will be subject to the requirements of the Graduate Bulletin (catalog) in effect at the time of readmission, and to subsequent policy changes approved by the University Graduate Council for immediate implementation. (See policy on Exceptions (p. 33).)

Graduate students should contact the Graduate School at any time regarding questions relating to graduate study at VCU.

Revised 5/11/2010
University Graduate Council

University rules and procedures

VCU seeks to foster insight, imagination, creativity, resourcefulness, diligence, honesty and responsibility as well as the education of the men and women enrolled in its graduate programs. Such an enterprise can take place only where the highest standards of academic integrity exist.

Each member of the VCU community has certain responsibilities, rights and privileges. These are stated in some detail in the VCU Rules and Procedures (http://policy.vcu.edu), and all students are responsible for being familiar with provisions of this document. This document also provides for the process whereby disciplinary action, including separation from VCU, may be taken against a member of the university community as a result of behavior that is in violation of the prohibited conduct as stated in the VCU Rules and Procedures.

- The Division of Student Affairs publishes an index of policies, guidelines and procedures (http://www.students.vcu.edu/policies.html).
- The VCU Integrity and Compliance Office maintains the latest versions of all universitywide policies and procedures on its Policy Library website (http://policy.vcu.edu).
- The VCU Graduate Bulletin documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at VCU. It is the responsibility of all graduate students, both on- and off-campus, to be familiar with the Graduate Bulletin, as well as the 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 in the Graduate Bulletin and on the Graduate School website (http://www.gradle.vcu.edu), take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

VCU Honor System

VCU recognizes that honesty, truth and integrity are values central to its mission as an institution of higher education. Therefore, all students are subject to the VCU Honor System (http://www.students.vcu.edu/studentconduct/vcu-honor-system). All graduate students are responsible for being familiar with provisions of this document.

Academic dishonesty is the giving, taking or presenting of information or material by students with the intent of unethically or fraudulently aiding themselves or others on any work that is to be considered in the determination of a grade or the completion of academic requirements. Students in doubt regarding any matter related to the standards of academic integrity in a given course or on a given assignment should consult with the faculty member responsible for the course before presenting the work.

Grade review procedures

Graduate students at VCU have a right to appeal actions of an academic nature. If such action involves a course grade, the Grade Review Procedures as published in the Rules and Procedures should be followed. If such action involves computing, the Computer and Network Resources Use Policy (http://www.ts.vcu.edu/askit/policies-and-publications/technology-policies-guidelines-standards/computer-and-network-resources-use-policy) should be followed.

Dismissal from a graduate degree program

In addition to those standards of conduct described in VCU Rules and Procedures and the VCU Honor System, students enrolled at the university may be dismissed from the academic programs in which they are enrolled for failure to meet prescribed academic program requirements. Students appealing dismissal from their graduate degree programs should first pursue appeals at the program/department and/or the school level. After receiving the program/department and/or school decision, students have the option of filing an appeal with the graduate dean in the process outlined in the Appeal process for students dismissed from a VCU graduate degree program (p. 34).

Other university policies that might impact graduate students include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Alcohol and Drug Policy
- Care and Ethical Use of Animals in Research and Education at VCU
- Employee-Student Consensual Relationships
- Information Security Policy
- Intellectual Property Policy
- Misconduct in Research and Scholarly Activities
- Non-discrimination on the Basis of Disability
- Prohibition of Sexual Harassment
- Responsible Conduct in Research and Scholarship
- VCU IRB Written Policies and Procedures

External agencies with policies that might impact graduate students include, but are not limited to, the following:

- State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (http://www.schev.edu) – SCHEV
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (http://www.sacscoc.org) – SACS-COC

Revised 5/14/2013
University Graduate Council

Degree requirements

The minimum course requirements, rules of admission to degree candidacy, language requirements, thesis or dissertation requirements, comprehensive examinations, transfer of credits and the like are specified for each program in the individual program sections on this bulletin website. Additionally, many schools, programs and departments maintain websites and publish special brochures, student manuals and program guides that may be requested from the appropriate dean or program director.

In all cases, the official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published in the Graduate Bulletin and on the Graduate School website (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu), are fully applicable to all graduate programs and graduate students, both on- and
off-campus, and take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines. Graduate students should contact the Graduate School with questions regarding any discrepancies.

The university reserves the right to revoke any degree, certificate or other university recognition for cause. In addition, any time following the award of a degree, certificate or other university recognition, the university reserves the right to take appropriate action, including, but not limited to, the revocation of such degree, certificate or other university recognition, on the basis of academic misconduct discovered subsequent to, but which occurred prior to, the awarding of the degree, certificate or other university recognition. More specifically, when an action that constitutes a violation of the VCU Honor System leads to a finding that invalidates a major piece of work required for a degree, certificate or other university recognition so that the validity of the degree, certificate or other university recognition is jeopardized, the student or former student will be subject to a sanction that may include (a) rejection of a thesis, dissertation or other work, (b) revocation of a certification or other university recognition or (c) revocation of a degree.

Academic advising

Students are responsible for the proper completion of their academic programs. They must be familiar with the Graduate Bulletin (catalog) as well as all additional academic regulations promulgated by individual schools and departments.

The offices of the deans and department chairs, in cooperation with the advisers and faculty, endeavor to follow the academic progress of all students, and students are encouraged to seek counsel whenever there is a need. If advisers are unable to resolve problems satisfactorily, they will refer students to others as deemed appropriate and necessary.

In order to aid advising, students are responsible for maintaining current mailing addresses on file with the Office of Records and Registration (http://rar.vcu.edu), as well as with the schools and departments in which they are enrolled.

Students also are required to obtain an official VCU student e-mail account within one week of the beginning of the first semester of enrollment and are responsible for reading in a timely fashion university-related communications sent to their official VCU student e-mail accounts. Information on how to set up an account is available online at http://my.mail.vcu.edu.

The academic advising process requires periodic checks by graduate students, advisers and program directors to ensure the accuracy of students’ academic histories. Unofficial academic histories are available online through eServices (http://www.eservices.vcu.edu), or official transcripts may be obtained for a fee from the Office of Records and Registration (http://rar.vcu.edu).

It is the responsibility of all graduate students to:

1. Check their records no later than the end of the add/drop registration period at the beginning of each semester to ensure that their registrations are correct
2. Check their records at the end of each semester to ensure that their academic histories are current and correct

Students who wish to appeal assigned grades must follow the grade review procedure as articulated in the Grades section (p. 42) this Bulletin and as published in VCU Rules and Procedures (http://policy.vcu.edu).

Requests for any other changes to an academic history must be submitted in writing by students to their graduate program directors no later than 14 calendar days after the beginning of the following semester (for the fall semester, 14 calendar days after the beginning of the spring semester; for the spring or summer semester, 14 calendar days after the beginning of the fall semester).

Graduate students, program directors and academic school deans/designees are required to conduct a final review of all academic histories as part of the application-to-graduation check-out process as articulated in Graduation requirements section (p. 40) of this Bulletin and on the Graduate School website. A student’s signature on the application to graduate is acknowledgement that the student has reviewed the academic history and that it is correct. Final approval signatures by graduate program directors and academic school deans/designees on the final application to graduate confirm that the student’s academic history is complete, correct and final and that no future requests for changes to the academic history will be considered once the student has been approved to graduate.

Revised 5/11/2010
University Graduate Council

Exceptions

Exceptions to graduate policies must be approved by the dean of the Graduate School. Requests for exceptions to Graduate School policies are to be made in writing by students to their graduate advisers/program directors. The graduate advisers/program directors will forward their recommendations, along with copies of student requests and supporting documentation, to the school dean/dean’s designee, who will review and approve or disapprove recommendations. Recommendations approved by the school dean/dean’s designee will then be forwarded to the dean of the Graduate School, who represents the University Graduate Council.

Withdrawal from a graduate program

Graduate students in good academic standing, according to the academic rules and regulations articulated in the Graduate Bulletin and by individual graduate programs, may request to withdraw from a graduate program at any time. Students should notify their graduate program directors as soon as possible of the intent to withdraw from the program. The program director will then notify the Graduate School via the special action form procedure. The effective term of withdrawal is recorded as the end of the last term of active registration.

Withdrawal from a program does not constitute a withdrawal from course work. Students who wish to also withdraw from classes should do so according to the procedures in the Withdrawal from classes (p. 36) section of the Bulletin.

Students who are not in good academic standing should be reviewed for possible termination from their academic programs as prescribed in the Graduate Bulletin (see Appeal process, students terminated from a VCU graduate program (p. 34)).

Revised 5/8/2012
University Graduate Council
Appeal process, students dismissed from a VCU graduate program

1. Dismissal process
   a. Dismissal is initiated at the program/department level by advisers/graduate program directors/department chairs via a special action form indicating the reason with relevant documentation attached. Reasons for dismissal may include but are not limited to:
      • Academic (D or F in class, too many grades of C or U, as determined by the student’s academic program in conjunction with Graduate Council policy, GPA below 3.0, failure to secure a major adviser, failure of comprehensive exams, lack of progress on/unsuccessful defense of thesis/dissertation)
      • Discontinuous enrollment
      • Exceeding time limit
      • Honor policy violation
      • Academic misconduct
      • Professional misconduct
   b. Request for dismissal is forwarded to the school dean/dean’s designee, who reviews the action, signs the form and forwards it to the graduate dean within 10 business days.
   c. The graduate dean/dean’s designee reviews the action, signs the form, notifies the Office of Records and Registration and sends a dismissal letter to the student via office VCU email. This letter must include a statement of the student’s right to appeal and inform the student that appeals must be initiated at the program/department and/or school level within 10 business days after receipt of the letter.

2. Appeals process

Preamble

Virginia Commonwealth University, through its Graduate School, defines minimum standards for admission and sets general rules governing eligibility for continuation. However, the individual graduate programs, through their respective graduate faculty and graduate program procedures, exercise principal responsibility for evaluating graduate student work. It is assumed that most disputes over evidence of unsatisfactory progress will be reconciled through discussions between faculty and students at the school/department/program level.

It is important that each graduate student be fully informed, not only of the VCU Graduate School policies and procedures, but also of any additional departmental program requirements beyond those established by the Graduate School. A copy of each departmental graduate policy statement should be readily available to all graduate students. The department should inform graduate students of graduate policy statement should be readily available to all graduate students.

A student may appeal dismissal from a graduate program under the following procedures.
   a. The student has the burden of proof in all appeals.
   b. The student must initiate the appeal process at the program level within 10 business days after receipt of the graduate dean’s certified dismissal letter and according to the program/department and/or school/college appeal processes. All program/department and/or school/college appeal processes should be exhausted prior to initiating an appeal to the graduate dean.
   c. If all program/department and/or school/college appeal processes fail to resolve the issue, the student must provide the graduate dean with written notification of appeal, to include justification and all supporting documentation (correspondence and other paperwork leading up to the dismissal), within 10 business days of the school/college decision. All documentation must be provided at the time of written notification of appeal.
   d. The graduate dean provides the graduate program director and school/college dean with copies of the student’s appeal and asks the graduate program director/dean/department chair to provide the Graduate School with their response, including copies of correspondence and any other supporting documentation that led to the dismissal. The graduate program director and school dean must respond to the graduate dean’s request for information within 10 business days.
   e. The graduate dean will review the materials and may refer the matter to the admissions and academic standards committee of the University Graduate Council. The committee is composed of faculty members from various divisions of the university plus one ex-officio voting member from the Graduate School. AAS members who have direct knowledge of the student’s case will be recused. A minimum of four members must be present to constitute a quorum. The committee will convene to review the documentation and consider the positions of the parties. At its meeting, the committee will hear presentations from and ask questions of the student and representatives of the school/department/program. The student and the school/department /program representative may each bring up to two persons who may provide support and advice but who may not speak for the parties.
   f. After considering the materials submitted and the presentations by the parties, the committee will convene in closed session and decide, by majority vote, whether to recommend that the graduate dean uphold or reverse the dismissal. In the event of a less than unanimous decision, both opinions will be communicated to the graduate dean. The graduate dean renders the final decision and notifies the student in writing within 10 business days by certified mail to the student’s official address on file with the university.
   g. The student may be allowed to register for courses during the pendency of the appeal, understanding that he/she will be dropped retroactively if the dismissal is upheld.

University Graduate Council

Student load

Student load is the total number of credits for which students are enrolled in any semester. Students may be either full-time or part-time, dependent upon program rules. Students who are fully funded as VCU graduate assistants with tuition remission are classified as “full-time” during any semester in which they enroll for nine or more credits (three during the summer if funded on a 12-month stipend). Departmental requirements vary; therefore, funded students should verify expected course loads with their graduate program directors.

The maximum number of credits for which students may enroll in any semester without special permission is 15. More than 15 credits is an overload. More than 15 credits may result in increased tuition.
Permission to enroll for more than 15 credits may be granted upon
the written recommendation of the adviser, through departmental
governance procedures, to the dean of the Graduate School.

Each summer course is designed to provide the equivalent of one
semester's work. With careful scheduling, it is possible for students to
earn as many as 15 credits during the summer if course work extends
over the full summer semester calendar. Permission to enroll for more
than 15 credits in the summer semester may be granted upon the
written recommendation of the adviser through departmental governing
procedures to the dean of the Graduate School.

Summer success is predicted on the academic standard of one credit
per week. Six credits in five weeks or nine credits in eight weeks is
considered a normal load, but VCU does not permit six credits in four
weeks or nine credits in six weeks. Suggested scheduling combinations
are printed in the Summer Schedule of Classes or are available online at
vcu.edu/schedule (http://www.vcu.edu/schedule).

Graduate courses are not offered during the winter intersession.

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University Graduate Council

Attendance and enrollment policies

Class attendance
Instructors are responsible for clearly informing students in writing of
the attendance requirement for each course and the consequences of
poor attendance. Students must abide by the requirements as announced
in each separate class even though the requirements may vary widely
among courses.

The instructional programs at VCU are based upon a series of class
meetings involving lectures, discussions, field experiences, special
readings and reporting assignments. Therefore it is important for each
student to be in attendance on a regular basis. A student who misses
a class session is responsible for completing all material covered or
assignments made during the absence.

Students having attendance problems should contact the instructor to
explain the reasons for nonattendance and to discuss the feasibility of
continuing in the course. If the student has fallen so far behind that the
successful completion of the course is impossible, the student should
withdraw from the course before the last day to withdraw from a course
as published in the academic calendar.

Religious observances
It is the policy of VCU to accord students, on an individual basis, the
opportunity to observe their traditional religious holidays. Students
wishing to observe a religious holiday of special importance must provide
advance written notification to each instructor by the end of the second
week of classes. On these dates, instructors are encouraged to avoid
scheduling one-time-only activities that cannot be replicated. Through
such strategies as providing alternative assignments or examinations,
granting permission for audio or video recordings or the use of the
Internet, faculty members are expected to make reasonable academic
accommodations for students who are absent because of religious
observance.

Mandated short-term military training
Students called to report for mandated military training must provide
advance written notification to each instructor several weeks in advance
of training. Faculty members are expected to make reasonable academic
accommodations for students who are absent because of mandated
short-term military training (short-term is defined as several days not to
exceed two weeks).

Enrollment
Any person engaged in graduate study at VCU must enroll each semester
in which he/she is engaged in any form of study at VCU that involves
use of university facilities, laboratories/studios and/or libraries, or who
is supervised by or consults with a faculty member concerning graduate
work on a project, work of art, thesis or dissertation.

Continuous enrollment for degree-seeking
graduate students

Continuous enrollment – Pre-candidate
Once admitted to a degree program, a graduate student is expected to
comply with minimum enrollment of one course per 12-month period
from the beginning of his/her program.

Continuous enrollment – Candidate
A graduate student who has completed course requirements for a degree
must register for at least one credit at VCU each fall and spring semester
until the degree is awarded. Students must be enrolled during their
graduation semesters.

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University Graduate Council

Change in registration
Once students have registered for classes, changes in registration must
be made according to the procedures listed below. Whenever students
make any changes in registration, they should keep copies of their new
schedules as verification of the changes. Changes in registration may
affect financial aid. Students are advised to consult with a financial aid
counselor before making any changes to their enrollment status. See the
Financing graduate school (p. 21) section of this chapter for detailed
information.

Cancellation of registration
To cancel registration, students must notify, in writing, the Office of
Records and Registration before the end of the add/drop period, or drop
all classes using the Web registration system. Refunds are issued in
accordance with procedures described under the refunds section of this
chapter. For readmission guidelines, refer to the admissions section.

Auditing graduate classes
Class size permitting, students may register for courses on an audit
basis. Auditing a course means students enroll in courses, but do not
receive academic credit upon completion of the courses. Students who
register on an audit basis are subject to attendance regulations of that
class and, unless otherwise specified at the discretion of the instructor,
are subject to the same course requirements as other students in the
class. Students who register on an audit basis may be administratively
withdrawn by instructors for a violation of class requirements for audit
students, before or after the normal withdrawal deadline as posted on the
VCU Academic Calendar (http://www.vcu.edu/academiccalendars). Audit students are charged the regular rate of tuition and fees. An audit course is counted as part of a student’s semester load in terms of classification as a full-time student. Courses taken for audit, however, do not satisfy minimum enrollment requirements for students receiving graduate teaching or research assistantships, graduate fellowships or university graduate scholarships. **Students may register for audit only during add/drop and late registration periods as a new registration and not as a change from credit to audit.** Changes in registration status from audit to credit or from credit to audit will not be approved after the last day of add/drop registration. The grade of AU is not included in the calculation of the GPA.

Revised 5/11/2010
University Graduate Council

### Leave of absence and withdrawal policies

#### Leave of absence

Graduate students may request leaves of absence from their programs through written appeals to their advisers. The graduate advisers/program directors will forward the requests to the appropriate school dean/dean designee who, following departmental governance procedures, will forward their recommendations and any supporting documentation to the dean of the Graduate School who will respond for the university. Students who are out of compliance with continuous enrollment policies (see policy on Continuous enrollment for degree-seeking graduate students (p. 35)) and who have not been granted approved leaves of absence by the graduate dean must reapply for admission to VCU and to their graduate degree programs. **Graduate students with approved leaves of absence are exempted from continuous enrollment requirements for the LOA period.** Students should note that while leaves of absence temporarily suspend continuous enrollment requirements, they do not extend time limits for completion of degrees. (See policy on Exceptions (p. 33).)

Leaves of absence must be requested and approved before or within a current semester. **Requests for retroactive leaves of absence will not be approved.**

The posting of the leave of absence on the student’s academic record prevents registration for the approved leave of absence period. If the student wishes to return to academic study before the end of the approved leave of absence period, the Graduate School must be notified via the special action form process so that the leave of absence is cancelled and the registration hold removed.

#### Withdrawal from classes

To withdraw officially from VCU courses, students must submit complete official withdrawal forms to the Office of Records and Registration by the official withdrawal date as published in the official VCU Calendar (http://academiccalendars.vcu.edu). The official withdrawal form is obtained from the Office of Records and Registration (Monroe Park Campus: Harris Hall, First Floor; MCV Campus: Sanger Hall, Room 1-055). Students may also withdraw on line via VCU eServices. Failure to complete this process may result in the assignment of failing grades in all or some of the courses.

A grade of withdrawn (W) will be recorded on the permanent student academic record for all courses from which students officially withdraw.

### Health-related withdrawals

**While graduate students are expected to work toward completion of their degrees without interruption, health-related problems may necessitate an interruption of their studies.**

For a protracted illness, a student may choose to ask for an approved leave of absence (see leave of absence policy above).

Some students may experience medical conditions that make them unable to complete their studies once a semester is in progress. If this occurs before the last day of add/drop registration, students should drop their classes via eServices. If an illness occurs after add/drop but before the last day to withdraw, per the academic calendar (http://academiccalendars.vcu.edu), students should withdraw from their classes through the normal withdrawal process via eServices.

After the last day to withdraw but prior to the last day of classes per the academic calendar — and before a final class grade has been assigned and/or posted to the academic history — students with medical problems should petition their academic deans (or dean designees) for a medical withdrawal from all courses. Students must present documentation of their medical condition that establishes a significant degree of impairment in continuing their studies. This documentation must include a letter, written on letterhead, from a licensed health care provider that establishes the dates of treatment, the diagnosis and the degree of impairment that the condition has created. The letter should also provide the date when the student became unable to attend classes, when the impairment was considered significant enough to affect academic performance and the anticipated date of return to school. The medical withdrawal should be submitted to the Graduate School via the special action form process.

The student’s transcript will reflect a grade of W for all courses approved for a medical withdrawal taken that semester. No special designation for medical withdrawals is made on the transcript, and tuition and fees are levied in the same manner as other withdrawals (see withdrawal from classes policy above). Medical withdrawals may impact future financial aid in relation to satisfactory academic progress.

In the event that a student’s health problem poses a danger to the student, to patients or to others with whom the student may come in contact, and the student is unable or refuses to initiate steps to withdraw as stated above, administrative withdrawal of the student may be made by the dean of the Graduate School upon consultation with the appropriate faculty and a qualified physician.

Because curricular and course content changes may occur and a student’s progress toward a degree may be affected adversely because of an extended absence, specific time periods may be imposed by individual schools with respect to the length of time allowed for absence from school. If there is a delay in return beyond the allotted time period without written consent of the dean of the Graduate School, the student may petition for return with advanced standing.

Prior to returning to school, the student must submit a statement from a physician documenting that the condition that necessitated the withdrawal has been corrected to a point where the student can complete successfully all curriculum requirements with reasonable accommodation including classroom, laboratory, clinical and fieldwork experience.

Revised 5/14/2013
Immunization requirements

The commonwealth of Virginia and VCU require that all full-time students supply validated immunization records to University Student Health Services. This requirement must be completed prior to registering for a second semester. Failure to meet these requirements will result in a hold placed on the student’s second semester registration. The hold can be removed only upon receipt of the students documented records.

The immunization record must be completed fully and accurately. There are two ways a student may fulfill all requirements:

1. Students may have their health care provider transfer the information from their medical records and sign the form.

or

2. Students may complete the top demographic section of the Certificate of Immunization and attach a copy of official documents from undergraduate institutions, military records, high school or other records that fulfill all requirements to the Certificate of Immunization.

A copy of the Certificate of Immunization, which details the necessary immunizations, is available on the Student Health Services website (http://www.students.vcu.edu/health/immunizations).

Students who cannot provide documented evidence of all required immunizations must see their health care provider, health department or Student Health Services to complete all requirements.

Change of graduate degree program

Students wishing to change to a different graduate degree must submit a new application to the new program with all materials required of applicants to that program. The dean of the Graduate School will work with the administrators of the two programs to facilitate the admission process for eligible students.

Revised 5/10/2016
University Graduate Council

Transfer credit

A maximum of 50 percent of the didactic hours required for a graduate degree or any graduate certificate program may be transferred from another institution and, if not applied previously toward another degree, may be applied toward a degree. Prerequisite course work that does not count toward the VCU degree may not be transferred.

Transfer grades for course work taken at VCU, either as a nondegree-seeking student or in a previous graduate matriculation for which a degree was never awarded, are included in the calculation of the VCU graduate grade-point average and all other graduate statistics. Transfer grades for course work taken at another institution are not recorded on the VCU transcript (only the names of courses, source institutions and credit hours) and are not included in the calculation of the VCU graduate grade-point average and other graduate statistics.

Recommendations regarding transfer credit are initiated at the program and academic school levels and reviewed and approved by the Graduate School. All matriculated students must obtain final written approval from the Graduate School for course work approved for transfer before registering for course work at another institution. Individual schools/programs may have more stringent requirements. Requests for transfer of course work must include an official copy of the transcript from the college or university where the course work was taken and a VCU Graduate School transfer equivalency form (see Graduate School website/forms).

Graduate credit hours earned toward a VCU certificate may be applied one time to degree requirements for master’s or Ph.D. programs.

Graduate credit hours earned toward a VCU certificate may be applied toward only one certificate. The determination of the acceptability of specific courses to be used for both the certificate and the graduate degree will be the responsibility of that master’s or Ph.D. program or school.

All transfer work must be at the A or B grade level from a regionally accredited college or university. “Credit” or “pass” grades can be accepted only if approved by petitioning the graduate advisory committee or equivalent of the student’s school or college. Students must be in good standing both at VCU and at the institutions from which the credits were earned. Some programs will not accept credits earned as a nondegree-seeking graduate student for transfer. VCU will not accept credits that do not apply to a graduate degree at the offering institution for transfer, nor will it accept credits from unaccredited institutions for transfer. These criteria apply to all domestic and international institutions.

Course work taken under the auspices of any study abroad program, including the study abroad program at VCU, is classified as course work taken at an international institution for purposes of determining if the course work may count toward a VCU graduate degree. Registration for such course work does not guarantee that the course work will count toward a VCU graduate degree. All study abroad graduate course work is subject to the same review and approval process if the course work is to count toward a VCU graduate degree.

University Graduate Council

Credit for military service, career or life experience

The Graduate School does not grant graduate-level credit for any type of military service or career or life experience.

The Graduate School may grant credit for formal military service school graduate-level courses that have received positive recommendation by the Commission on Accreditation of Service Experiences of the American Council on Education as stated in the ACE’s “Guide to the Evaluation of Educational Experiences in the Armed Services.” (http://www.acenet.edu/news-room/Pages/Military-Guide-Online.aspx)

Recommendations regarding the transfer of military course work are initiated at the program and academic school levels and reviewed and approved by the Graduate School and must meet all other criteria for transfer credit as articulated in the transfer credit policy.

Revised 5/10/2011; 5/14/2013
University Graduate Council

Degree candidacy

A graduate student admitted to a program or track 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.

Degree candidacy requirements vary from program to program and may include but are not limited to such milestones as successful completion of all or a portion of all required didactic course work, the passing of written and/or oral comprehensive examinations, the identification of the thesis/dissertation adviser and/or committee, and/or the successful defense of the thesis/dissertation prospectus.

Upon satisfactory completion of degree candidacy requirements, the graduate student must submit a notice of admission to master’s or doctoral degree candidacy form (available on the Graduate School website (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/student/candidacy.html)) to his/her program director. The student’s signature acknowledges that he/she has read and understands the policies regarding research involving human or animal subjects (Information on human and animal subjects can be found on the website of the Office of Research and Innovation (http://www.research.vcu.edu)) as well as continuous enrollment requirements (p. 35). Both the program director and the school’s dean or dean’s designee must sign the form to confirm the student’s eligibility for admission to degree candidacy and forward it to the graduate dean for final approval and recording of admission to degree candidacy. The graduate dean will formally notify the student of admission to degree candidacy.

The degree candidacy form must be submitted before the student formally begins the final thesis/dissertation/research project but no later than the semester preceding the semester in which the student graduates. Failure to submit the degree candidacy form in a timely manner may delay graduation.

A graduate student approved for degree candidacy must register for at least one graduate credit hour at VCU each fall and spring semester until the degree is awarded. Students must be enrolled during their graduation semesters. Graduate students with approved leaves of absence are exempted from continuous enrollment requirements for the LOA period. Students should note that while a leave of absence temporarily suspends the continuous enrollment requirement, it does not extend the time limit for completion of the degree.

Revised 5/8/2012
University Graduate Council

Theses/dissertations

Comprehensive examinations

Comprehensive examination requirements and administration of the thesis/dissertation process vary by program and academic school. Graduate students should refer to the guidelines established by their programs regarding specific program requirements. In addition, graduate students should refer to the thesis and dissertation manual found on the Graduate School website (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/student/thesis.html) for guidelines regarding the preparation and submission of theses and dissertations and for scheduling the final defense.

Master’s degree candidates may have a thesis requirement — or its equivalent in the form of a research project, performance, exhibit or other production. In some programs, master’s degree candidates may elect a non-thesis option. In such cases, the program may allow a candidate to change from the thesis to the non-thesis option, or vice versa, once. Such action requires written approval of the department head and the faculty adviser and/or the student’s advisory committee.

All doctoral candidates are required to prepare dissertations and the associated additional submission requirements as articulated in the thesis and dissertation manual.

At the time of defense, a thesis or dissertation must be approved by members of a student’s advisory committee with no more than one negative vote. A committee member’s approval is given by signing the ETD approval form (http://graduate.vcu.edu/student/thesis.html). A disapproving committee member must also sign the approval form as a dissenting member and must provide a written dissenting opinion to be sent to the Graduate School.

Revised 5/8/2012
University Graduate Council

Graduate advisory committees

Graduate advisory committees shall be appointed for each master's degree candidate for whom there is a requirement to produce a thesis or its equivalent in the form of a research project, performance, exhibit or other production. The committee will coordinate and supervise the preparation of the thesis or its equivalent. The committee shall have a minimum of three faculty members, one of whom should be from a discipline other than the discipline of the candidate. The chair of the committee will be designated as the candidate’s faculty adviser. Departments/program directors will appoint advisers for master’s degree candidates for whom a thesis or its equivalent is not required. Every member of the committee must hold graduate faculty or affiliate graduate faculty appointment. The chair and at least one other committee member must hold VCU graduate faculty status. It is expected that all members of the committee will be present at any thesis proposal and thesis defense. In the event that a single member of the committee is unable to attend, the committee may meet with the written approval of the graduate program director. If more than one member of the committee is unable to attend, the defense must be rescheduled. The chair must be present for the defense of a thesis proposal and the final thesis.

A graduate dissertation committee shall be appointed for each doctoral candidate. The committee will have a minimum of four faculty members, including a chair, who will serve as the candidate’s faculty adviser. At least two members must be from within the candidate’s discipline and at least one from another discipline. Every member of the committee must hold graduate faculty or affiliate graduate faculty appointment. The chair and at least two other committee members must hold VCU graduate faculty status. It is expected that all members of the committee will be present at the dissertation proposal and dissertation defense. In the event that a single member of the committee is unable to attend, the committee may meet with the written approval of the graduate program director. If more than one member of the committee is unable to attend, the defense must be rescheduled. The chair must be present for the defense of a dissertation proposal and the dissertation defense.

Upon satisfactory completion of all program requirements for admission to candidacy, doctoral matriculants will take written and/or oral comprehensive examinations administered by their major departments or schools. Successful completion of the examinations shall entitle students to advance to doctoral degree candidacy status. Candidates are then allowed to proceed with the research and preparation of their
dissertations and any other doctoral degree requirements designated by their departments.

In the event of failure, students may be permitted to retake comprehensive examinations one time only. The re-examination requires the approval of the appropriate graduate program committee.

Revised 5/14/2013
University Graduate Council

Graduate faculty and affiliate graduate faculty roles and responsibilities

VCU Graduate School Bylaws (http://www.vcu.edu/media/graduate-school/docs/ pdf/110401-01GraduateSchoolWebsiteBylawsPDF.pdf) articulate eligibility criteria for membership on the graduate faculty and provisions for affiliate graduate faculty appointments. All members of a graduate advisory or thesis or dissertation committee must be a member of the graduate faculty or hold an appointment as an affiliate graduate faculty member. All graduate faculty may chair thesis committees; however, only graduate faculty holding the Ph.D. or equivalent degree may chair a dissertation committee. An affiliate graduate faculty member may advise and serve, but not chair, thesis or dissertation committees.

Appointment to affiliate graduate faculty status must clearly articulate the roles and responsibilities and the duration of the appointment.

Appointment for purposes of serving on a graduate advisory or thesis and dissertation committee authorizes the affiliate graduate faculty member to fully participate in all activities defined for the group by the individual program guidelines, except for chairing the committee. If the administration and evaluation of comprehensive examinations is explicitly articulated as a responsibility of the graduate advisory or thesis or dissertation committee, then any affiliate graduate faculty appointed to the committee may administer and evaluate the comprehensive examination. If comprehensive examinations are administered and evaluated by a different committee, then an affiliate graduate faculty member may administer and evaluate the comprehensive examination only if such a responsibility is articulated clearly in the recommendation for affiliate graduate faculty membership by the academic school dean and approved by the graduate dean.

Revised 5/10/2011
University Graduate Council

Grades of satisfactory (S), unsatisfactory (U) or fail (F) in thesis and dissertation courses

All thesis and dissertation credits are to be graded each semester as satisfactory (S), unsatisfactory (U) or fail (F). There is no limit to the number of these credits a student may take while pursuing completion of the degree. Receipt of the grade of U is formal notification to the student of unsatisfactory progress. A grade of U is a permanent grade and associated credits do not count toward a degree. Future satisfactory performance following a grade of U is reflected in the assignment of the grade of S in subsequent semesters. A grade of S or U is not included in the calculation of the GPA. A student who receives a final grade of F in the thesis or dissertation will be dismissed from the graduate program. A student who receives three Us in a thesis/dissertation course will be dismissed from the program.

Revised 5/10/2016
University Graduate Council

Electronic theses/dissertations – mandatory

Electronic theses and dissertations are digital representations of the traditional work completed by graduate students in partial fulfillment of requirements for graduate degrees. An ETD can be a simple textual document converted to a standard electronic format such as Adobe PDF or a complex combination of images and formats.

The VCU Graduate School thesis and dissertation website, as developed by the University Graduate Council and VCU Libraries, serves as a guide for the preparation of electronic graduate theses and dissertations for graduate students in all programs within the university. Information and a video tutorial are available online at guides.library.vcu.edu/etd (http://guides.library.vcu.edu/etd).

Thesis/dissertation submission deadlines

All requirements for theses/dissertations must be completed by the deadline published in the Academic Calendar (http://academiccalendars.vcu.edu) of the semester in which the candidate plans to graduate, including:

• Final defense of thesis/dissertation
• ETD approval form with all approval signatures, including the graduate dean’s and, if applicable, documentation of IRB or IACUC approval number
• Submission of the ETD to the VCU Scholar’s Compass according to instructions in the VCU Graduate School thesis and dissertation manual (http://graduate.vcu.edu/student/thesis.html) (Candidate should confirm with adviser/program director all internal schedules for submission of copy, defense and approval.)
• Survey of Earned Doctorates (All doctoral students must complete the SED. In order to complete the survey, go to: https://sed.norc.org/survey. Refer to the Graduate School thesis and dissertation manual (http://graduate.vcu.edu/student/thesis.html) for further information.)
• Publication with ProQuest (All doctoral dissertations must be published with ProQuest. Dissertations are submitted directly by the student through the UMI/ProQuest’s ETD administrator site (http://www.etdadmin.com/cgi-bin/school?siteId=242) for VCU. Submitting to ProQuest does not satisfy the university’s requirement of submission. You must submit to the VCU Scholar’s Compass separately in order to fulfill this requirement for graduation.)

Satisfactory academic progress

To remain in good academic standing students must continue to make satisfactory progress toward their degrees. Unsatisfactory grades and/or a GPA below 3.0 may warrant review for possible dismissal from their programs. Specifically, students may not present courses receiving less than a C for fulfilling degree requirements.

Further grounds for lack of satisfactory academic standing may include:

• Failure to secure a major adviser, failure of comprehensive exams, lack of progress on/unsuccessful defense of thesis/dissertation
• Discontinuous enrollment
• Exceeding time limit
• Honor policy violation
• Academic misconduct
• Professional misconduct

At the end of each semester, graduate faculty advisers and program directors will review the academic progress of all graduate students in their programs. The academic standing of any graduate students who receive multiple grades of C or grades of D or F will be reviewed for possible dismissal from their programs. Although the grade of U is not included in the calculation of the graduate GPA, graduate students who receive one or more grades of U will be considered for possible dismissal.

Students who have completed all minimum degree requirements but who are out of compliance with minimum graduation requirements (i.e., graduate grade-point average, 20 percent C or below, 50 percent 500-/600-level course work, etc.), may be allowed, with the permission of their graduate faculty advisers, program directors, academic deans/ dean designees and the Graduate School to take additional course work to meet minimum University Graduate Council graduation requirements. Requests for such actions must be processed via the special action form according to the instructions articulated in the Exceptions policy (p. 33) in the Graduate Bulletin. Students will have a maximum of one calendar year to complete such additional requirements. At the end of that time, if students are still out of compliance, they must be dismissed from the program for lack of academic progress.

University Graduate Council

Time limit for completion of requirements and eligibility of courses

The time limit for a graduate degree will not extend beyond a period of six years for graduate certificates and master's degrees and eight years for doctoral degrees.

Course work completed before matriculation and applied toward the degree, including course work at VCU and that transferred from other institutions, will be evaluated by the program/department to determine whether it can be used to fulfill degree requirements. For course work that was taken more than eight years prior to the completion of the VCU degree, the program/department will evaluate the course work for acceptability and report those courses deemed acceptable to the dean of the Graduate School. (See policy on Exceptions (p. 33).)

Revised 5/11/2010; 5/10/2011
University Graduate Council

Graduation requirements

All degrees are conferred by the VCU Board of Visitors upon recommendation of the graduate faculty.

Candidates for degrees are eligible for graduation upon completion of all academic requirements in effect at the time of official matriculation into the program, provided the students are continuously enrolled and provided the requirements are met within the time limit specified by the school or program and the University Graduate Council. Students failing to satisfy the time requirement and who are readmitted to their programs shall satisfy requirements in effect at the time of readmission.

Degrees are granted at the close of the semester or summer session in which students complete their work. Degrees will not be granted unless all financial obligations have been resolved with VCU’s Student Accounting Department. Students must be enrolled at the time of application (i.e., the semester in which students graduate).

No degrees will be conferred unless students make formal application to graduate.

Degrees will be awarded and diplomas issued in a current semester only. Students who do not submit/complete their applications to graduate in the semester in which they actually complete their programs will be awarded their degrees in the semester in which they apply to graduate. In such cases, a text notation will be added to the transcript to indicate the date that course work for the degree was completed. Program directors and academic school deans must submit a special action request to the Graduate School to this effect that also includes a request for a waiver of the requirement that the students must be enrolled at the time of application/reapplication. A request for a waiver of the enrollment requirement must document that the student has completed all degree requirements and is not using any university resources (i.e., libraries, computer labs, faculty advising, etc.)

Graduation applications must be submitted by students to their advisers or deans no later than the dates indicated in the university’s academic calendars (http://academiccalendars.vcu.edu) on the Web. Students should schedule conferences with their advisers well ahead of the deadline and should note that the application requires the approval of the adviser, the department chair or the school director of graduate studies, and the school dean. Credit is applicable toward only one degree unless students are admitted to a course of study that allows a defined number of shared courses. Graduate credit hours earned toward a VCU graduate certificate may be applied one time to degree requirements for master’s or Ph.D. programs. Graduate credit hours earned toward a VCU graduate certificate may be applied toward only one certificate. The determination of the acceptability of specific courses to be used for both the certificate and the graduate degree will be the responsibility of that master’s or Ph.D. program or school.

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University Graduate Council

Graduation checklist

The total number of semester credits required for graduation depends upon the degree program. Specific information may be found under degree program descriptions. In addition to the specific requirements listed by the department, the following graduation checklist for graduate students, advisers and program directors summarizes all general requirements for graduation as determined by the University Graduate Council.

• All provisional or probationary conditions of admission have been met
• Candidates enrolled at time of application/reapplication to graduate (i.e., semester in which candidates plan to graduate)
• Overall graduate GPA is greater than or equal to 3.0
• Graduate GPA based on all graduate course work attempted after acceptance into program
• For repeated courses, both original grade and repeat grades included in calculation of graduate GPA
• No courses receiving grades less than C presented to fulfill degree requirements (Individual programs reserve the right to establish more stringent requirements regarding acceptance of C grades.)
• No course work approved for transfer below grade of B; no course work approved for transfer included in calculation of GPA
• Graduate course work only (500 level or higher) may be applied to a graduate degree, with at least one-half of required course work designated exclusively for graduate students (600 or higher)
• All Incompletes (I) converted to letter grade by last day of class of semester in which candidate plans to graduate
• All grades of Continued (CO), Progress (PR) and No Grade (NG) converted to letter grades by last day of class of semester in which candidate plans to graduate
• All course work taken within prescribed time limits (master’s, six years; Ph.D., eight years, with any extensions approved by Graduate School)
• All requirements for theses/dissertations must be completed by the deadline published in the academic calendar (http://academiccalendars.vcu.edu) of the semester in which the candidate plans to graduate, including:
  • Final defense of thesis/dissertation
  • ETD approval form with all approval signatures, including the graduate dean’s and, if applicable, documentation of IRB or IACUC approval number
  • Submission of the ETD to the VCU Scholar’s Compass (http://scholarscompass.vcu.edu) according to instructions in the VCU Graduate School Thesis and Dissertation Manual (http://www.grantuate.vcu.edu/student/thesis.html) (Candidate should confirm with adviser/program director all internal schedules for submission of copy, defense and approval.)
  • Survey of Earned Doctorates (All doctoral students must complete the SED. In order to complete the survey, go to: https://sed.norc.org/survey. Refer to the Graduate School Thesis and Dissertation Manual (http://www.grantuate.vcu.edu/student/thesis.html) for further information.)
  • Publication with ProQuest (All doctoral dissertations must be published with ProQuest. Dissertations are submitted directly by the student through the UMI/ProQuest’s ETD Administrator site (http://www.etdadmin.com/cgi-bin/school?siteId=242) for VCU. Submitting to ProQuest does not satisfy the university’s requirement of submission. You must submit to the VCU Scholar’s Compass separately in order to fulfill this requirement for graduation.)
  • Students must settle all financial obligations with VCU’s Student Accounting Department.

Revised 5/11/2010; 5/10/2011
University Graduate Council

Application to graduate

At the beginning of each semester, all matriculated graduate students will receive an email reminder from the Office of Records and Registration/Graduation Office to initiate the application-to-graduate process for the current semester. The email notification will be sent to the official VCU student email address and will include submission deadlines and guidelines. (All graduate students in the School of Medicine are asked to complete a preliminary review before initiating the graduation process and are referred to the School of Medicine guidelines or to their advisers/graduate program directors regarding application-to-graduate procedures.) Students planning to graduate in the current semester should proceed as follows:

• Complete the apply to graduate procedure on eServices. The VCU application to graduate will be provided during this process.
• Complete the VCU application to graduate according to the instructions provided. A separate application to graduate is required for each program from which the student intends to graduate.

Graduate students, program directors and academic school deans/designees are required to conduct a final review of all academic histories as part of the application-to-graduate check-out process as articulated in this Bulletin and on the Graduate School website (http://graduate.vcu.edu/student/graduation.html). A student’s signature on the application to graduate is acknowledgement that the student has reviewed the academic history and that it is correct. Final approval signatures by graduate program directors and academic school deans/designees on the final application to graduate confirm that the student’s academic history is complete, correct and final and that no future requests for changes to the academic history will be considered once the student has been approved to graduate.

University Graduate Council

Reapplying for graduation

Candidates who do not graduate at the end of the semester for which they have applied must reregister and reapply. Students must be enrolled at the time of application/reapplication (i.e., the semester in which the student graduates).

Commencement

Graduate students are encouraged to visit the Graduate School website (http://www.grantuate.vcu.edu/student/graduation.html) for information about university Graduate School events and activities for May and December commencement ceremonies. Students also are encouraged to visit the VCU Commencement website (http://www.vcu.edu/commencement).

Time limit for completion of requirements and eligibility of courses

The time limit for a graduate degree will not extend beyond a period of six years for graduate certificates and master’s degrees and eight years for doctoral degrees.

Course work completed before matriculation and applied toward the degree, including course work at VCU and that transferred from other institutions, will be evaluated by the program/department to determine whether it can be used to fulfill degree requirements. For course work that was taken more than eight years prior to the completion of the VCU degree, the graduate program director and school dean/designee will evaluate the course work for acceptability and report those courses deemed acceptable to the dean of the Graduate School. (See policy on Exceptions (p. 33).)

Revised 5/11/2010; 5/10/2011
University Graduate Council

Degree Works

Degree Works is a computerized report that tracks the completion of a student’s declared degree by course and requirement and the way in which the student is completing those requirements. It outlines in concise form the specific minimum requirements for completion of the
Grades

Grade reports

Unofficial academic histories are available online through eServices (http://www.eservices.vcu.edu), or official transcripts may be obtained for a fee from the Office of Records and Registration (http://rar.vcu.edu).

It is the responsibility of all graduate students to:

1. Check their records no later than the end of the add/drop registration period at the beginning of each semester to ensure that their registrations are correct
2. Check their records at the end of each semester to ensure that their academic histories are current and correct

Students who wish to appeal assigned grades must follow the grade review procedure as articulated elsewhere in this Bulletin and as published in VCU Rules and Procedures.

Requests for any other changes to an academic history must be submitted in writing by students to their graduate program directors no later than 14 calendar days after the beginning of the following semester (for the fall semester, 14 calendar days after the beginning of the spring semester; for the spring or summer semester, 14 calendar days after the beginning of the fall semester).

For undergraduate students repeating 500-level graduate courses, the undergraduate historical repeat policy applies only if the course is applied toward the undergraduate degree. A historical repeat may not be processed for 600-level courses. (See policy on undergraduate students in graduate classes.)

Revised 5/14/2013
University Graduate Council

Grade review procedure

If a student thinks that a grade is inaccurate, the situation should be discussed with the faculty member. This will allow the faculty member to explain how the final grade was determined and, if an error is detected, to submit a change of grade.

If the student still thinks that the grade was assigned unfairly, a written appeal should be submitted to the department chair. Upon receipt of the written appeal, the department chair shall provide the student with a copy and explanation of the grade review procedure (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/academic-regulations-general-degree-requirements/grade-review-procedure) and shall ensure that the requirements of the grade review procedure are followed.

If the department chair is unable to resolve the complaint, then the dean of the school in which the course was offered will form a grade review committee as described in the grade review procedure policy and will submit its decision to the dean of the school. The decision communicated by the dean of the school in which the program resides is the final decision that will be distributed to the student, faculty member(s) and department chair.

In cases concerning grades awarded for the fall semester, the written appeal must be submitted to the department chair no later than 14 calendar days after the beginning of the following spring semester. In cases concerning grades awarded for the spring semester or summer sessions, the written appeal must be submitted no later than 14 calendar days after the beginning of the following fall semester.

Grading system

Work quality is measured by the four-point grade system with the following equivalents:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade symbol and meaning</th>
<th>Grade-point value per semester credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P/F (Pass/Fail)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PR (Progress)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/U (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W (Withdrawal)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Revised 5/11/2010
University Graduate Council

Specifically, students may not present courses receiving less than C for fulfilling degree requirements.

Transcripts

Official transcripts of students’ academic records will be issued only by the Office of Records and Registration upon written request of the students.

Repeated courses

Graduate students receiving grades below B shall repeat a course only upon the advice of their program directors. Both the original grade and the repeat grade shall be included in the calculation of the graduate GPA.

The report is not intended to replace regular contact with academic advisers. It will, however, provide accurate, up-to-date information to assist students and advisers in making wise academic choices based on information in Banner, the university’s student information system.
Refer to the grading explanations below for the use of the grades of "satisfactory" and "unsatisfactory" in relation to thesis/dissertation classes.

The number of grade points earned is computed by multiplying the grade-point value for the letter grade by the number of semester credits for the course. As an example, a student receiving an A (i.e., four grade points) in a three-credit course receives 12 grade points.

The grades of accepted transfer courses are not included in the computation of the VCU GPA.

Graduate-level credit is not granted for any type of military service or career or life experience unless it involves course work taken as part of an approved graduate program at a regionally accredited college or university.

Graduate students are not designated as special honors graduates (i.e., cum laude, magna cum laude, summa cum laude) on transcripts or diplomas upon completion of their programs.

No degree credit for remedial work shall be awarded to graduate students. Graduate students advised to take any level course for remedial work should be notified in writing that the course credit shall not apply to the degrees they are pursuing. Other bodies may rule later, should students wish to apply the credit to some other degree.

Grade of audit (AU)
Class size permitting, students may register for courses on an audit basis. Auditing a course means students enroll in courses, but do not receive academic credit upon completion of the courses. Students who register on an audit basis are subject to attendance regulations of that class and, unless otherwise specified at the discretion of the instructor, are subject to the same course requirements as other students in the class. Students who register on an audit basis may be administratively withdrawn by instructors for a violation of class requirements for audit students, before or after the normal withdrawal deadline as posted on the VCU Academic Calendar (http://academiccalendars.vcu.edu). Audit students are charged the regular rate of tuition and fees. An audit course is counted as part of students' semester load in terms of classification as full-time students. Courses taken for audit, however, do not satisfy minimum enrollment requirements for students receiving graduate teaching or research assistantships, graduate fellowships or university graduate scholarships. Students may register for audit only during add/drop and late registration periods as a new registration and not as a change from credit to audit. Changes in registration status from audit to credit or from credit to audit will not be approved after the last day of add/drop registration. The grade of AU is not included in the calculation of the GPA.

Revised 5/11/2010
University Graduate Council

Grade of pass (P)
This grade is awarded for certain courses to denote satisfactory completion of requirements. The grade of P is not included in the calculation of the GPA.

Grade of progress (PR)
The mark of PR may be assigned only in courses approved for such grading. Unlike the mark of I, PR will not automatically be changed to a failing grade at the end of the succeeding semester. The grade of PR is not included in the calculation of the GPA.

Grades of satisfactory (S), unsatisfactory (U) or fail (F) in thesis and dissertation courses
All thesis and dissertation credits are to be graded each semester as satisfactory (S), unsatisfactory (U) or fail (F). There is no limit to the number of these credits a student may take while pursuing completion of the degree. Receipt of the grade of U is formal notification to the student of unsatisfactory progress. A grade of U is a permanent grade and associated credits do not count toward a degree. Future satisfactory performance following a grade of U is reflected in the assignment of the grade of S in subsequent semesters. A grade of S or U is not included in the calculation of the GPA. A student who receives a final grade of F in the thesis or dissertation will be dismissed from the graduate program. A student who receives three Us in a thesis/dissertation course will be administratively withdrawn for nonattendance. The grade of P is not included in the calculation of the GPA.

Revised 5/10/2016
University Graduate Council

Grade of incomplete (I)
If, because of circumstances beyond his or her control, a student is unable to meet all the requirements of a course by the end of a semester, the mark of incomplete may be given. The awarding of a mark of I requires an understanding between instructor and student as to when and how the course will be completed. This understanding must be recorded on an incomplete grade assignment form that is submitted instead of a final course grade. The maximum time limit for submission of all course work necessary for removal of an incomplete is the end of the last day of classes of the next semester following the semester in which the incomplete was incurred (i.e., an incomplete awarded in the fall semester must be converted by the last day of classes in the spring semester, and an incomplete awarded in the spring or summer session must be converted by the last day of classes in the fall semester). At that time, an unremoved grade of incomplete is changed automatically to a failing grade. Individual departments and schools may have more stringent time limits. An extension of the time limit is possible, but must be approved, prior to the expiration date stated above, by the instructor and the dean of the school through which the course is offered. Written approval indicating the new time limit must be filed with the dean of the Graduate School. The temporary grade of I is not included in the calculation of the GPA.

Revised 5/11/2010
University Graduate Council

Grade of withdrawal (W)
The grade of W indicates that the student has officially withdrawn from a course or has been administratively withdrawn for nonattendance. No student who has officially withdrawn from a course or who has been administratively withdrawn for nonattendance may attend subsequent meetings of the course. Students may reregister for courses from which
they have withdrawn through the normal registration process. A grade of W is not included in the calculation of the GPA. Withdrawals are, however, included in the satisfactory academic progress evaluation conducted by the financial aid office.

Revised 5/8/2012
University Graduate Council

Note: Difference between drop and withdrawal
A student may drop a class during the add/drop registration period only. When a class is dropped, the registration and associated tuition/fee charges are cancelled. Drop charges are removed to indicate that the student never attended the class or never attended the class beyond the add/drop registration period.

A student may withdraw from a class up to the withdrawal deadline as published in the university academic calendar (http://www.vcu.edu/academiccalendars). Withdrawal from a course does not cancel the registration or the associated tuition/fee charges and results in the assignment of the grade of W. Refunds, if applicable, are issued in accordance with procedures described in the refunds section of the Graduate tuition and student fees (p. 27) section of this bulletin.

In both situations, any financial aid already disbursed to the student’s account based on the original course registration will be assessed and adjusted according to the university refund policy and may result in a balance due to the university.

Revised 5/11/2010; 5/10/2016
University Graduate Council

General course information

Credit hour
A credit hour is defined as a reasonable approximation of not less than one hour of classroom or direct faculty instruction and a minimum of two hours out-of-class student work each week for approximately 15 weeks, or the equivalent amount of work over a different amount of time. Credit is based on at least an equivalent amount of work for other academic activities including laboratory work, internships, practice, studio work and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours and is established by individual programs. This definition represents the minimum standard. Student time commitment per credit hour may be higher in individual programs.

Approved 5/13/2013
University Graduate Council

Course numbering
All schools and programs within VCU use the following course numbering system. All course numbers consist of three digits (XXX). The first digit relates to the course level as follows:

0XX noncredit courses
Courses offered for students to make up deficiencies in previous training or to improve certain basic skills.

1XX and 2XX undergraduate, lower level
Courses with these numbers are offered primarily for undergraduate students and may not be used for graduate credit, although graduate students may be required to register for courses at this level to gain a necessary foundation for other course work.

3XX and 4XX undergraduate, upper level
Courses offered for advanced undergraduates and usually constitute the major portion of specific program work leading to the baccalaureate degree. On occasion, graduate students will be advised by their graduate advisers to enroll in prerequisite 4XX courses. Graduate programs can require that 400-level courses be taken, but credit hours in these courses cannot count toward the graduate degree or in the graduate GPA.

5XX introductory graduate courses
Graduate students enroll for credit in these courses through the normal graduate advising system. Departments may limit the number of 500-level courses applicable to a graduate degree program. Advanced undergraduates may enroll in these courses for credit with consent of the offering department. Credit is applicable toward only one degree unless a student is admitted to a course of study that allows a defined number of shared courses.

5XX professional graduate courses
First-year, first-professional (medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and physical therapy) courses normally open to students enrolled in the M.D., D.D.S., Pharm.D. and D.P.T. programs. Certain courses of this group may be designated by the department and approved by the University Graduate Council for graduate credit.

6XX, 7XX and 8XX graduate courses
Graduate students enroll for credit in these courses through the normal graduate advising system. Credit is applicable toward only one degree unless a student is admitted to a course of study that allows a defined number of shared courses.

6XX and 7XX professional graduate courses
6XX: second-year first-professional (medicine, dentistry and pharmacy [second and third year]) courses normally open only to students enrolled in the M.D., D.D.S. and Pharm.D. programs. Certain courses of this group may be designated by the department and approved by the Graduate Council for graduate credit.

7XX: third- and fourth-year first-professional (medicine, dentistry and pharmacy) courses normally open only to students enrolled in the M.D., D.D.S. and Pharm.D. programs. Certain courses of this group may be designated by the department and approved by the Graduate Council for graduate credit.

Course interpretation
A single number listing for a course, such as MGMT 655, indicates that it is a one-semester course and may be offered each semester or only one semester each year.

Courses listed with a double number, such as THEA 603, THEA 604 and designated as semester courses, consist of two one-semester courses, either semester of which may be taken without the other.

Courses listed with a double number, such as APPM 575-APPM 576, are designated as continuous courses and consist of two one-semester courses, the first of which can be taken without the second, but the second of which cannot be taken without the successful completion of the first.
The university reserves the right to withdraw any course or program.

**Off-campus graduate instruction**

VCU is dedicated to serving the needs of Virginians by providing off-campus graduate credit instruction when and where it is needed. Courses are offered in response to an expression of need from various locales and groups.

Off-campus instruction features the same course work available on campus, and most off-campus courses are fully degree-applicable within the admission standards of the Graduate School. The official policies and procedures of the University Graduate Council, as published on this Graduate Bulletin website and on the Graduate School website, are fully applicable to all off-campus graduate programs and graduate students.

Tuition for most off-campus classes is the same as other university classes; however, students in off-campus credit classes are not charged university or activity fees.

For additional information on off-campus credit instruction, contact Edward Howard, director of continuing studies, Division of Community Engagement, 920 W. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23284-3062, telephone (804) 828-8819, or visit the Division of Community Engagement website at community.vcu.edu (http://www.community.vcu.edu).

**Undergraduate students in graduate classes**

VCU undergraduates may enroll in 500-level courses with approval of their advisers and consent of the programs offering the courses. Highly qualified undergraduates approaching the last year of study may petition to enroll in a maximum of two 600-level graduate courses during the senior year of undergraduate study. Permission to enroll as an undergraduate in 600-level graduate courses must be obtained from the undergraduate academic adviser and the Graduate School. The total load must not exceed 16 hours of combined credit. Credit for any course is applicable toward only one degree unless a student is admitted to a course of study that allows a defined number of shared courses. Undergraduate students seeking permission to enroll in 600-level courses must have a minimum undergraduate overall and major grade point average of 3.0.

For undergraduate students repeating 500-level graduate courses, the undergraduate historical repeat policy (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/undergraduate-study/academic-regulations-general-degree-requirements/grading-marking-system) applies only if the course is applied toward the undergraduate degree. A historical repeat may not be processed for 600-level courses.

Revised 5/11/2010; 5/14/2013
University Graduate Council

**Accelerated bachelor’s-to-master’s programs**

VCU offers a number of accelerated bachelor’s-to-master’s degree programs in which highly qualified undergraduate students can earn both degrees in a minimum of five years by taking approved graduate-level courses during the senior year of their undergraduate programs. Accelerated bachelor’s-to-master’s degree programs must be approved by both the University Undergraduate Curriculum Committee and the University Graduate Council. Full descriptions for accelerated programs are included in the Graduate Bulletin and are also accessible through the program index.

Undergraduates who are interested in and qualified for admission to accelerated programs must apply for admission to graduate study and be accepted before they begin the equivalent of the senior year of undergraduate study. Once accepted, they may enroll in the shared graduate course work identified in the approved curriculum (or in the student’s plan of study that must be approved at the time of admission). Graduate 600-level course work that has not been identified as part of the shared course work should not be taken until the shared graduate course work has been completed and the student’s status has changed from undergraduate to graduate. No 600-level graduate course work may be taken before the senior year. No undergraduate course work may be counted toward the master’s degree.

Students in accelerated bachelor’s-to-master’s programs who do not achieve minimum grades of C in the shared graduate course work identified in the approved curriculum (or the student’s plan of study approved at the time of admission) must be reviewed for possible dismissal from the accelerated program as well as the graduate degree program, if applicable. If allowed to continue in the accelerated program, the grades received in these courses will be counted toward both the undergraduate and graduate degree programs and in the calculation of both the undergraduate and graduate grade-point averages. Substitutions for any of the shared graduate course work must be approved by the undergraduate and graduate advisers before the last day of add/drop registration of the semester in which the student wishes to take the substituted course(s).
The faculty and staff of the College of Humanities and Sciences are dedicated to excellence in teaching, research and public service. The mission of Virginia Commonwealth University provides the framework for this pursuit of excellence.

Teaching and learning are central to the college, and the college is central to educational and intellectual life at VCU. The college meets the educational needs of a diverse student body, provides general education for all undergraduate students of the university, preparatory programs for the health sciences, engineering and law, and educates future teachers in the liberal arts and sciences. The college offers comprehensive undergraduate, graduate and professional programs of study that link a foundation of understanding with knowledge on which students can build careers, become responsible citizens and continue lifelong learning.

Scholarship, creative work and professional accomplishment are essential to teaching and learning. The college is responsible for advancing understanding and increasing knowledge for its own sake, for the educational benefit of its students, and for the good of the larger community.

In both teaching and research, the College of Humanities and Sciences seriously upholds the responsibilities of being part of a public, metropolitan university. Through service and public teaching, the college meets the challenges and opportunities afforded by VCU’s urban environment and by its location in the capital of the commonwealth.

The college achieves national and international recognition through the success of its students, the advancement of the disciplines and professions represented by its programs, and through the individual and collaborative research of its faculty.

教授和教育学院院长

Montserrat Fuentes, Ph.D.
Professor and dean

Edmund Acevedo, Ph.D.
Professor and associate dean of graduate studies

Winnie Chan, Ph.D.
Associate professor and associate dean of faculty affairs

Scott Gronert, Ph.D.
Professor and associate dean of research

James Mays, Ph.D.
Associate professor and associate dean for undergraduate academic affairs

Don Young, Ph.D.
Professor and associate dean of finance and administration

Accreditation

Chemistry (bachelor’s degree)
The American Chemical Society

Forensic science (bachelor’s and master’s degrees)
Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission

Mass communications (bachelor’s degrees in the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture)
Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications

Psychology (doctoral degrees: clinical, counseling)
American Psychological Association

Graduate information

Graduate programs
The College of Humanities and Sciences offers the following graduate degree programs:

- Biology, M.S.
- Chemical Biology, Ph.D.
- Chemistry, M.S. and Ph.D.
- Clinical Psychology, Ph.D.
- Counseling Psychology, Ph.D.
- Creative Writing, M.F.A.
- English, M.A.
- Forensic Science, M.S.
- Health and Movement Science, M.S.
- Health Psychology, Ph.D.
- History, M.A.
- Integrative Life Sciences, Ph.D.
- Interdisciplinary Studies, M.I.S.
- Mass Communications, M.S. (through the Robertson School of Media and Culture)
- Mathematical Sciences, M.S.
- Media, Art, and Text, Ph.D.
- Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Ph.D.
- Physics and Applied Physics, M.S.
- Psychology, M.S. and Ph.D.
- Rehabilitation and Movement Science, Ph.D.
- Sociology, M.S.
- Systems Modeling and Analysis, Ph.D.

Post-baccalaureate certificates
Applied Social Research (graduate)
Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies (graduate)

In addition to these degree programs, the College of Humanities and Sciences offers selected graduate courses in the Department of Philosophy and the School of World Studies (foreign languages and
Graduate admission requirements

In addition to the general requirements for admission to graduate studies as stated in the Graduate study (p. 17) section of this bulletin, persons seeking admission to any of the graduate programs in humanities and sciences should:

- Have a bachelor’s degree in the discipline in which application for graduate study is made or, in some programs as noted, a bachelor’s degree in some other appropriate area
- Submit Graduate Record Examination scores (some departments require the scores on the advanced GRE within the discipline; some departments accept LSAT and MAT scores in lieu of GREs)
- Have submitted letters of recommendation that comment on the applicant’s ability to perform satisfactorily in the program for which he/she has applied. The judgment of that ability will be based on the supporting material submitted with the application. Some graduate programs must limit enrollment to a fixed number of the best-qualified applicants. Final action on admission is taken by the dean of the Graduate School in consultation with the College of Humanities and Sciences and the program concerned.

Applicants whose applications reach the university after July 1 for the fall semester and after Nov. 15 for the spring semester may not have their applications processed in time for registration. The applicant whose application arrives late may be considered for admission as a special student, but there is no guarantee that the special student later will be accepted into a degree program.

Graduate registration

Although most students register for the fall semester, which begins in August, they may arrange to begin graduate work during the spring semester with the exception of the programs in clinical and counseling psychology.

Scholarships, assistantships, fellowships and other financial assistance for graduate students

The College of Humanities and Sciences seeks to attract and support graduate students of the highest caliber and to prepare them, through research and instruction, to meet local and national needs for highly trained men and women. Recognizing that financial limitations may inhibit some qualified students from applying, the college attempts to inform students of the options of various loans, grants and work-study opportunities that are available to them as well as assist them in financing their education by offering various forms of financial aid and facilitating the process of seeking financial assistance from external sources. Additionally, the college believes that the experience of being a teaching or research assistant reinforces the learning that takes place in the classroom. The value of teaching assistants also is recognized as being beneficial to the college’s undergraduate programs.

Types of financial aid that are available to graduate students fall into three basic categories: aid that does not have to be repaid (grants, scholarships and tuition waivers), aid that does have to be repaid (loans) and aid that enables students to earn a portion of their school costs (work-study, graduate teaching assistantships and graduate research assistantships).

Offers of financial aid are based on financial need and/or skill and competency. Financial need is determined by information contained in the Federal Application for Student Aid completed by the student. Not all financial aid is based on financial need. To ascertain your eligibility for the different types of financial aid, contact:

VCU Office of Financial Aid
901 W. Franklin St.
P.O. Box 843026
Richmond, VA 23284-3043
(804) 828-6669
and the department to which you will be applying.

The university library has reference books listing other types of scholarships and grants. International students should contact:

Global Education Office
916 W. Franklin St.
P.O. Box 843043
Richmond, VA 23284-3043
(804) 828-6016

Graduate teaching assistantships and graduate research assistantships are forms of financial aid that provide teaching and research positions for graduate students within their field of study. These are not loans and do not have to be repaid because the student is actually earning income for services rendered. Usually graduate assistants must work the equivalent of 20 hours per week. Assistantships are awarded to students who have demonstrated academic excellence. Individual departments award the assistantships, which usually include payment of tuition; the teaching and/or research duties of graduate assistants vary among departments. Graduate students interested in seeking these teaching and research positions are advised to contact the departments to which they will apply for admission.

Graduate students applying for financial assistance should remember the following tips:

- Apply early
- Use federal tax forms to complete the FAFSA
- Save copies of all forms completed, including tax returns
- Check with the specific department for application requirements and deadlines

Students should assume they are eligible, not ineligible.

The student adviser and the graduate committee

All departments offering graduate degrees in the College of Humanities and Sciences provide graduate students with advising either through a single adviser, the student’s graduate committee or a departmental graduate committee. For details, students should consult the departmental director of graduate studies or the department chair.

Graduate degree requirements

- Full-time graduate status shall consist of a minimum of nine and a maximum of 15 credits per semester. No more than 12 semester credits may be earned in a summer session. See the Graduate study...
Appeal procedures

Graduate students in the College of Humanities and Sciences have the right to appeal course grades or other academic actions on the grounds of a breach of due process. See the Graduate study (p. 17) section of this bulletin for a summary of the grade review procedure. An appeal of an academic action other than a grade review is governed by the graduate student academic appeal procedure. A copy of this document can be obtained from department offices.

Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture

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P.O. Box 842034
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Hong Cheng, Ph.D.
Professor and director

Jeff South
Associate professor and director of undergraduate studies

June Nicholson
Professor and director of graduate studies

Natasha Long
Coordinator of student services

The Robertson School of Media and Culture prepares effective and skilled communicators through quality instruction, advising and student services, based on real-world applications. Through research, professional service and scholarship in applied communications, the school advances the knowledge and practice of a multidisciplinary and evolving media environment. The school values truth, ethics, creativity, innovation, collaboration, cultural diversity, shared governance and community engagement.

The school offers a Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications with specialization in one of three concentrations: advertising, journalism and public relations. The school also awards the Master of Science in Mass Communications, with concentrations in the areas of integrated PR and advertising, multimedia journalism, and strategic public relations.

Graduate information

Admission requirements for graduate study

All areas are open to graduates of accredited colleges and universities. Applicants must satisfy the general requirements for admission to graduate programs in the Graduate School and the College of Humanities and Sciences (see the College of Humanities and Sciences guidelines in this bulletin). In addition, they should hold a baccalaureate degree in an area appropriate to the program to which they are applying and a GPA that indicates the ability to pursue graduate work. Although the type of undergraduate degree is not critical to admission, the programs require approved undergraduate curricula or the equivalent in order to grant full admission.

• Mass Communications, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in integrated public relations and advertising with Fudan University [dual degree] (p. 48)
• Mass Communications, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in multimedia journalism (p. 50)
• Mass Communications, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in strategic public relations (p. 52)
• Media, Art, and Text, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 53)

Mass Communications, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in integrated public relations and advertising with Fudan University [dual degree]

Program goals

The Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture prepares effective and skilled communicators through quality instruction, advising and student services, based on real-world applications. Through research,
professional service and scholarship in applied communications, the school advances the knowledge and practice of a multidisciplinary and evolving media environment. The school values truth, ethics, creativity, innovation, collaboration, cultural diversity, shared governance and community engagement.

The M.S. in Mass Communications with a concentration in integrated public relations and advertising is offered in collaboration with Fudan University in Shanghai, one of VCU’s 16 recognized international partners, and VCU’s Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture. It is designed to educate Chinese students for the practice, in China, of professional public relations and/or advertising. Because in many agencies and organizations public relations and advertising are integrated, we are integrating the two professional disciplines in one degree program. The program is for Chinese students who have undergraduate degrees from a Chinese institution and who are already working or aspire to work in China for a public relations or advertising agency or an agency that combines the two persuasive communication disciplines. It is also open to students in the U.S. with the same undergraduate education and a desire to work in an internationally active public relations or advertising agency that does business in Asia/China. The program will prepare its students to function at a higher professional level than they can attain with their current academic and professional credentials.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Demonstrate higher-level skills of the public relations management function, including strategy development and critical thinking
2. Communicate clearly and effectively in written and spoken forms appropriate for strategic public relations practice, audiences and the purposes they serve
3. Demonstrate ability to conduct research and evaluation to support strategic public relations decision-making
4. Effectively apply tools and technologies appropriate to managing the process for strategic public relations

**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.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Other information**

The mass communications graduate handbook is available on the Robertson School website at robertson.vcu.edu/about/advising/handbooks-and-worksheets (http://robertson.vcu.edu/about/advising/handbooks-and-worksheets).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Jan 15 (preferred consideration)</td>
<td>GRE-general</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 15 (International students only)</td>
<td>TOEFL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Pass the entrance examination for postgraduate studies in the School of Journalism at Fudan University
2. Attain a qualified English proficiency level (i.e., greater than 600 for TOEFL or equivalent for iBT test)
3. Attain a GRE general test level of more than 1050 with no less than 500 for verbal (or equivalent for revised GRE)
Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

The dual degree program generally takes three academic years. The first three semesters are typically completed at Fudan. Students will continue their studies in VCU’s Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture for three semesters (second semester and summer of the second academic year and fall semester of the third academic year). Students return to Fudan for the final semester.

1. Credit hour requirements: This degree requires a minimum of 31 credit hours beyond the baccalaureate, of which 18 credit hours are from VCU and 13 credit hours — preparatory foundation courses and thesis supervision — are taken at Fudan University’s School of Journalism. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher. Upon completion of all requirements, students in this dual master’s degree program will receive both the M.S. in Mass Communications from VCU and the Master of Literature from Fudan University.

2. Other requirements: All students are required to demonstrate proficiency in a suite of software programs commonly used by public relations and advertising practitioners before enrolling in their first VCU course.

Curriculum requirements

Course requirements: Fudan University

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 6003</td>
<td>Research Methods of Communication</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 6005</td>
<td>Media Management</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 6007</td>
<td>Marxist Journalistic Ideology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 6008</td>
<td>Research on Journalistic History and Theory</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select five credit hours of recommend electives (Fudan University) of the list below.

Thesis taken at Fudan University

Course requirements: Virginia Commonwealth University

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MASC 671</td>
<td>Strategic PR in a Digital Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 672</td>
<td>Strategic PR Research and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 675</td>
<td>Strategic PR Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 682</td>
<td>Strategic Media Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 683</td>
<td>Strategic PR in the Global Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 695</td>
<td>Fieldwork/Internship (elective course)</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 31

Recommended electives (Fudan University)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 6009</td>
<td>Journalistic Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 6010</td>
<td>The History of China’s Journalism Thoughts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 6011</td>
<td>The Study of Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 6012</td>
<td>Cyber Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 6013</td>
<td>Marketing Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 6014</td>
<td>Consumer Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 6015</td>
<td>The Study of PR</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 6016</td>
<td>The Study of Current Publishing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JOUR 6017</td>
<td>The Study of Current Newspapers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 31

Graduate program director

June O. Nicholson
Professor and director of graduate studies, Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture
jnichols@vcu.edu
(804) 827-0251

Program website: robertson.vcu.edu (http://www.Robertson.vcu.edu)

Mass Communications, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in multimedia journalism

Program goals

The Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture prepares effective and skilled communicators through quality instruction, advising and student services, based on real-world applications. Through research, professional service and scholarship in applied communications, the school advances the knowledge and practice of a multidisciplinary and evolving media environment. The school values truth, ethics, creativity, innovation, collaboration, cultural diversity, shared governance and community engagement.

The M.S. in Mass Communications with a concentration in multimedia journalism is designed to prepare students to work in a highly competitive and multiple-platform (print, broadcast, online/digital) news environment. The program is for recent graduates who have an undergraduate degree in journalism or a related field, or for more veteran journalists who want to upgrade their professional skills.

Student learning outcomes

1. Demonstrate higher-level skills in concept building with a focus on critical thinking, and in the design of journalism news stories and packages with a multimedia focus
2. Communicate clearly and effectively in written and multimedia platforms to serve news audiences
3. Demonstrate the ability to conduct basic research that is applicable to journalism and multimedia
4. Effectively apply tools and technologies to multimedia news stories and packages as appropriate for the news industry and other communication workplaces

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.grad.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

The mass communications graduate handbook is available on the Robertson School website at robertson.vcu.edu/about/advising/handbooks-and-worksheets (http://robertson.vcu.edu/about/advising/handbooks-and-worksheets).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu)

Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
M.S. Fall Jul 1 GRE - General
Spring Nov 1

Admission note: The school may admit other student candidates who submit materials beyond the review deadlines, depending on available space.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. An undergraduate degree in journalism or a related field or several years of professional journalism experience
2. An undergraduate GPA that exceeds 2.7 overall
3. A GRE (general test) score that indicates the ability to pursue graduate work
4. A detailed CV showing work experience in journalism or appropriate educational credentials
5. Three recommendations from persons who are qualified to give information concerning the applicant’s ability for the specific program of study proposed
6. A personal statement detailing specific journalism career goals
7. A portfolio of work in journalism

Students who have not completed baccalaureate course work in journalism or who have not had the appropriate professional experience may be required to take undergraduate courses as a foundation. These do not count toward the graduate degree.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: This degree requires 36 credit hours beyond the baccalaureate, 30 of which are in the journalism discipline. Students take an additional six credit hours in a collateral area outside of mass communications. Students in this program learn the theory and practice of journalism in an immersion news environment and can further specialize through graduate electives, projects and stories in any number of “beat” areas. For example, students can focus on coverage of health or the environment or concentrate on learning about international media coverage. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.

2. Other: The program is designed so that students will take three courses each semester (fall and spring). During each semester, two of the courses will be offered in the evenings and one will be offered online. Thus, students will be able to complete the course work over two years of study.

Curriculum requirements

Course requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MASC 611</td>
<td>Research Methods in Mass Communications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 642</td>
<td>Online Journalism I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 643</td>
<td>Online Journalism II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 644</td>
<td>Computer-assisted Reporting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 645</td>
<td>Visual Journalism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 646</td>
<td>Convergence Law and Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 684</td>
<td>Multiplatform Storytelling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 685</td>
<td>The Business of Media</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 686</td>
<td>International Journalism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 688</td>
<td>Converged Media Applications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select six credit hours from the following electives:</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 692</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 695</td>
<td>Fieldwork/Internship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADLT (600-level)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRJS (600-level)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON (600-level)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS (600-level)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ENGL (600-level)  
ENVS (600-level)  
HSEP (600-level)  
INFO (600-level)  
MKTG (600-level)  
MSTM (600-level)  
PADM (600-level)  
SLWK (600-level)  
SPTL (600-level)  

Total Hours 36

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 36

Graduate program director  
June O. Nicholson  
Professor and director of graduate studies, Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture  
jnichols@vcu.edu  
(804) 827-0251

Program website: robertson.vcu.edu (http://www.Robertson.vcu.edu)

Mass Communications, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in strategic public relations

Program goals
The Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture prepares effective and skilled communicators through quality instruction, advising and student services, based on real-world applications. Through research, professional service and scholarship in applied communications, the school advances the knowledge and practice of a multidisciplinary and evolving media environment. The school values truth, ethics, creativity, innovation, collaboration, cultural diversity, shared governance and community engagement.

The M.S. in Mass Communications with a concentration in strategic public relations trains a new generation of communications professionals who are able to function in high-level management positions and apply sophisticated strategic thinking to accomplish organizational objectives.

Student learning outcomes
1. Demonstrate higher-level skills of the public relations management function, including strategy development and critical thinking
2. Communicate clearly and effectively in written and spoken forms appropriate for strategic public relations practice, audiences and the purposes they serve
3. Demonstrate ability to conduct research and evaluation to support strategic public relations decision-making
4. Effectively apply tools and technologies appropriate to managing the process for strategic public relations

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
The mass communications graduate handbook is available on the Robertson School website at robertson.vcu.edu/about/advising/handbooks-and-worksheets (http://robertson.vcu.edu/about/advising/handbooks-and-worksheets).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).
Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Jan 15 (preferred consideration)</td>
<td>GRE-general</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: The school may admit other student candidates who submit materials beyond the review deadlines, depending on available space.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. A current resume
2. Portfolio material from undergraduate and/or graduate course work and/or professional experience
3. An academic background in public relations (university or professional accreditation program) and appropriate public relations experience

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: This degree requires 30 credit hours beyond the baccalaureate, including six hours of approved elective courses in areas such as nonprofit management and marketing. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Other: Students take weekend classes (Friday evenings and all day Saturday) as a cohort over four semesters. Continued full-time public relations employment is encouraged during the program. In addition, one of the program’s unique features is a two-week study abroad experience, an expectation of students while they are enrolled in the MASC 683 Strategic PR in a Global Environment. The study tour is led by a full-time faculty member. The cost of the study abroad program is not included in the program’s tuition.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MASC 654 Organizational Communication 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 671 Strategic PR in a Digital Environment 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 672 Strategic PR Research and Evaluation 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 675 Strategic PR Management 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 676 Public Relations Ethics and Law 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 682 Strategic Media Relations 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 683 Strategic PR in the Global Environment (study abroad) 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 694 Strategic PR Campaign Design and Implementation 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives 6

Select from the following recommended electives:

- ACCT 507 Fundamentals of Accounting
- ECON 500 Concepts in Economics
- FIRE 520 Financial Concepts of Management
- MGMT 540 Management Theory and Practice

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Media, Art, and Text, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) [Robertson School]

Program goal

VCU’s interdisciplinary doctoral program in media, art, and text is a joint endeavor of the Department of English, the School of the Arts and the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture. The program prepares students primarily to teach at the college or university level, although some pursue careers in related media fields. MATX emphasizes the historical and theoretical foundations essential to the scholarly study of media, both old and new, broadly defined. It provides an intellectually stimulating environment that encourages students to work both collaboratively and independently, as well as across and between disciplines and media. Students maintain a base in their primary area of research, which is usually but not always the field in which they have done prior graduate work.

Student learning outcomes

1. Develop advanced communication skills in writing, speaking and the use of multimedia
2. Demonstrate broad knowledge of history and theory as the foundation for interdisciplinary work in a specialized facet of media, art, and/or text
3. Develop competence in interdisciplinary and disciplinary research methods and responsible conduct of research
4. Develop specialized knowledge in relevant fields to support dissertation and subsequent research
5. Demonstrate the ability to conduct independent research and produce new, specialized knowledge within the broad parameters of media, art, and text
6. Develop a strong basis for ongoing professional practice

Program website: robertson.vcu.edu (http://www.Robertson.vcu.edu)
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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information

The MATX student handbook is available at matx.vcu.edu/program/handbook.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admission requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission.

1. Applicants must hold a master’s degree (M.A., M.F.A., M.S.) in a relevant field.

2. Applicants must submit the following, in the formats indicated via VCU's online application portal:
   a. Writing sample demonstrating the ability to write clearly, analyze effectively and conduct original research in advanced doctoral-level seminars – This may be a master’s thesis, a graduate-level seminar paper or a published essay. Submit as a PDF.
   b. Statement of purpose describing the applicant’s interest, motivation and goals in pursuing this degree – The statement should specifically address the importance of interdisciplinarity to the applicant’s academic goals, and it should also offer evidence of preparation for the study of media, art, and text. The applicant should indicate the specific area of study and research to be pursued at VCU and identify faculty who might potentially direct dissertation research. Submit as a PDF.
   c. Academic curriculum vitae or professional resume – List all colleges and universities attended and degrees earned, all professional and academic positions held, all publications and/or exhibitions, technical skills, and any other relevant information. Include URLs for personal and/or professional websites. Submit as PDF.
   d. Letters of recommendation – Provide letters from three present or former instructors or other individuals qualified to evaluate the applicant’s ability to engage in interdisciplinary study at the doctoral level. Have recommenders submit their letters via the online application portal.

3. Applicants who wish to pursue creative work at VCU must also submit a portfolio. Those with an M.F.A. who do not wish to continue creative work should consult with the MATX director about this requirement. Materials submitted should demonstrate excellence in studio or professional practice and the potential to do graduate-level work in media, art, and text. Portfolios will be reviewed by the MATX admissions committee as well as relevant faculty in the School of the Arts and the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture. Please observe the following guidelines:
   a. Those working in 2-D or 3-D mediums should provide 20 images of representative work arranged chronologically, beginning with the most recent.
   b. Those working in sound and time-based media, as well as those in the performing arts, should provide clips totaling no more than 10 minutes.
   c. Those working across media may submit a combination of the above.
   d. The portfolio should include title, date, media and dimensions of each work, as well as a brief statement or other information that will help the admissions committee in its evaluation.

Small files illustrating 2-D or 3-D work should be submitted in a single PDF. Sound or video files should be posted to Vimeo or Sound Cloud with a functioning link submitted in a PDF with the
Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the MATX program are required to earn a minimum of 42 graduate-level credit hours beyond the master’s. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher. The 42-hour curriculum comprises 36 hours of course work and a minimum of six hours of dissertation research. Course work includes a core of four required courses taken during the first two semesters by all incoming students. Three doctoral seminars provide a shared historical and theoretical foundation for the study of media, art, and text, while a workshop offers the opportunity to develop and expand professional and/or creative skills relevant to the student’s career goals and research focus. In addition, all students will take a research methods course in a field relevant to their anticipated area of dissertation research. Beyond the core, students select 21 hours of elective credit hours from course offerings in disciplines relevant to their research interests and career goals. The program offers a topics seminar focused on the history, theory or practice of media, art, and text. Independent study and internships are also available as electives. While enrollment in courses with the MATX prefix is guaranteed to matriculated MATX students, enrollment in other graduate courses is subject to the conditions established by individual units. Together the core and the electives support the interdisciplinary work of the dissertation, which is an original scholarly examination of some aspect of media, art, and/or text. It may include work in media other than text. It is supervised by a committee consisting of four or five members drawn from disciplines relevant to the research topic.

2. Grade requirements: To graduate, degree applicants must achieve an overall grade point average of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale with a grade of C in no more than two courses. The GPA for graduation will be based on all graduate courses attempted after acceptance into the program.

3. Requirements for admission to candidacy: Before beginning formal dissertation research, students must complete all 36 hours of required course work, both stages of the e-portfolio and the requirements described below. Upon completion of these, the student will apply for degree candidacy.

4. Dissertation committee: The dissertation committee consists of the director (who must hold a Ph.D.) and three or four additional members whose scholarly knowledge and interests are relevant to the project. The committee must have at least one member from each of the sponsoring units (Department of English, School of the Arts, Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture). All must be members of VCU’s graduate faculty. Appropriate faculty from outside VCU may serve on committees (but not as director) with the approval of the MATX director and the graduate dean. It is the student’s responsibility to assemble the committee, in consultation with the dissertation director. Committees will not be appointed by the program.

5. E-portfolio: Work on the e-portfolio will begin in MATX 604 in the spring of the first year. There are no technical specifications, and content will include, but is not limited to, work done in the first two years in the program. It will take the form of a website and must demonstrate the technical skills (Web design, audio, video, etc.) relevant to the student’s work on the dissertation and the career sought after VCU. Submission is a two-stage process:
   a. Stage 1 (August of the second year): a three- to five-page design rationale for the portfolio site along with a mock-up or rough structure
   b. Stage 2 (April of the second year): a finished, live site accompanied by a five-page statement relating it to the student’s work inside and outside the program and outlining how it uses media techniques to promote a specific professional and/or creative identity (Note: Each submission is graded pass/fail and may be repeated once. A second failure results in automatic termination from the program.)

6. Competency: Candidates must demonstrate competency in a skill or technique relevant to the dissertation research or planned professional career. The dissertation committee approves and administers the competency portion. Graded pass/fail, the test may be repeated once.

7. Bibliography exam: Candidates will complete an exam on a reading list of 20 to 30 sources relevant to or supportive of the dissertation topic. The dissertation committee approves and administers the bibliography exam. Graded pass/fail, the test may be repeated once.

8. Dissertation prospectus and prospectus defense: The prospectus is a 15- to 20-page document that indicates the significance of the proposed research, gives a short review of relevant literature, states the research question, specifies the proposed methodology and indicates how the project lays the foundation for the anticipated academic or professional career. It also includes a work plan for the completion of research and writing, as well as a complete bibliography. The prospectus is defended orally before the dissertation committee, which may accept, reject or require revisions. The defense may be repeated once.

9. Dissertation and dissertation defense: The dissertation is an original, interdisciplinary and scholarly examination of a topic relevant to an aspect of media, art, and/or text. It may include work in media other than text. Given the varied nature of doctoral research, there is no set time frame for completion of a dissertation. It is expected, however, that the dissertation will take about two years after attaining candidacy, but it must be defended within the eight-year time limit for completion of the doctoral degree. The dissertation will be defended orally before the dissertation committee. Successful defense of the dissertation completes the requirements for the degree.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATX 601</td>
<td>Texts and Textuality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATX 602</td>
<td>History of Media, Art, and Text</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATX 603</td>
<td>Mass Media</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATX 604</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Workshop</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATX 897</td>
<td>Dissertation Project</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one methods course from list 1 below</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select elective courses from list 2 below</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Elective courses other than those listed may be taken with approval of the MATX program director and the offering department.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 42

List 1: Methods courses
List 2: Recommended electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 591</td>
<td>Special Topics in Art History</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 690</td>
<td>Historiography and Methodology of Art History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 722</td>
<td>Seminar in 19th-century Art</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 723</td>
<td>Seminar in 20th-century Art</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 741</td>
<td>Seminar in Art and Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 742</td>
<td>Seminar in Trans-millenial Art and Ideas</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 743</td>
<td>Seminar in Art and Representation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 791</td>
<td>Special Topics in Art History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 560</td>
<td>Studies in British Literature and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 570</td>
<td>Special Topics in American Literature and Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 605</td>
<td>Introduction to Scholarship in English Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 611</td>
<td>Authors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 614</td>
<td>Cultural Discourses</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 620</td>
<td>Intertextuality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 624</td>
<td>Texts and Contexts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 627</td>
<td>Genres</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 629</td>
<td>Form and Theory of Poetry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 630</td>
<td>Form and Theory of Fiction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 631</td>
<td>Form and Theory of Creative Nonfiction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 661</td>
<td>Themes in Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 501</td>
<td>Feminist Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 602</td>
<td>Feminist Research Epistemology and Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 620</td>
<td>Theorizing Sexuality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 624</td>
<td>Gender and Cultural Production</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 691</td>
<td>Topics in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINE 591</td>
<td>Topics in Contemporary Media</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>KINE 690</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINE 695</td>
<td>Advanced Sound</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 611</td>
<td>Research Methods in Mass Communications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 645</td>
<td>Visual Journalism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 684</td>
<td>Multiplatform Storytelling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 688</td>
<td>Converged Media Applications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 691</td>
<td>Topics in Mass Communications</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATX 690</td>
<td>Seminar in Media, Art, and Text</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATX 696</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MATX 791 Directed Study (may be taken for a maximum of 12 credit hours) 1-3

Graduate program director

Eric G. Garberson, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Art History
eagarberson@vcu.edu
(804) 828-7295

Additional contact
Thom Didato
Graduate programs adviser, Department of English
tndidato@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1329

Program website: matx.vcu.edu (http://matx.vcu.edu)

School of World Studies

312 North Shafer Street
P.O. Box 842021
Richmond, Virginia 23284-2021
Phone: (804) 827-1111
Fax: (804) 827-3479
worldstudies.vcu.edu (http://worldstudies.vcu.edu)

Mark Wood, Ph.D.
Associate professor and director

Angelina Overvold, Ph.D.
Associate professor and associate director

The School of World Studies explores what it means to be human and prepares students to participate in the work of building a healthy world community. With training in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences, the school’s faculty complete research on the diversity and universality of human existence and creative expression, generating a rich intellectual understanding of the evolving and dynamic nature of human beings. Faculty and students consider the development, composition and interaction of language, religion, art, film, literature, poetry and culture. They also consider the relationship between these forms of human life and matters of gender, nationality, race, social justice, human rights and the environment. World School students acquire interdisciplinary knowledge, cross-cultural communication skills and global perspectives on real-world issues, and they graduate from the school with the ability to act and live well as global citizens.

Degree programs

The School of World Studies offers baccalaureate degrees in the following fields:

**Anthropology** – Bachelor of Science

**Foreign Language** – Bachelor of Arts

- French
- German
- Spanish

**International Studies** – Bachelor of Arts

**Religious Studies** – Bachelor of Arts
Minors are awarded in these areas:

- African studies
- Anthropology
- Arabic and Middle Eastern studies
- Asian and Chinese studies
- Catholic studies
- European studies
- French
- German
- International social justice studies
- Islamic studies
- Italian studies
- Judaic studies
- Latin American studies
- Mediterranean studies
- Religious studies
- Russian studies
- Spanish
- World cinema

Undergraduate certificates are awarded in these areas:

- International management studies (in conjunction with the School of Business)
- Spanish/English translation and interpretation

Information regarding curricula is provided on the respective program pages.

Languages
The School of World Studies offers students significant opportunities to broaden their knowledge of diverse cultures through language study, including:

- Arabic
- Biblical Hebrew
- Chinese
- French (major and minor)
- German (major and minor)
- Italian (Italian studies minor)
- Latin
- Russian (Russian studies minor)
- Spanish (major and minor)

In cases where the appropriate level of instruction is unavailable, the School of World Studies Advising Office will assist the student in identifying language study options at other U.S. institutions or abroad.

Study abroad
Summer study-abroad programs provide students with opportunities for short-term immersion in the language, culture and civilization of the countries they visit. A list of current VCU study abroad opportunities can be found at global.vcu.edu/abroad (http://www.global.vcu.edu/abroad). VCU is a member of the International Student Exchange Program, which offers junior year abroad programs at one of 40 universities worldwide. For more information about study abroad visit the School of World Studies website at worldstudies.vcu.edu (http://www.worldstudies.vcu.edu).

Applied Social Research, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)

Program goal
This certificate program is designed to enable practitioners to acquire additional knowledge and skills in applied social research without necessarily pursuing a graduate degree and provide marketable job/career skills for graduate degree-seeking students in sociology as well as other graduate programs. Because the certificate program involves a limited number of credit hours and coordinates with the type of statistics and methods courses offered in a number of graduate degree programs, it may be pursued simultaneously with other graduate programs such as sociology, social work, public administration, social policy and urban services. At the same time, individuals seeking more limited, specialized training may pursue the certificate independently.

Student learning outcomes
1. To enable practitioners to acquire additional knowledge and skills in applied social research
2. To provide marketable job/career skills for graduate degree-seeking students in sociology as well as other graduate programs

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements
Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
Certificate Fall Jul 1

Note: Students may not be able to enroll full time or complete the certificate in one year given the limits on course scheduling.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Students possessing a B.A. or B.S. degree and beginning level skills in statistics/research methods are eligible for admission into the certificate program.
2. Relevant course or research experience will be considered in evaluating admission and substitution of courses. Equivalency tests are available for required courses in statistics and methods.

Degree requirements
In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the applied social research certificate program are required to earn a minimum of 18 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate.
2. Grade requirements: An overall GPA of 3.0 is required for award of the certificate, and no more than three credit hours of C may be earned in the certificate program curriculum.

Curriculum requirements
Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 601</td>
<td>Sociological Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 602</td>
<td>Applications of Sociological Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 603</td>
<td>Seminar in Population Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SOCY 656</td>
<td>Social Network Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommended electives
Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GVPA 625</td>
<td>Public Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 631</td>
<td>Evaluation Research: Psychological Perspectives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 603</td>
<td>Seminar in Population Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY/PADM 605</td>
<td>Survey Research Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 656</td>
<td>Social Network Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 621</td>
<td>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 622</td>
<td>Community Socioeconomic Analysis Using GIS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 16-21

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 18

Graduate program director
Julie A. Honnold, Ph.D.
Email: jhonn@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-6680

Program website: sociology.vcu.edu (http://www.sociology.vcu.edu)

Interdisciplinary Studies, Master of (M.I.S.) with a concentration in cinema and language with the University of Cordoba in Spain and the University of Messina in Italy

Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

Program goals
The cinema and language concentration in the M.I.S. broadens education and career options and is designed to help develop the crucial analytical and communication skills, knowledge base and international experiences needed to pursue a career in the global marketplace.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will demonstrate competencies to analyze cinema, as well as other visual media, as a means of cultural and artistic expression, as an audiovisual language and as a frame for complex cultural dynamics.
2. Students will be able to analyze film and other visual media (e.g. Internet in general, social media, documentary films, etc.) from different cultures, drawing on a general frame of intercultural communication.
3. Students will achieve fluency in English, Spanish and Italian, especially in their professional field.
4. Students will prepare for international careers through engaged learning and transatlantic team-building experiences with internships in cultural events such as the Taormina Film Festival, the French Film Festival and the Filmoteca de Andalusia.
**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.**

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.I.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special requirements**

- It is the student’s responsibility to obtain the visas necessary to study in Europe and the United States. However, students accepted in the cinema and language concentration will receive assistance with visa applications.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. For admission, **domestic applicants** must submit evidence of knowledge of Italian or Spanish at the “intermediate high” level according to American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages guidelines. Domestic students must submit evidence of knowledge of the second language at the “intermediate high” level according to ACTFL guidelines before beginning classes in Europe. Before departure for their first semester abroad (the fall semester at Cordoba begins on Oct. 15), domestic students must function on the following minimum level:
   a. Italian: PLIDA (Progetto Lingua Italiana Dante Alighieri) or equivalent, B1 or similar level. The B1 level indicates the capacity to understand spoken and written texts on familiar topics and to interact in the language to express opinions and explanations in an elementary way.
   b. Spanish: DELE or equivalent, intermediate-mid/threshold level B1 or similar level. The “Certificado Inicial de Español” proves candidates have sufficient knowledge of the language to handle situations which require an elementary use of the language.

2. The achievement of superior language proficiency in their field is one of the most important aims of this concentration. VCU students’ proficiency in Spanish and Italian will be assessed by School of World Studies’ foreign language faculty according to the guidelines of the ACTFL. (The proficiency guidelines (http://www.actfl.org/publications/guidelines-and-manuals/actfl-proficiency-guidelines-2012) are available on the ACTFL website.)

3. For admission, **European students** must submit transcripts showing that they have received satisfactory grades during their undergraduate studies (minimum GPA of 3.0) and in their first year of graduate study (with no grade lower than C). Students must also pass the TOEFL or the ELP administered by VCU (IBT score of 100; CBT score of 600; or IELTS academic band score of 6.5) and submit a satisfactory GRE score before beginning classes at VCU.

4. Upon review of the application and all supporting documentation, the transatlantic curriculum in cinema and language program coordinator will contact applicants and provide further information.

**Note:** Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: The cinema and language concentration requires 44 credits (semester hours) of course work, with 20 credits taken at the University of Cordoba in Spain and the University of Messina in Italy and 24 hours taken at VCU. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher. Each fall, cohorts of VCU and European students (from University of Messina and University of Cordoba) begin a two-year (four-semester) graduate program. Typically, European students spend the first semester of their first year at the University of Cordoba, second semester at the University of Messina and remaining two semesters at VCU. Domestic students spend their first
and second semesters at VCU, third semester at the University of Cordoba and fourth semester at the University of Messina.

2. Other requirements: The final requirement of the program is completion of a directed research project, during which the student is registered for GRAD 697. This is a capstone project culminating in a synthesis of the academic course work and internship experiences as outlined in the student’s curriculum plan. Before registration for GRAD 697, a student must have submitted a final project proposal, which has been approved by the concentration graduate program director and the M.I.S. graduate program director. The research project must be graded by a VCU graduate faculty member and a student must receive a grade of A or B in GRAD 697 in order to graduate from the program.

3. Master’s-level candidacy: After receiving approval to begin the final directed research project, a student must submit and receive approval for degree candidacy. Approval of degree candidacy must be obtained before a student can begin the final semester of study. Because of the sequencing of cinema and language course work, approval for the final project and degree candidacy may need to occur simultaneously.

Curriculum requirements

Virginia Commonwealth University

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FREN 511</td>
<td>French Civilization</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAD 697</td>
<td>Directed Research</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 602</td>
<td>Feminist Research Epistemology and Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATX 690</td>
<td>Seminar in Media, Art, and Text</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRLD 530</td>
<td>Concepts in World Cinema</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRLD 535</td>
<td>World Filmmakers</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

University of Cordoba, Spain

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L-ART/06</td>
<td>Theory and Analysis of Cinema</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L-ART/06</td>
<td>Cinema and City</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L-LIN/05</td>
<td>Dialogues between Cinema and Other Arts</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L-LIN/05</td>
<td>Independent Research Project</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

University of Messina, Italy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>L-ART/06</td>
<td>History of Cinema</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L-ART/06</td>
<td>Internship at the Taormina Film Festival</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L-LIN/01</td>
<td>Cinema Translation and Dubbing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LFIL-LET/10</td>
<td>Inter-semiotic Relationships: Literature, Theatre and Cinema</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-DEA/01</td>
<td>Sociology and Anthropology of Culture</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M-PED/03</td>
<td>Intercultural Education and Pedagogy</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 44

1 Other graduate-level methods courses in the social sciences may be taken with prior permission

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 44

Program website: global.vcu.edu/transatlantic (http://global.vcu.edu/transatlantic)

Interdisciplinary Studies, Master of (M.I.S.), with a concentration in interdisciplinary mathematics and science leadership/K-8 mathematics specialist

Program goals

The interdisciplinary mathematics and science leadership concentration in the M.I.S. program is designed for in-service teachers of mathematics for kindergarten through eighth grades. In designing their individual programs, students, in conjunction with their advisers, may select courses offered by VCU mathematics, science and education departments and courses offered by other collaborating Virginia colleges and universities. The Graduate School, the College of Humanities and Sciences, the School of Education and the departments of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics and Teaching and Learning administer the program.

Student learning outcomes

1. Students will write mathematics (not including mathematical proofs) clearly, concisely and correctly.
2. Students will solve mathematical problems.
3. Students will use multiple representations to correctly describe mathematical ideas.
4. Students will study K-12 children’s work and use it to demonstrate knowledge of children’s thinking.
5. Students will write mathematical proofs clearly, concisely and correctly.
6. Students will collaborate on projects.
7. Students will read and comprehend mathematical works and mathematics education works, including national and state standards.
8. Students will analyze and synthesize mathematics education literature.
9. Students will make effective written and oral presentations to demonstrate their understanding of mathematical ideas and mathematics education ideas.
10. Students will (a) analyze and develop rich mathematical tasks for children and adults, (b) study and implement models of mathematics coaching, (c) study and implement professional development models.
11. Students will study and implement models of formative and summative assessment.
12. Students will study and implement effective methods of communicating with teachers and administrators.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.I.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>GRE-General or MAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special requirements**

- Upon review of the application and all supporting documentation, the mathematics/science leadership program coordinator will contact applicants to schedule interviews to develop programs of study that will detail specific courses to be taken and the institutions offering those courses.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. At least three years of successful K-8 mathematics and/or science teaching experience
2. Three recommendations: at least one from an immediate supervisor or principal and at least one that addresses leadership potential
3. Submission of satisfactory scores on either the GRE or MAT from a current test (fewer than five years old) (Provisional admission may be granted pending fulfillment of this requirement.)
4. A written statement of intent that provides evidence of at least three years of experience in teaching mathematics and/or science for kindergarten through eighth grades
5. Interview to develop program of study (Program director will contact student after initial review of application.)

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the interdisciplinary mathematics and science leadership concentration are required to earn a minimum of 39 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. The discipline focus areas are required to be in mathematics and either the sciences or mathematics/science education. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Other requirements: At least 18 of the 39 credits, including the final project, must be granted by VCU. Up to six transfer credits may be approved, and the remainder of the credits must be from consortium partners as approved by the students’ advisers, the VCU Graduate School and the Mathematics and Science Leadership Advisory Committee. A maximum of six hours may be taken as a nondegree-seeking student before admission to the program.
3. The final project must be supervised by a VCU graduate faculty member, may be in mathematics, science or education and must include an indication of the relationship of the subject of the project to teaching at the kindergarten-through-eighth-grade level.

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 661</td>
<td>Number and Operations (a prerequisite for all other required courses) 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 662</td>
<td>Geometry and Measurement 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 663</td>
<td>Functions and Algebra 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 664</td>
<td>Statistics and Probability 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 665</td>
<td>Rational Numbers and Proportional Reasoning 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 657</td>
<td>Mathematics Education Leadership I 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 658</td>
<td>Mathematics Education Leadership II 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 659</td>
<td>Mathematics Education Leadership III 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 680</td>
<td>Externship Proposal Seminar 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 700</td>
<td>Externship 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective courses

Select from the following with adviser approval: 9

- BIOL (500- and 600-level)
- CHEM (500- and 600-level)
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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

### 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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

### 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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

### Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree: M.S.</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry: Fall</th>
<th>Deadline dates: Jul 1</th>
<th>Test requirements: GRE-General</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Note: A limited number of assistantships are available for qualified applicants. Applicants for assistantships should have their files complete by April 1. Individuals not applying for assistantships should file their applications for graduate study as early as possible to permit adequate review.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission.
Preference is given to students who have a substantial background in sociology, such as an undergraduate major or minor or 18 or more college-level credit hours in sociology. Students with an undergraduate or graduate degree in a closely related field will also receive consideration for admission.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the following requirements apply:

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the M.S. in Sociology program are required to earn a minimum of 36 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.

2. Other requirements: Students are required to apply for either the thesis or applied sociology (non-thesis) option by the end of their second semester in the program. The thesis option is completed through on-campus courses, and the applied option may be completed through either on-campus or online courses. Degree requirements for the two options are shown below. Incoming students apply as either on-campus students (both options) or online students (applied option only). Incoming students choosing the online applied option must make that decision prior to beginning the program and continue as such until obtaining the degree. For the thesis option, a master’s thesis will be developed under the guidance of a thesis committee (three faculty members including a thesis adviser) and must be defended publicly.

Curriculum requirements

Thesis option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required core courses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 502</td>
<td>Contemporary Sociological Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 601</td>
<td>Sociological Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 602</td>
<td>Applications of Sociological Research Methods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thesis option courses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCY/STAT 608</td>
<td>Statistics for Social Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 698</td>
<td>M.S. Thesis ¹</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electives</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select courses from the list below</td>
<td>18-23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Hours | 36 |

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 36

Applied sociology option (non-thesis)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required core courses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 502</td>
<td>Contemporary Sociological Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 601</td>
<td>Sociological Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 602</td>
<td>Applications of Sociological Research Methods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applied sociology option courses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SOCY/STAT 508 or SOCY/STAT 608</td>
<td>Introduction to Social Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Statistics for Social Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Choose six credits from any combination of:

| SOCY 693 | Internship |
| SOCY 694 | Practicum in Sociology |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electives</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select courses from the list below</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Hours | 36 |

Recommended electives

A maximum of six credits from outside sociology may be presented toward the degree

- ADMS (600-level)
- ANTH (500-level)
- CRJS (500- to 600-level)
- ECON (500- to 600-level)
- GEOG (500- to 600-level)
- GRAD (600-level)
- GRTY (500- to 600-level)
- GSWS (500- to 600-level)
- GVPA (500- to 600-level)
- HADM (600-level)
- NURS (500- to 600-level)
- PADM (500- to 600-level)
- PHIL (500- to 600-level)
- POLI (500-level)
- PSYC (600-level)
- RHAB (500- to 600-level)
- SBHD (600-level)
- SEDP (500- to 600-level)
- SOCY (500- to 600-level)
- SOCY 692 | Independent Study ² | 1-6 |
- SOCY 698 | M.S. Thesis ³ | 1-6 |
- SOCY 699 | M.S. Thesis ⁴ | 1-6 |
- SOCY 693 | Internship | 6 |
- SOCY 694 | Practicum in Sociology | 6 |
- SOCY 698 | M.S. Thesis ⁵ | 6 |

¹ A maximum of six credits of SOCY 698 may be presented toward the degree.
² A maximum of six credits of SOCY 692 may be presented toward the degree.
³ A maximum of six credits of SOCY 699 may be presented toward the degree.
⁴ A maximum of six credits of SOCY 693 may be presented toward the degree.
⁵ A maximum of six credits of SOCY 694 may be presented toward the degree.

Graduate program director

Julie A. Honnold, Ph.D.
Email: jhonn@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-6680

Additional contacts

Tara M. Stamm, Ph.D.
Assistant program director
Email: tmstamm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-9432

Meredith A. Katz, Ph.D.
Assistant program director
Email: makatz@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4027

Program website: sociology.vcu.edu (http://www.sociology.vcu.edu)
Sociology, Master of Science (M.S.), accelerated Bachelor of Science in Sociology (B.S.) to master’s

The accelerated B.S. and M.S. program allows qualified students, with a major in sociology, to earn both degrees in a minimum of five years by completing approved graduate courses during the senior year of the undergraduate program. The program will provide students with the opportunity to expand and deepen their knowledge of sociology, enhance their credentials for the job market, and/or prepare for further professional education. Students in the program may count up to 12 hours of graduate courses toward both the B.S. and M.S. degrees. Thus, the two degrees may be earned with a minimum of 144 hours instead of the 156 required if the degrees are pursued separately.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://wwwgraduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

The program is restricted to students who have demonstrated a clear interest in sociology. Minimum qualifications for admittance to the program include completion of 90 undergraduate credit hours with an overall GPA of 3.0, and a minimum of nine credit hours in sociology with a GPA of 3.3. Prior to being formally considered for admittance and before enrolling in graduate courses, the student must complete the graduate school application, submit GRE general aptitude scores and supply supporting information required for admission. All persons admitted to the program must meet the graduate student standards of performance, e.g., maintain a 3.0 GPA, and satisfactorily complete all requirements for the degree.

The director of graduate studies will provide guidance to students in this program. Students who are interested in this program should consult with the director of graduate studies or the director of undergraduate studies before they have completed 90 credits. Both directors may be contacted for more information about admission procedures.

Requirements for the Bachelor of Science in Sociology include the completion of a minimum of 120 credits. Students in the accelerated program may take up to six graduate sociology credits in each of the final two semesters of their undergraduate course work. These courses are shared credits with the graduate program, meaning that they will be applied to both undergraduate and graduate degree requirements. A maximum of 12 graduate credits may be taken prior to completion of the baccalaureate degree.

The B.S. degree will be awarded when the student has completed all requirements for the undergraduate degree, which may include the 12 graduate sociology credits. The graduate sociology courses that may be taken, once a student is admitted to the program, include:

- SOCY 502 Contemporary Sociological Theory 3
- SOCY/STAT 508 Introduction to Social Statistics 3
- SOCY 601 Sociological Research Methods 3
- SOCY/STAT 608 Statistics for Social Research 3
- Other SOCY graduate courses, with the approval of the director of graduate studies

Such courses may serve as an elective requirement for the M.S. degree and an elective for the undergraduate major. All accelerated program students must have their schedules approved by the director of graduate studies prior to registration.

Graduate program director
Julie A. Honnold, Ph.D.
Email: jhonn@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-6680

Additional contact
Rachel S. Bobbitt
Lead adviser
Email: bobbittrs@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-8847

Program website: sociology.vcu.edu (http://www.sociology.vcu.edu)

Department of African American Studies

Shawn Utsey, Ph.D.
Professor and interim chair
afam.vcu.edu (http://www.afam.vcu.edu)

The Department of African American Studies at Virginia Commonwealth University provides an educationally rich environment in which students and scholars research, learn and teach about the past and present realities of people of African descent. Employing a wide range of theories, perspectives, methods and tools, departmental faculty explore social, political, economic and cultural realities and connections between the experiences of persons in Africa and throughout the African Diaspora. The department emphasizes experiential learning, offers study abroad opportunities and internships.

Department of Biology

Bonnie Brown, Ph.D.
Professor and interim chair
biology.vcu.edu (http://biology.vcu.edu)

The Department of Biology offers programs leading to baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral degrees; the doctoral degree is offered through the Ph.D. in Integrative Life Sciences program. Students may specialize within many areas, such as molecular and cellular biology, genetics, aquatic and terrestrial ecology, systematics, physiology, neurobiology, and developmental biology. Students also may develop an interdisciplinary focus to their degree program, for example within areas such as bioinformatics, cancer biology, forensic science and environmental science.

In addition to the courses offered by the Department of Biology, graduate students may enroll in graduate courses offered through VCU Life Sciences and these departments in the VCU School of Medicine: Anatomy and Neurobiology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Biostatistics, Human and Molecular Genetics, Microbiology and Immunology, Pathology, Pharmacology and Toxicology, and Physiology and Biophysics. Visit the Department of Biology’s website at biology.vcu.edu (http://biology.vcu.edu).

- Biology, Master of Science (M.S.) (p. 65)
- Integrative Life Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 66)
Biology, Master of Science (M.S.)

Program goals
The Department of Biology prepares graduate students to:
1. Acquire training in a chosen subdiscipline of biology
2. Learn research techniques used in the subdiscipline
3. Develop presentation skills
4. Develop publication skills

Student learning outcomes
Upon completion of the M.S. in Biology, students will:
1. Demonstrate knowledge of a chosen subfield, including the most recent advances in research
2. Apply appropriate research techniques (i.e., field or lab)
3. Effectively communicate research and findings in a professional context
4. Effectively write papers for publication

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.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

Degree candidacy requirements
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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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
Details on the M.S. degree in biology can be found in the Guidelines for Graduate Studies in Biology at biology.vcu.edu/media/biology/pdf/MS_GuidelinesRevised2015.pdf.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu.

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring and summer</td>
<td>By special permission of graduate director</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:
1. Bachelor’s degree in biological or related science or equivalent
2. Appropriate college-level background in mathematics, chemistry and physics
3. Three letters of recommendation pertaining to the applicant’s potential ability as a graduate student in biology
4. Student’s written statement concerning career and research interests
5. Transcripts of all previous college work
6. Satisfactory scores on the GRE (general test)

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Master of Science degree candidates are required to take a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours. A maximum of six credit hours from graduate course work taken at other institutions may be transferred if they meet approval of the department.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or lower in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the graduate program in biology. Courses with a grade of C or lower cannot be applied to satisfying the degree requirements.
3. Other requirements: All graduate students are required to write a thesis proposal and a formal thesis following a prescribed format.
In order to initiate thesis research, the thesis proposal must be approved by the student’s graduate committee and the chair of the department, and the student must be approved for degree candidacy. Each student will be required to pass a final examination, which will be primarily a defense of the thesis. Students may specialize within many areas, such as molecular and cellular biology, genetics, aquatic and terrestrial ecology, systematics, physiology, neurobiology and developmental biology. Students also may develop an interdisciplinary focus to their degree programs, for example, within areas such as bioinformatics, cancer biology, forensic science and environmental science.

Curriculum requirements

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 693</td>
<td>Current Topics in Biology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 698</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommended electives

Choose courses from the following list in consultation with adviser:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL/BINFO 601</td>
<td>Integrated Bioinformatics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 606</td>
<td>Quantitative Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 610</td>
<td>Conservation Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 618</td>
<td>Ecosystems Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 626</td>
<td>Physiological Ecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 630</td>
<td>Patterns of Mammalian Reproduction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 640</td>
<td>Evolution and Molecular Markers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 650</td>
<td>Conservation Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL/ENVS/URSP 654</td>
<td>Environmental Remote Sensing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 660</td>
<td>Developmental Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 676</td>
<td>Plant and Animal Cell Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 690</td>
<td>Biology Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 692</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 693</td>
<td>Current Topics in Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 698</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any 500- or 600-level courses in ANAT, BIOL, BIQC, BIOS, BNFO, CLSE, EGRB, ENVS, HEMS, HGEN, LFSC, MEDC, MIR, NEUS, PCEU, PHTX, PHIS or STAT

Any 600-level course in CHEM, EDUS, GRAD, MATH, PHYS, PSYC or URSP

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

1 Students should take STAT 543 or BIOS 543 as early as possible. Students entering the program with a statistics background equivalent to one of these courses may petition to have this requirement waived.

Students will work with faculty mentors during the first semester of enrollment to provide a plan of elective courses relevant to the subdiscipline.

Integrative Life Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) [College of Humanities and Sciences]

Program goals

1. **Interdisciplinary knowledge and skills:** The core curriculum of the ILS program will effectively assist students in gaining understanding of modern systems biology along with training in the interdisciplinary skills and knowledge increasingly required for doing effective research in the life sciences. It will also foster progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the research in students’ areas of interest as they seek to identify key focus areas for their integrative research.

2. **Research skills:** The mentored research component of the program, building on the core curriculum and interdisciplinary elective course work, will foster development of an ability to synthesize this learning and identify key focus areas for integrative research. It will support students as they learn how to design, implement and interpret interdisciplinary experimental approaches that will best address their research questions.

3. **Communication skills:** Students in the program will develop skills in both written and oral communication of life science knowledge, experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

Program website: biology.vcu.edu/graduate-program/ms-program-in-biology (http://biology.vcu.edu/graduate-program/ms-program-in-biology)

Student learning outcomes

1. **Oral communication skills:** The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.

2. **Written communication skills:** The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to
effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations, as measured by rubric.

3. **Experimental design**: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify, and/or create and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments, as measured by rubric.

4. **Problem-solving skills**: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems, as measured by rubric.

5. **Integrated knowledge**: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the life sciences and a more detailed understanding of the disciplines most pertinent to their own interdisciplinary research areas, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications, as measured by rubric.

**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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

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<th>Test requirements</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall (preferred)</td>
<td>Jan. 10</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International students require TOEFL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note**: All application components must be received by Jan. 10 to be competitive.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the Ph.D. in Integrative Life Sciences program requires graduation from an accredited college or university or its equivalent with a degree that is preparative for graduate-level study in the life sciences. Applicants should have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and scores on the Graduate Record Examination should exceed the 50th percentile in each category. For international applicants, satisfactory scores from a standardized test, such as the TOEFL (above 100), must be submitted along with external evaluation of undergraduate transcripts from nondomestic educational institutions (see Graduate Admissions website (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu/apply) for further details).

Letters of recommendation from three present or former professors, advisers or mentors qualified to evaluate the applicant’s ability to engage in graduate study in the life sciences are required, as is a written statement describing the applicant’s research interests, motivation, research experience, education and goals for pursuing graduate study in this particular program, and preferred research adviser(s), official transcripts from all past postsecondary educational institutions, official GRE scores, and current curriculum vita or resume. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact potential research advisers prior to submitting application materials and to identify potential research advisers in their personal statements.

Students accepted into the program with a 3.4 and higher undergraduate GPA and/or experience of success in graduate course work will be provided with a stipend and tuition and fees for the first year of matriculation. Following satisfactory progress during the first year and the availability of funds, a second year of funding (stipend, tuition and fees) is available. Preference is given to applicants with preidentified research advisers.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research. All work toward the degree must be completed within eight years of the first enrollment.
1. **Credit-hour requirements:** Students in the program are required to earn a minimum of 64 graduate-level credit hours. At least one-half of the graduate credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.

2. **Grade requirement:** Degree applicants must achieve an overall GPA of 3.0 (B) with a grade of C in no more than two courses. The GPA for graduation is based on all graduate courses attempted after acceptance into the program.

3. **Transfer credit:** Graduate-level VCU course work taken as a nondegree-seeking student or in a previous graduate matriculation for which a degree was never awarded may be evaluated to determine whether it can be used to fulfill degree requirements of this program in accordance with the VCU Graduate School transfer policy (p. 37). A maximum of six credit hours earned at another institution can be accepted for transfer into the program if not previously applied toward another degree. A minimum grade of B is required for credit hours transferred.

4. **Research adviser and committee:** Students should select a research adviser prior to matriculation, but no later than the end of the first semester. The research adviser may be chosen from among the many graduate faculty members associated with this program from either VCU campus.

   Students are required to form a research advisory committee that is headed by the research adviser and that consists of a minimum of five members of the VCU graduate faculty. Individuals who are not graduate faculty members (i.e., individuals from another institution or industry) must apply to the dean of the Graduate School for temporary affiliate graduate faculty appointment. The significant areas of the student’s research focus should be represented by the members of the research advisory committee. At least two members of the committee shall have primary appointments in departments other than that of the research adviser, with one of those members being integrally associated with the student’s research to foster the interdisciplinary intent of this degree program. Students should form their committees no later than the end of the second semester of study.

5. **Written and oral examinations:** Before admission to degree candidacy for the Ph.D. degree, students must successfully complete a comprehensive written examination and an oral examination. The student’s research advisory committee will administer both exams. Students should take the written exam upon completion of all required didactic course work, usually no later than the end of the second year of study. It will focus on material covered in core and selected elective courses as well as fundamental knowledge relevant to the student’s research field. Upon successful completion of the written examination and submission and acceptance of a research proposal, students will take an oral examination that includes a defense of the proposed research project and other subject areas deemed appropriate by the committee. Students may retake the written and oral examinations only once. Written evaluations of the written examination, written dissertation proposal and oral dissertation proposal defense will be completed by research advisory committee members and provided to the chair of the research advisory committee to discuss with the student and to the program director for program assessment.

6. **Dissertation research:** The dissertation research project should represent a significant contribution to the body of knowledge in its field and should be deemed suitable for publication in refereed journals. The emphasis of the research conducted by students in this program should be on interdisciplinary research, incorporating two or more disciplines and with a systems approach. Research projects may take advantage of the many research opportunities across the life sciences on both campuses. Projects may encompass multiple scales of study from molecular to ecosystem levels. Students shall prepare a written dissertation describing the completed research using the format approved by the Graduate School. An oral defense of the dissertation, under the direction of the research advisory committee and open to all faculty members, also is required. Written evaluations of the dissertation and the oral defense of the dissertation will be completed by research advisory committee members and provided to the chair of the research advisory committee to discuss with the student and to the program director for program assessment. Upon successful completion of all degree requirements, students will graduate with the Ph.D. in Integrative Life Sciences.

**Curriculum requirements**

A minimum total of 64 graduate credit hours is required and is distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core courses</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LFSC 510/BIOL 545 <strong>Biological Complexity</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LFSC 630 <strong>Integrative Life Sciences Research</strong></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complete four semesters</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LFSC 690 <strong>Research Seminar in Integrative Life Sciences (one credit hour)</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Scientific integrity**

Select one of the following:

- OVPR 601 **Scientific Integrity**
- OVPR 602 **Responsible Scientific Conduct**
- OVPR 603 **Responsible Conduct of Research**

**Technologies course (recommended options; choice depends on student’s specialty)**

Select one of the following:

- ANAT 615 **Techniques in Neuroscience and Cell Biology**
- BNFO/BIOL 541 **Laboratory in Molecular Genetics**
- BNFO 650 **Sequence Analysis in Biological Systems**
- ENVS 602 **Environmental Technology**
- MICR 607 **Techniques in Molecular Biology and Genetics**
- MICR/BNFO 653 **Advanced Molecular Genetics: Bioinformatics**

**Advanced statistics, advanced mathematics or experimental design course**

Select one of the following:

- BIOL 606 **Quantitative Ecology**
- BIOS 524 **Biostatistical Computing**
- BIOS 572 **Analysis of Biomedical Data I**
- BNFO/BIOL 601 **Integrated Bioinformatics**
- ENVS 603 **Environmental Research Methods**
- LFSC 610 **Analytical Methods in Biocomplexity Analysis**
- MATH 591 **Topics in Mathematics (mathematical biology)**
Elective courses
Select nine credit hours of the following: 4, 5 9
- 500-level or higher courses in ANAT, ANTH, BIOC, BIOL, BIOS, BNFO, CHEM, CLSE, CMSC, EDUS, EGRB, EPID, FRSC, HGEN, MATH, MEDC, MEDP, MICR, NANO, NEUS, OPER, PATH, PCEU, PHAR, PHIS, PHTX, PSCI, PSYC or STAT

Directed research
LFSC 697 Directed Research in Integrative Life Sciences 40

Total Hours 64

1. Does not count toward three credit-hour restriction for Preparing Future Faculty courses
2. Depending on the student’s area of research
3. Students are expected to enter the program proficient in statistics at the introductory level, as exemplified by STAT 543 or BIOS 543. Students not at this level, as evidenced by prior course work, will be required to take STAT 543 or BIOS 543 or an equivalent course.
4. Based on research interest and approved by research advisory committee
5. Only three credits of Preparing Future Faculty (GRAD) courses will be accepted toward the nine credit hours of electives (exclusive of OVPR Responsible Conduct of Research).

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 64

Graduate program director
Brian C. Verrelli, Ph.D.
bverrelli@vcu.edu (bverrilli@vcu.edu)
(804) 828-6920

Additional contact
Regina Jefferson
Executive administrative assistant
lrjeffer@vcu.edu
(804) 827-1865

Program website: lifesciences.vcu.edu/academic-programs/phd-in-integrative-life-sciences (http://lifesciences.vcu.edu/academic-programs/phd-in-integrative-life-sciences)

Department of Chemistry
M. Samy El-Shall, Ph.D.
Professor and chair
Sally S. Hunnicutt, Ph.D.
Associate professor and assistant chair
chemistry.vcu.edu (https://chemistry.vcu.edu)

The Department of Chemistry offers programs leading to the Bachelor of Science, Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy degrees. For undergraduate students, the Bachelor of Science offers concentrations in chemical science, professional chemist, professional chemist with honors, biochemistry and chemical modeling.

For graduate students, the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy programs provide opportunities for concentrated study in analytical, inorganic, organic or physical chemistry, or chemical physics. A plan of study is worked out for each student to ensure a sound basis for research. In keeping with the university’s commitment as an urban institution, the department also offers part-time programs leading to these degrees.

Refer to the department’s website for more information: chemistry.vcu.edu (https://chemistry.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements for graduate study
In addition to the general requirements for admission to graduate programs in the Graduate School and the College of Humanities and Sciences, students are expected to have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with 30 semester credits in chemistry. Admission on a provisional basis is possible for a student temporarily lacking this expected chemistry background. Acceptance is based upon undergraduate performance, satisfactory scores on the GRE and letters of recommendation.

Graduate students in the Department of Chemistry may receive financial support via teaching or research assistantships or fellowships. Application forms and instructions for applying to all graduate programs are available on the Graduate School website at graduate.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu).

General degree requirements for graduate programs
Entering graduate students are required to take proficiency examinations in analytical, inorganic, organic and physical chemistry. These examinations are at the level of sound undergraduate courses and are offered preceding the start of the school’s fall and spring semesters. These tests are used to evaluate the student’s strengths and weaknesses, and the student’s program is planned accordingly.

- Chemical Biology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in biochemistry (p. 70)
- Chemical Biology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in biology (p. 71)
- Chemical Biology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in biology of cancer (p. 73)
- Chemical Biology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in bioorganic chemistry (p. 74)
- Chemistry, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 76)
- Chemistry, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in chemical physics (p. 78)
- Chemistry, Master of Science (M.S.) (p. 80)
- Chemistry, Master of Science (M.S.) with Fudan University [dual degree] (p. 82)
- Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 85)
Chemical Biology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in biochemistry

Program goal
Chemical biology presents a framework for the modern approach to studying the complexities of biological processes. It is already a leading focal point for research in the 21st century, integrating concepts and information from the molecular to the cellular level. This interdisciplinary degree program has participants from the departments of Chemistry, Biology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacology within the College of Humanities and Sciences and the schools of Medicine and Pharmacy.

Student learning outcomes
1. Demonstrate expertise (breadth and depth) in chemical biology
2. Demonstrate appropriate ability to design and conduct experimental research
3. Demonstrate ability to analyze data critically and to design experiments independently
4. Develop competency in the responsible conduct of research
5. Develop effective oral and written communication skills

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

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Admission requirements

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission.

1. Students must present a satisfactory GPA score of a minimum of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; satisfactory GRE scores (must be less than five years old); a written statement of the candidate’s goals; and three letters of recommendation.
2. Students are required to have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with 30 semester credit hours in chemistry or biology. These credit hours should consist of at least two semesters of organic chemistry and a biology course in cell biology, molecular biology or genetics. A physical chemistry course is desirable.
3. If applicants have outstanding potential but lack specific requirements, they may be accepted as provisional. Provisionally accepted students must complete all conditions within one year of enrollment.

Graduate students in the program may receive financial support via teaching or research assistantships or fellowships available from the “home” department. No part-time students are accepted at this time.

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the Ph.D. in Chemical Biology program are required to earn a minimum of 72 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Other requirements: Upon completion of their course work, students will complete their dissertation requirements, which will typically consist of a written and oral dissertation proposal, research and literature seminars, and both a written and oral dissertation defense.
Curriculum requirements

Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEB 601</td>
<td>Chemical Biology I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEB 602</td>
<td>Chemical Biology II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEB 690</td>
<td>Research Seminars in Chemical Biology (credit hours are variable)</td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CHEM 690</td>
<td>Research Seminar in Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEB 697</td>
<td>Chemical Biology Research Rotations (credit hours are variable)</td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 693</td>
<td>Chemistry Perspectives and Ethics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 697</td>
<td>Directed Research (credit hours are variable)</td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Select 11 credit hours from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 500-600-level courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 602</td>
<td>Physical Properties of Macromolecules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 605</td>
<td>Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 500-600-level courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 504</td>
<td>Advanced Organic Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 506</td>
<td>Introduction to Spectroscopic Methods in Organic Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 604</td>
<td>Advanced Organic Chemistry II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 633</td>
<td>Mass Spectrometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 500-600-level courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 541</td>
<td>Survey of Molecular Modeling Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 670</td>
<td>Advanced Molecular Modeling Theory and Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 500-600-level courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. At least 18 credit hours of didactic course work must be completed.
2. Students are expected to participate in their home department's seminar program.
3. Students are expected to enroll in CHEB 697 or directed research (one credit minimum) every spring and fall semester.
4. Students are expected to enroll in CHEM 693 within their first year of matriculation. Other courses may be used to satisfy this requirement in research conduct and ethics in consultation with the graduate program director.
5. Students may also enroll in BIOC 697 for directed research credit hours.
6. The list of recommended electives includes some typical courses taken in this concentration, but there is flexibility in designing a program of study in consultation with the adviser and graduate program director.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 72

Additional contact
Maryanne M. Collinson, Ph.D.
Professor and chair of graduate recruiting and admissions committee, Department of Chemistry
mmcollinson@vcu.edu
(804) 828-7509

Program website: chembio.vcu.edu (http://www.chembio.vcu.edu)

Chemical Biology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in biology

Program goal
Chemical biology presents a framework for the modern approach to studying the complexities of biological processes. It is already a leading focal point for research in the 21st century, integrating concepts and information from the molecular to the cellular level. This interdisciplinary degree program has participants from the departments of Chemistry, Biology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacology within the College of Humanities and Sciences and the schools of Medicine and Pharmacy.

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<td>CHEM 697</td>
<td>Directed Research (credit hours variable)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

Select four of the following: 6

- BIOC 500- and 600-level courses
- BIOC 605 Molecular Biology
- BIOL 500- and 600-level courses
- BIOL 545/ LFSC 510 Biological Complexity
- BIOL 548/ LFSC 520 Bioinformatic Technologies
- BIOL 565 Advances in Cell Signaling
- BIOL 676 Plant and Animal Cell Biology
- CHEM 500- and 600-level courses
- CHEM 504 Advanced Organic Chemistry I
- CHEM 506 Introduction to Spectroscopic Methods in Organic Chemistry
- CHEM 604 Advanced Organic Chemistry II
- CHEM 606 Advanced Spectroscopic Methods in Organic Chemistry
- LFSC 500- and 600-level courses
- LFSC 510 Biological Complexity
- LFSC 520 Bioinformatic Technologies
- MEDC 500- and 600-level courses
- PHTX 500- and 600-level courses

1 At least 18 credit hours of didactic course work must be completed.
2 Students are expected to participate in their home department's seminar program.
3 Students are expected to enroll in CHEB 697 or directed research (one credit minimum) every spring and fall semester.
4 Students are expected to enroll in CHEM 693 within their first year of matriculation. Other courses may be used to satisfy this requirement in research conduct and ethics in consultation with the graduate program director.
5 Students may also enroll in CHEB 697 or PHIS 697 for directed research credit hours.
The list of recommended electives includes some typical courses taken in this concentration, but there is flexibility in designing a program of study in consultation with the adviser and graduate program director.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 72
Graduate program director
Nicholas Farrell, Ph.D.
Professor and graduate director, chemical biology program, Department of Chemistry
npfarrell@vcu.edu
(804) 828-6320

Additional contact
Maryanne M. Collinson, Ph.D.
Professor and chair of graduate recruiting and admissions committee, Department of Chemistry
mmcollinson@vcu.edu
(804) 828-7509

Program website: chembio.vcu.edu (http://www.chembio.vcu.edu)

Chemical Biology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in biology of cancer

Program goal
Chemical biology presents a framework for the modern approach to studying the complexities of biological processes. It is already a leading focal point for research in the 21st century, integrating concepts and information from the molecular to the cellular level. This interdisciplinary degree program has participants from the departments of Chemistry, Biology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacology within the College of Humanities and Sciences and the schools of Medicine and Pharmacy.

Student learning outcomes
1. Demonstrate expertise (breadth and depth) in chemical biology
2. Demonstrate appropriate ability to design and conduct experimental research
3. Demonstrate ability to analyze data critically and to design experiments independently
4. Develop competency in the responsible conduct of research
5. Develop effective oral and written communication skills

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

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission.

1. Students must present a satisfactory GPA score of a minimum of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale; satisfactory GRE scores (must be less than five years old); a written statement of the candidate’s goals; and three letters of recommendation.
2. Students are required to have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with 30 semester credit hours in chemistry or biology. These credit hours should consist of at least two semesters of organic chemistry and a biology course in cell biology, molecular biology or genetics. A physical chemistry course is desirable.
3. If applicants have outstanding potential but lack specific requirements, they may be accepted as provisional. Provisionally
accepted students must complete all conditions within one year of enrollment.

Graduate students in the program may receive financial support via teaching or research assistantships or fellowships available from the “home” department. No part-time students are accepted at this time.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the Ph.D. in Chemical Biology program are required to earn a minimum of 72 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.

2. Other requirements: Upon completion of their course work, students will complete their dissertation requirements, which will typically consist of a written and oral dissertation proposal, research and literature seminars, and both a written and oral dissertation defense.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEB 601</td>
<td>Chemical Biology I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEB 602</td>
<td>Chemical Biology II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEB 690</td>
<td>Research Seminars in Chemical Biology (credit hours variable)</td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CHEM 690</td>
<td>Research Seminar in Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEB 697</td>
<td>Chemical Biology Research Rotations (credit hours variable)</td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 693</td>
<td>Chemistry Perspectives and Ethics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 697</td>
<td>Directed Research (credit hours variable)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

Select 11 credit hours from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 500- and 600-level courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 500- and 600-level courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 500- and 600-level courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 504</td>
<td>Advanced Organic Chemistry I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 506</td>
<td>Introduction to Spectroscopic Methods in Organic Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 604</td>
<td>Advanced Organic Chemistry II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 606</td>
<td>Advanced Spectroscopic Methods in Organic Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 500- and 600-level courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 541</td>
<td>Survey of Molecular Modeling Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 670</td>
<td>Advanced Molecular Modeling Theory and Practice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 500- and 600-level courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 536</td>
<td>Principles of Pharmacology and Toxicology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. At least 18 credit hours of didactic course work must be completed.
2. Students are expected to participate in their home department’s seminar program.
3. Students are expected to enroll in CHEB 697 or directed research (one credit minimum) every spring and fall semester.

4. Students are expected to enroll in CHEM 693 within their first year of matriculation. Other courses may be used to satisfy this requirement in research conduct and ethics in consultation with the graduate program director.
5. Students may also enroll in PHTX 697 for directed research credit hours.
6. The list of recommended electives includes some typical courses taken in this concentration, but there is flexibility in designing a program of study in consultation with the adviser and graduate program director.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 72**

**Graduate program director**

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**Additional contact**

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**Program website**: chembio.vcu.edu (http://www.chembio.vcu.edu)

**Chemical Biology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in bioorganic chemistry**

**Program goal**

Chemical biology presents a framework for the modern approach to studying the complexities of biological processes. It is already a leading focal point for research in the 21st century, integrating concepts and information from the molecular to the cellular level. This interdisciplinary degree program has participants from the departments of Chemistry, Biology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Medicinal Chemistry and Pharmacology within the College of Humanities and Sciences and the schools of Medicine and Pharmacy.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Demonstrate expertise (breadth and depth) in chemical biology
2. Demonstrate appropriate ability to design and conduct experimental research
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Degree candidacy requirements

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2. Students are required to have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with 30 semester credit hours in chemistry or biology. These credit hours should consist of at least two semesters of organic chemistry and a biology course in cell biology, molecular biology or genetics. A physical chemistry course is desirable.

3. If applicants have outstanding potential but lack specific requirements, they may be accepted as provisional. Provisionally accepted students must complete all conditions within one year of enrollment.

Graduate students in the program may receive financial support via teaching or research assistantships or fellowships available from the “home” department. No part-time students are accepted at this time.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the Ph.D. in Chemical Biology program are required to earn a minimum of 72 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.

2. Other requirements: Upon completion of their course work, students will complete their dissertation requirements, which will typically consist of a written and oral dissertation proposal, research and literature seminars, and both a written and oral dissertation defense.

Curriculum requirements

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</tr>
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<td>Research Seminars in Chemical Biology</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>or CHEM 690 Research Seminar in Chemistry</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEB 697</td>
<td>Chemical Biology Research Rotations</td>
<td>variable</td>
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<td>CHEM 693</td>
<td>Chemistry Perspectives and Ethics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 697</td>
<td>Directed Research (credit hour variable)</td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Select 11 credit hours of the following: 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 500-</td>
<td>Advanced Organic Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600-level courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 602</td>
<td>Physical Properties of Macromolecules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 605</td>
<td>Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 500-</td>
<td>Advanced Organic Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>600-level courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 504</td>
<td>Introduction to Spectroscopic Methods in Organic Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 604</td>
<td>Advanced Organic Chemistry II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 606</td>
<td>Advanced Spectroscopic Methods in Organic Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 633</td>
<td>Mass Spectrometry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Credits for the above electives and core courses total 75.
Student learning outcomes

1. Demonstrate expertise (breadth and depth) in chemistry
2. Demonstrate appropriate ability to design and conduct experimental research
3. Demonstrate ability to analyze data critically and to design experiments independently
4. Develop competency in the responsible conduct of research
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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 37)

Other information

The Department of Chemistry graduate handbook is available at chemistry.vcu.edu/graduate-programs/graduate-handbook (http://chemistry.vcu.edu/graduate-programs/graduate-handbook).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 72

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Additional contact
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(804) 828-7509

Program website: chembio.vcu.edu (http://www.chembio.vcu.edu)
Admission requirements

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Have a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with 30 credit hours in chemistry.
2. Admission on a provisional basis is possible for a student temporarily lacking this expected chemistry background.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the Ph.D. in Chemistry program are required to earn a minimum of 60 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Proficiency exams: Students must demonstrate competency in analytical, inorganic, organic and physical chemistry by satisfactory performance on the proficiency exams or with a minimum grade of B in the appropriate course. These examinations are at the level of sound undergraduate courses and are offered preceding the start of the school's fall and spring semesters. These tests are used to evaluate the student's strengths and weaknesses, and the student's program is planned accordingly.
3. Doctoral candidacy: The student is required to complete written and oral examinations in his/her major field to become a doctoral candidate. The written examinations consist of a series of cumulative exams based on the chemistry literature. The oral examination includes the presentation and defense of the proposed dissertation research.
4. Dissertation: Students must conduct a substantial original investigation under the supervision of their adviser. Students who wish to include a chemical education component in their research will choose two advisers, one in the cognate area, and one in the area of chemical education. All formal requirements for the degree are otherwise the same as for any doctoral student. Students must prepare dissertations reporting the results of the research and analyzing its significance in relation to existing scientific knowledge. An oral defense of the dissertation will be held. Full-time students should complete the degree requirements in four to five years.

Curriculum requirements

Required didactic courses

Select three core courses of the following four areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 504</td>
<td>Advanced Organic Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 510</td>
<td>Atomic and Molecular Structure 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 620</td>
<td>Advanced Inorganic Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 600-level</td>
<td>CHEM 500-level</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select eight credit hours of the following recommended electives, in consultation with adviser:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 500-level</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 4: Lipids/Membranes and Bioenergetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 530</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 1: Protein Structure and Function</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 531</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 2: Basic Metabolism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 532</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 3: Central Dogma of Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 533</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 4: Lipids/Membranes and Bioenergetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 502</td>
<td>Physical Properties of Macromolecules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I or STAT 543 Statistical Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 544</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods II or STAT 544 Statistical Methods II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEB 601</td>
<td>Chemical Biology I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEB 602</td>
<td>Chemical Biology II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 500-level</td>
<td>CHEM 600-level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 610</td>
<td>Applied Quantum Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 611</td>
<td>Molecular Spectroscopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 612</td>
<td>Modern Statistical Mechanics: Fundamentals and Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 615</td>
<td>Chemical Thermodynamics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 616</td>
<td>Chemical Kinetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 620</td>
<td>Advanced Inorganic Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 621</td>
<td>Advanced Inorganic Chemistry II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 630</td>
<td>Electroanalytical Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 631</td>
<td>Separation Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 632</td>
<td>Chemometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 633</td>
<td>Mass Spectrometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 634</td>
<td>Surface Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 635</td>
<td>Spectrochemical Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 691</td>
<td>Topics in Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 698</td>
<td>Investigations in Current Chemistry Literature 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGR 591</td>
<td>Special Topics in Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGR 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 541</td>
<td>Survey of Molecular Modeling Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 609</td>
<td>Advanced Organic Synthesis: A Target-oriented Approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 670</td>
<td>Advanced Molecular Modeling Theory and Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANO 570</td>
<td>Nanoscale Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANO 571</td>
<td>Nanoscale Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANO 650</td>
<td>Experimental Techniques in Nanoscience I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Course completed twice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 698</td>
<td>Investigations in Current Chemistry Literature (0.5 credit hour) 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select eight credit hours of the following recommended electives, in consultation with adviser:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 500-level (except BIOC 505, BIOC 506 and BIOC 507)</td>
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<td>BIOC 544</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods II or STAT 544 Statistical Methods II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEB 601</td>
<td>Chemical Biology I</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEB 602</td>
<td>Chemical Biology II</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 500-level</td>
<td>CHEM 600-level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 610</td>
<td>Applied Quantum Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 611</td>
<td>Molecular Spectroscopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 612</td>
<td>Modern Statistical Mechanics: Fundamentals and Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 615</td>
<td>Chemical Thermodynamics</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 616</td>
<td>Chemical Kinetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 620</td>
<td>Advanced Inorganic Chemistry I</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 621</td>
<td>Advanced Inorganic Chemistry II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 630</td>
<td>Electroanalytical Chemistry</td>
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<td>CHEM 631</td>
<td>Separation Science</td>
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<td>Chemometrics</td>
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<td>CHEM 633</td>
<td>Mass Spectrometry</td>
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<td>CHEM 634</td>
<td>Surface Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 635</td>
<td>Spectrochemical Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 691</td>
<td>Topics in Chemistry</td>
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<td>CHEM 698</td>
<td>Investigations in Current Chemistry Literature 5</td>
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<td>ENGR 591</td>
<td>Special Topics in Engineering</td>
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<td>ENGR 691</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDC 541</td>
<td>Survey of Molecular Modeling Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDC 609</td>
<td>Advanced Organic Synthesis: A Target-oriented Approach</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEDC 670</td>
<td>Advanced Molecular Modeling Theory and Practice</td>
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<td>NANO 570</td>
<td>Nanoscale Physics</td>
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<td>NANO 571</td>
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<td>NANO 650</td>
<td>Experimental Techniques in Nanoscience I</td>
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NANO 660 Theoretical Studies of Nanostructures
NANO 661 Computational Nanoscience
PHYS 550 Techniques in Material Research
PHYS 573 Analytical Methods in Physics
PHYS 576 Electromagnetic Theory
PHYS 580 Quantum Mechanics
PHYS 591 Topics in Physics
PHYS 661 Surface and Materials Physics
PHYS 691 Special Topics

Other required courses
CHEM 690 Research Seminar in Chemistry 6 1-8
CHEM 692 Chemistry Seminar Presentation 6 2
CHEM 693 Chemistry Perspectives and Ethics 7 1
CHEM 697 Directed Research 3 30

1. Students must earn a minimum of 18 credit hours in eight didactic graduate courses, not including credit for CHEM 690, CHEM 692, CHEM 693 or CHEM 697.
2. One of these courses may be waived upon satisfactory proficiency exam scores. The number of required credit hours for the degree does not change.
3. The ENGR 691 topics course must be materials characterization.
4. In some cases, students may be required to enroll in both CHEM 510 and CHEM 511 because of proficiency exam scores.
5. Students are expected to enroll in CHEM 698 (.05 credit hour) twice during their graduate studies, including the semester preceding their literature seminar presentation (CHEM 692). Note: A maximum of two credit hours of CHEM 698 may be presented toward the didactic course graduation requirements to count as one course.
6. Students are expected to participate in the department’s seminar program by enrolling in CHEM 690 or CHEM 692 every spring and fall semester. At least two formal talks are to be presented in the seminar program by enrolling twice in CHEM 692 (one credit hour).
7. Students are expected to enroll in CHEM 693 within the first year of study.
8. Students must enroll in CHEM 697 (one credit hour minimum) every spring and fall semester for a minimum of 30 total credit hours. If the required minimum of 60 credit hours for the degree is not fulfilled after completion of all other course requirements, then additional credit hours of CHEM 697 may satisfy remaining credit hours for the degree.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Graduate program director
Sarah C. Rutan, Ph.D.
Professor and graduate coordinator, Department of Chemistry
srutan@vcu.edu
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Additional contact
Maryanne M. Collinson, Ph.D.
Professor and chair of graduate recruiting and admissions committee, Department of Chemistry
mmcollinson@vcu.edu
(804) 828-7509

Program website: chemistry.vcu.edu (http://chemistry.vcu.edu)

Chemistry, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in chemical physics

Program goal
The Department of Chemistry is committed to the dual mission of teaching and research at the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral level. In teaching, the purpose is to provide high quality education in chemistry to students in preparation for professional careers at all levels. In research, the goals are to advance the science of chemistry, to keep faculty on the forefront of the field and to maintain an educational program consistent with the latest technology and development of the discipline. Service to the chemical profession is also an important aspect of the department’s activities.

Student learning outcomes
1. Demonstrate expertise (breadth and depth) in chemistry
2. Demonstrate appropriate ability to design and conduct experimental research
3. Demonstrate ability to analyze data critically and to design experiments independently
4. Develop competency in the responsible conduct of research
5. Develop effective oral and written communication skills

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.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

The Department of Chemistry graduate handbook is available at chemistry.vcu.edu/graduate-programs/graduate-handbook (http://chemistry.vcu.edu/graduate-programs/graduate-handbook).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://wwwgraduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with 30 credit hours in chemistry or in physics.
2. Admission on a provisional basis is possible for a student temporarily lacking this expected chemistry background or in physics.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the Ph.D. in Chemistry program are required to earn a minimum of 60 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Proficiency exams: Students entering the chemical physics concentration must pass proficiency examinations in two areas of chemistry and two areas of physics (mechanics, electricity and magnetism). Students entering with a bachelor’s or master’s degree in chemistry who have not taken the courses previously may satisfy the chemistry requirement with an A or B in two of the four courses, CHEM 301 Organic Chemistry-CHEM 302 Organic Chemistry, the two-course sequence counts as one course only, CHEM 406 Inorganic Chemistry II, CHEM 409 Instrumental Analysis or CHEM 510 Atomic and Molecular Structure.

3. Doctoral candidacy: The student is required to complete written and oral examinations in his/her major field to become a doctoral candidate. The written examinations consist of a series of cumulative exams based on the chemistry literature. The oral examination includes the presentation and defense of the proposed dissertation research.

4. Dissertation: The student must conduct a substantial original investigation under the supervision of his/her adviser and must prepare a dissertation reporting the results of the research and analyzing its significance in relation to existing scientific knowledge. An oral defense of the dissertation will be held. Full-time students should complete the degree requirements in four to five years.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required didactic courses</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 510 Atomic and Molecular Structure</td>
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<td>or PHYS 580 Quantum Mechanics</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 511 Chemical Thermodynamics and Kinetics</td>
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<td>CHEM 612 Modern Statistical Mechanics: Fundamentals and Applications</td>
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<td>PHYS 576 Electromagnetic Theory</td>
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<td>PHYS 641 Solid State Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommended electives</td>
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<td>Select nine credit hours of the following, in consultation with adviser</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 512 Applied Molecular Modeling</td>
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<td>CHEM 550 Introduction to Polymer Chemistry</td>
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<td>CHEM 591 Topics in Chemistry</td>
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<td>CHEM 610 Applied Quantum Chemistry</td>
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<td>CHEM 611 Molecular Spectroscopy</td>
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<td>CHEM 615 Chemical Thermodynamics</td>
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<td>CHEM 616 Chemical Kinetics</td>
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<td>CHEM 620 Advanced Inorganic Chemistry I</td>
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<td>CHEM 634 Surface Science</td>
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<td>CHEM 691 Topics in Chemistry</td>
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<td>NANO 650 Experimental Techniques in Nanoscience I</td>
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<tr>
<td>NANO 651 Experimental Techniques in Nanoscience II</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 550 Techniques in Material Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 571 Theoretical Mechanics</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 573 Analytical Methods in Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 661 Surface and Materials Physics</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHYS 691 Special Topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other required courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 690 Research Seminar in Chemistry</td>
<td>1-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PHYS 690 Research Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 692 Chemistry Seminar Presentation</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Chemistry, Master of Science (M.S.)**

**Program goal**

The Department of Chemistry is committed to the dual mission of teaching and research at the bachelor's, master's and doctoral level. In teaching, the purpose is to provide high quality education in chemistry to students in preparation for professional careers at all levels. In research, the goals are to advance the science of chemistry, to keep faculty on the forefront of the field and to maintain an educational program consistent with the latest technology and development of the discipline. Service to the chemical profession is also an important aspect of the department’s activities.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Demonstrate expertise (breadth and depth) in chemistry

2. Demonstrate appropriate ability to design and conduct experimental research

3. Demonstrate ability to analyze data critically and to design experiments independently

4. Develop competency in the responsible conduct of research

5. Develop effective oral and written communication skills

**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.graduat vc.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)
Other information
The Department of Chemistry graduate handbook is available at chemistry.vcu.edu/graduate-programs/graduate-handbook (http://chemistry.vcu.edu/graduate-programs/graduate-handbook).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements
Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
M.S. Fall Mar 15 GRE-General
Spring Nov 15

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with 30 credit hours in chemistry
2. Admission on a provisional basis is possible for a student temporarily lacking this expected chemistry background.

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the M.S. in Chemistry program are required to earn a minimum of 30 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Proficiency exams: Students must demonstrate competency in analytical, inorganic, organic and physical chemistry by satisfactory performance on the proficiency exams or with a minimum grade of B in the appropriate course. These examinations are at the level of sound undergraduate courses and are offered preceding the start of the school’s fall and spring semesters. These tests are used to evaluate the student’s strengths and weaknesses, and the student’s program is planned accordingly.
3. Other requirements: Students are to conduct a research study under the guidance of a thesis adviser. After their first year, students are required to present their research at a poster presentation every fall semester. Once students have completed all required course work (with a 3.0 GPA) and the literature seminar, they must submit the application to candidacy form to the chemistry graduate director. After candidacy, an acceptable research thesis and a final oral examination on the thesis are required. Full-time students should complete these degree requirements in two to three years.

Curriculum requirements
Required didactic courses
Select three core courses of the following four areas:

- CHEM 504 Advanced Organic Chemistry I
- CHEM 510 Atomic and Molecular Structure
- or CHEM 511 Chemical Thermodynamics and Kinetics
- CHEM 620 Advanced Inorganic Chemistry I
- CHEM 63x or ENGR 691 (course in analytical area)

Course completed twice

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 698</td>
<td>Investigations in Current Chemistry Literature (0.5 credit hour)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Select five credit hours of recommended electives from the following, in consultation with adviser</td>
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<td>BIOC 500-level (except BIOC 505, BIOC 506 and BIOC 507)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOC 530</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 1: Protein Structure and Function</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOC 531</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 2: Basic Metabolism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 532</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 3: Central Dogma of Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 533</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 4: Lipids/Membranes and Bioenergetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOC 602</td>
<td>Physical Properties of Macromolecules</td>
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<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I or STAT 543 Statistical Methods I</td>
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<td>Graduate Research Methods II or STAT 544 Statistical Methods II</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEB 601</td>
<td>Chemical Biology I</td>
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<td>CHEB 602</td>
<td>Chemical Biology II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 604</td>
<td>Advanced Organic Chemistry II</td>
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<td>CHEM 605</td>
<td>Physical Organic Chemistry</td>
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<td>CHEM 606</td>
<td>Advanced Spectroscopic Methods in Organic Chemistry</td>
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<td>CHEM 610</td>
<td>Applied Quantum Chemistry</td>
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PHYS 580  Quantum Mechanics
PHYS 591  Topics in Physics
PHYS 661  Surface and Materials Physics
PHYS 691  Special Topics

Other required courses
CHEM 690  Research Seminar in Chemistry (credit hours variable) 6
CHEM 692  Chemistry Seminar Presentation 6  2
CHEM 693  Chemistry Perspectives and Ethics 7  1
CHEM 697  Directed Research 8  12

Total Hours 30

1. Students must earn a minimum of 15 credit hours in six didactic graduate courses, not including credit hours for CHEM 690, CHEM 692, CHEM 693 or CHEM 697.
2. One of these courses may be waived upon satisfactory proficiency exam scores. The required number of credit hours for the degree does not change.
3. The ENGR 691 topics course must be materials characterization.
4. In some cases, students may be required to enroll in both CHEM 510 and CHEM 511 because of proficiency exam scores.
5. Students are expected to enroll in CHEM 698 (0.5 credit hour) twice during their graduate studies, including the semester preceding their literature seminar presentation (CHEM 692). Note: A maximum of two credit hours of CHEM 698 may be presented toward the didactic course graduation requirements to count as one course.
6. Students are expected to participate in the department’s seminar program by enrolling in CHEM 690 or CHEM 692 every spring and fall semester. At least two formal talks are to be presented in the seminar program by enrolling twice in CHEM 692 (one credit hour).
7. Students are expected to enroll in CHEM 693 within their first year of enrollment.
8. Students are expected to enroll in CHEM 697 (one credit hour minimum) every spring and fall semester.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Graduate program director
Sarah C. Rutan, Ph.D.
Professor and graduate coordinator, Department of Chemistry
srutan@vcu.edu
(804) 828-7517

Additional contact
Maryanne M. Collinson, Ph.D.
Professor and chair of graduate recruiting and admissions committee, Department of Chemistry
mmcollinson@vcu.edu
(804) 828-7509

Program website: chemistry.vcu.edu (http://chemistry.vcu.edu)

Chemistry, Master of Science (M.S.) with Fudan University [dual degree]

Program goals

The VCU Department of Chemistry is committed to the dual mission of teaching and research at the bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral level. In teaching, the purpose is to provide high quality education in chemistry to students in preparation for professional careers at all levels. In research, the goals are to advance the science of chemistry, to keep faculty on the forefront of the field and to maintain an educational program consistent with the latest technology and development of the discipline. Service to the chemical profession is also an important aspect of the department’s activities.

Student learning outcomes

Graduates of the program must:

1. Demonstrate expertise (breadth and depth) in chemistry
2. Demonstrate appropriate ability to design and conduct experimental research
3. Demonstrate ability to analyze data critically and to design experiments independently
4. Develop competency in the responsible conduct of research
5. Develop effective oral and written communication skills

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Graduation requirements
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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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
The Department of Chemistry graduate handbook is available at chemistry.vcu.edu/graduate-programs/graduate-handbook (http://chemistry.vcu.edu/graduate-programs/graduate-handbook).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Apr 15</td>
<td>GRE-General TOEFL (International students only)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission.

1. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with 30 credit hours in chemistry. (Admission on a provisional basis is possible for a student temporarily lacking this expected chemistry background.)
2. Graduate students in the Department of Chemistry may receive financial support via teaching or research assistantships or fellowships. Application forms and instructions for applying to all graduate programs are available on the Graduate School website at graduate.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu).
3. Fudan University students participating in this dual degree program will be full-time students in good standing in Fudan University’s Department of Chemistry.
4. Fudan University students will be required to (a) successfully pass an interview at Fudan University conducted by an identified faculty member of VCU’s Chemistry Department and (b) successfully pass an English proficiency exam before the application to VCU will be processed.
5. Fudan University students’ program will be required to submit formal applications to the VCU International Admissions Office. The VCU Department of Chemistry is responsible for admitting these students to VCU.
6. Fudan University students will be required to submit to VCU their Fudan transcripts and grade-related information before their applications to VCU will be processed.
7. Fudan University students are classified as full-time, out-of-state graduate students and will assume all tuition, fees, housing and cost-of-living expenses while at VCU.
8. Students must receive a positive evaluation from both the Fudan and VCU chemistry departments to receive admission into the program. As part of the admission process, a member of VCU’s Department of Chemistry will interview applicants in Shanghai prior to admission into the program.
9. Fudan University students are required to maintain the equivalent of a VCU B average including their first year at Fudan University.

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the M.S. in Chemistry program are required to earn a minimum of 30 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Proficiency exams: Students must demonstrate competency in analytical, inorganic, organic and physical chemistry by satisfactory performance on the proficiency exams or with a minimum grade of B in the appropriate course. These examinations are at the level of sound undergraduate courses and are offered preceding the start of the school’s fall and spring semesters. These tests are used to evaluate the student’s strengths and weaknesses, and the student’s program is planned accordingly.
3. Other requirements: Students are to conduct a research study under the guidance of a thesis adviser. After their first year, students are required to present their research at a poster presentation every fall semester. Once students have completed all required course work (with a 3.0 GPA) and the literature seminar, they must submit the application to candidacy form to the chemistry graduate director. After candidacy, an acceptable research thesis and a final oral examination on the thesis are required. Full-time students should complete these degree requirements in two to three years.

Program schedule
1. In the first year (two semesters) at Fudan University, the Fudan student will successfully complete core courses required of all graduate students in the VCU M.S. in Chemistry program. The Department of Chemistry at VCU requires an M.S. student to earn a minimum of 15 credit hours in six graduate courses. A further minimum of 20 credit hours must be earned in seminar, seminar discussion, a mandatory course on chemistry perspectives and ethics and directed research courses. A departmental committee, composed of the VCU graduate program director, the VCU graduate admissions director and the Fudan program director, will determine the transferability and correspondence of Fudan courses to VCU courses and credit hours before the student enters VCU. This committee will advise the individual student on course work and credits eligible for transfer to meet the 15-credit didactic course requirement and what, if any, further course work should be taken.
2. In the second year (two semesters) at VCU, the student will immediately begin laboratory research (CHEM 697). The student will also identify a thesis adviser no later than the beginning of enrollment at VCU (third semester of program). A co-adviser from Fudan University will also be appointed at this time. The student will enroll in didactic courses offered by the Department of Chemistry at the discretion of the VCU adviser. It is envisaged that the core courses will have been taken at Fudan and that specialized and topics courses will be taken at VCU. The Department of Chemistry will not create new courses for Fudan students.

3. In the third year, the Fudan student will remain at VCU to complete the fifth semester of the program. The student will continue to select from the department’s regular course offerings and will continue to work on the thesis with the VCU thesis adviser. All research data should be obtained by the end of the third semester at VCU.

4. In the sixth and final semester, the Fudan student will return to Fudan University to complete the writing of the thesis and will enroll in final elective courses (if necessary) pertinent to the student’s area of concentration. The two thesis advisers (one from VCU and one from Fudan) will oversee the completion of the thesis. The formal thesis will be written in Chinese with an English translation.

Curriculum requirements

Fudan University

Preparatory foundation courses
Following are required but do not count toward the 30 graduate credit-hour requirement

- Philosophy
- Theory and Practice of Socialism
- English of Master of Science
- Specialty English

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 6001</td>
<td>Advanced Inorganic Chemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 6002</td>
<td>Advanced Organic Chemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 6003</td>
<td>Principles of Quantum Chemistry and Its Applications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 6004</td>
<td>Advanced Analysis for Molecular Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 6005</td>
<td>Advanced Polymer Chemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 6006</td>
<td>Polymer and Condensed Matter Physics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommended Fudan electives

Select 12 credit hours of the following:

- CHEM 6007 Advanced Inorganic Synthesis
- CHEM 6008 Inorganic Experiment
- CHEM 6009 Inorganic Synthesis
- CHEM 6010 Advanced Instrumental Analysis
- CHEM 6013 Advanced Organic Synthesis
- CHEM 6014 Advanced Experimental Organic Synthesis
- CHEM 6015 Chemical Statistical Thermodynamics
- CHEM 6016 Advanced Physical Chemistry Experiments
- CHEM 7003 Structural Analysis of Organics
- CHEM 7004 Synthetic Chemistry in Medicine
- CHEM 7005 Organic Chemistry
- CHEM 7006 Microporous Material Chemistry

Virginia Commonwealth University

Required didactic courses

Select three core courses of the following four areas: analytical, inorganic, organic and physical

- CHEM 504 Advanced Organic Chemistry I
- CHEM 510 Atomic and Molecular Structure
- CHEM 511 Chemical Thermodynamics and Kinetics
- CHEM 620 Advanced Inorganic Chemistry I

Course completed twice

- CHEM 698 Investigations in Current Chemistry Literature (0.5 credit hour)

Select five credit hours of recommended electives of the following, in consultation with adviser

- BIOC 500-level (except BIOC 505, BIOC 506 and BIOC 507)
- BIOC 530 Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 1: Protein Structure and Function
- BIOC 531 Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 2: Basic Metabolism
- BIOC 532 Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 3: Central Dogma of Molecular Biology
- BIOC 533 Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 4: Lipids/Membranes and Bioenergetics
- BIOC 602 Physical Properties of Macromolecules
- BIOS 543 Graduate Research Methods I
- BIOS 544 Graduate Research Methods II
- BIOL 543 Statistical Methods I
- BIOL 544 Statistical Methods II

Total Hours: 30
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>CHEB 601</td>
<td>Chemical Biology I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEB 602</td>
<td>Chemical Biology II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 500-level</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 604</td>
<td>Advanced Organic Chemistry II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 605</td>
<td>Physical Organic Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 606</td>
<td>Advanced Spectroscopic Methods in Organic Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 610</td>
<td>Applied Quantum Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 611</td>
<td>Molecular Spectroscopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 612</td>
<td>Modern Statistical Mechanics: Fundamentals and Applications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 615</td>
<td>Chemical Thermodynamics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 616</td>
<td>Chemical Kinetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 620</td>
<td>Advanced Inorganic Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 621</td>
<td>Advanced Inorganic Chemistry II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 630</td>
<td>Electroanalytical Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 631</td>
<td>Separation Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 632</td>
<td>Chemometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 633</td>
<td>Mass Spectrometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 634</td>
<td>Surface Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 635</td>
<td>Spectrochemical Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 691</td>
<td>Topics in Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 698</td>
<td>Investigations in Current Chemistry Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGR 591</td>
<td>Special Topics in Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGR 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 541</td>
<td>Survey of Molecular Modeling Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 670</td>
<td>Advanced Molecular Modeling Theory and Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANO 570</td>
<td>Nanoscale Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANO 571</td>
<td>Nanoscale Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANO 650</td>
<td>Experimental Techniques in Nanoscience I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANO 651</td>
<td>Experimental Techniques in Nanoscience II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANO 660</td>
<td>Theoretical Studies of Nanostructures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANO 661</td>
<td>Computational Nanoscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 550</td>
<td>Techniques in Material Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 573</td>
<td>Analytical Methods in Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 576</td>
<td>Electromagnetic Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 580</td>
<td>Quantum Mechanics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 591</td>
<td>Topics in Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 661</td>
<td>Surface and Materials Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 691</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other required courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 690</td>
<td>Research Seminar in Chemistry (credit hours variable)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 692</td>
<td>Chemistry Seminar Presentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 693</td>
<td>Chemistry Perspectives and Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 697</td>
<td>Directed Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 30

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1. Students must earn a minimum of 15 credit hours in six didactic graduate courses, not including credit hours for CHEM 690, CHEM 692, CHEM 693 or CHEM 697.
2. One of these courses may be waived upon satisfactory proficiency exam scores. The required number of credit hours for the degree does not change.
3. The ENGR 691 topics course must be materials characterization.
4. In some cases, students may be required to enroll in both CHEM 510 and CHEM 511 because of proficiency exam scores.
5. Students are expected to enroll in CHEM 698 (0.5 credit hour) twice during their graduate studies, including the semester preceding their literature seminar presentation (CHEM 692). Note: A maximum of two credit hours of CHEM 698 may be presented toward the didactic course graduation requirements to count as one course.
6. Students are expected to participate in the department’s seminar program by enrolling in CHEM 690 or CHEM 692 every spring and fall semester. At least two formal talks are to be presented in the seminar program by enrolling twice in CHEM 692 (one credit hour).
7. Students are expected to enroll in CHEM 693 within their first year of enrollment.
8. Students are expected to enroll in CHEM 697 (one credit hour minimum) every spring and fall semester.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) at VCU 30**

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(804) 828-7509

Nicholas Farrell, Ph.D.
Coordinator, Fudan dual-degree program, Department of Chemistry
npfarrell@vcu.edu
(804) 828-6320

**Program website:** chemistry.vcu.edu (http://chemistry.vcu.edu)

**Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

**Program goals**

1. In teaching, the purpose is to provide high quality education in chemistry and/or physics in preparation for professional careers in nanoscience and nanotechnology.
2. In research, the goals are to advance nanoscience research, to keep faculty on the forefront of the field and to maintain an educational program consistent with the latest technology and development of the discipline.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Develop effective oral and written communication skills
2. Demonstrate expertise (breadth and depth) in nanoscience
3. Demonstrate appropriate ability to design and conduct experimental research
4. Demonstrate ability to analyze data critically and to design experiments independently
5. Develop competency in the responsible conduct of research

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.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 VCU Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 15</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18) and the College of Humanities and Sciences, students are expected to have a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university with 30 credit hours in chemistry, physics or engineering.

Admission on a provisional basis is possible for a student temporarily lacking the expected background. Acceptance is based upon undergraduate performance, satisfactory scores on the GRE and letters of recommendation.

Graduate students in the nanoscience and nanotechnology Ph.D. program may receive financial support via teaching or research assistantships or fellowships available from the home department.

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students preparing for the Doctor of Philosophy degree in nanoscience and nanotechnology must earn a minimum of 72 credit hours consisting of core courses (nine credit hours), elective courses (nine credit hours), seminar (eight credit hours) and research (46 credit hours).

Before admission to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree, students must have

1. completed at least 12 credit hours of their required course work,
2. successfully completed cumulative exams and
3. successfully completed an oral candidacy examination based on a research proposal

The student will be required to complete a series of cumulative exams in the area of nanoscience and nanotechnology, which will normally occur during the student’s second year in residence. After completion of the cumulative exams, an oral candidacy examination is then required to become a Ph.D. candidate. The oral examination, which is administered by the student’s graduate dissertation committee, is based upon a written proposal describing the proposed dissertation research project.

It is intended to evaluate the adequacy of the proposed project, the student’s level of understanding of the project and the likelihood that the dissertation can be completed successfully.

Students must conduct a substantial original investigation under the supervision of their advisers and must submit to the graduate dissertation committee a written dissertation reporting the results of the research and analyzing its significance in relation to existing scientific knowledge. The oral dissertation defense, conducted under the direction of the dissertation committee, will examine the candidate’s research, dissertation documentation and underlying fundamental knowledge encompassed by the candidate’s research. Upon successful completion of the defense and the dissertation, the student may apply for graduation with the Ph.D. in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology. Full-time students should complete the degree requirements in four to five years.

Curriculum requirements

**Core courses**

- **NANO 570** Nanoscale Physics 3
- **NANO 571** Nanoscale Chemistry 3
NANO 660  Theoretical Studies of Nanostructures  3
or NANO 650
& NANO 651  Experimental Techniques in Nanoscience I
and Experimental Techniques in Nanoscience II
Seminar
NANO 690  Research Seminar in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (one credit hour taken six times)
NANO 692  Nanoscience Seminar Presentation (one credit hour taken twice)
Research
CHEM 697  Directed Research
or PHYS 697  Directed Research
Elective courses
Select nine credit hours of the following, or other courses approved by program director:
CHEM 510  Atomic and Molecular Structure
CHEM 511  Chemical Thermodynamics and Kinetics
CHEM 580  Mechanical Properties of Plastics and Polymers
CHEM 591  Topics in Chemistry
CHEM 610  Applied Quantum Chemistry
CHEM 611  Molecular Spectroscopy
CHEM 612  Modern Statistical Mechanics: Fundamentals and Applications
CHEM 634  Surface Science
CHEM 635  Spectrochemical Analysis
CHEM 691  Topics in Chemistry
CLSE 645  Biosensors and Bioelectronic Devices
CLSE 675  Polymers in Medicine
EGRB 613  Biomaterials
EGRE 525  Fundamentals of Photonics Engineering
EGRE 621  Spintronics
EGRE 623  Nanostructures and Nanodevices
ENGR 691  Special Topics in Engineering
PHYS 550  Techniques in Material Research
PHYS 580  Quantum Mechanics
PHYS 591  Topics in Physics
PHYS 641  Solid State Physics
PHYS 661  Surface and Materials Physics
PHYS 691  Special Topics

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 72

Students will attend NANO 690 Research Seminar in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology throughout their degree programs, receiving an S (satisfactory) or U (unsatisfactory) grade based on attendance and participation. Students will also give two seminar presentations, one on a literature topic and one on their dissertation research, which will be graded on the A/B/C/D/F scale.

Graduate program director
Everett E. Carpenter, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Chemistry

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Additional contact
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Chair, graduate recruiting and admissions committee
mmcollinson@vcu.edu
(804) 828-7509

Program website: nano.vcu.edu (http://nano.vcu.edu)

Department of English

David E. Latané, Ph.D.
Professor and chair

Sachi Shimomura, Ph.D.
Associate professor and associate chair

Gretchen Comba
Assistant professor and associate chair

Les Harrison
Associate professor and director of the M.A. program

Clint McCown
Associate professor and director of the M.F.A. program

Eric Garberson, Ph.D.
Associate professor of art history and director of the MATX program

english.vcu.edu (http://www.english.vcu.edu)

The purpose of the Department of English is to teach students to see their worlds with clarity and respond to them with sensitivity, through reading and writing. Students are invited to read and explore a diversity of texts created in different times and voices and then to respond to these texts variably and critically, situating them within their contexts and discerning their important aesthetic features, rhetorical elements and social functions.

Students in this department also are encouraged to express themselves in expository or imaginative works that engage thought and feeling, evince purpose clearly, marshal appropriate evidence and observe principles of rhetorical decorum.

The Department of English offers a Bachelor of Arts in English, as well as minors in American studies, British studies, English (for non-English majors) and creative writing, the Master of Arts in English and the Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, and a doctoral program leading to a Ph.D. in Media, Art, and Text. Use the program index links to view individual program descriptions and curricula, or visit the department’s website at english.vcu.edu (http://www.english.vcu.edu) for additional information.

- Creative Writing, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in dual genre (p. 88)
- Creative Writing, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in fiction (p. 90)
- Creative Writing, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in poetry (p. 92)
- English, Master of Arts (M.A.) (p. 94)
- English, Master of Arts (M.A.) with a concentration in research (p. 96)
Creative Writing, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in dual genre

Program goals

Our selective and academically rigorous 48-credit-hour, three-year program is designed to provide talented writers with the opportunity to work closely with both outstanding faculty and gifted peers to strengthen their craft, develop their literary aesthetics, enrich their understanding of existing traditions as well as compositional possibilities, and to participate actively in the life of the literary community at large.

The primary areas of study are poetry and fiction, and admission is highly competitive. In addition to the poetry and fiction workshops, there are courses available that focus on writing drama, nonfiction and screenplays, as well as courses that provide practical experience in editing.

Student learning outcomes

Students in the M.F.A. in Creative Writing program will:

1. Develop and refine their individual writerly voices, produce literary work of a high quality and demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of their own aesthetics, as well as the literary models and cultural sources of those aesthetics
2. Actively engage in a wider literary culture and community at the local, regional, national or international level
3. Develop constructive workshop practices and demonstrate the ability to read closely and respond perceptively and critically to the writing of their fellow M.F.A. students
4. Develop an advanced comprehension of editing and revision techniques and strategies, which include synthesizing challenges, advice and critiques from professors and fellow M.F.A. students
5. Develop, hone and articulate a keen sense of their artistic and career goals

Student learning outcomes specific to fiction

1. Demonstrate the use or knowledge of effective approaches for creating sustained works of fiction distinguished by a nuanced use of appropriate narrative elements, techniques and conventions
2. Demonstrate a highly developed proficiency in understanding and creating story structures appropriate to their purpose and audience, as well as to their chosen literary modes and styles
3. In a statement of purpose or aesthetics that is part of their thesis manuscript, as well as in an exit interview/thesis defense, appraise and locate their own work within literary and cultural contexts

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.graduated.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

M.F.A. Guide may be accessed online at english.vcu.edu/mfa/mfa-guide (http://english.vcu.edu/mfa/mfa-guide).
Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.F.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Feb 1 (Jan 15 for consideration of assistantship)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- Portfolio (see below)

The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program is designed to attract students from diverse undergraduate backgrounds who are writers of promise. The program is suited particularly to those interested primarily in the writing of fiction and poetry; however, some emphasis also is placed on nonfiction writing, playwriting and screenwriting.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School, the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. A portfolio of promising fiction or poetry, possibly with drama (as a minimum, approximately eight to 10 poems, or 20 or more pages of fiction or some combination of these; in all cases, applicants should submit only their strongest creative writing samples) to be submitted directly to the M.F.A. program
2. Three recommendations from persons who are qualified to give information concerning the applicant’s probable success in graduate school, especially in a creative writing program
3. A scholastic record that is indicative of the applicant’s ability to pursue a graduate degree successfully
4. A baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution

Should students wish to be considered for a possible graduate teaching assistantship, they must also complete a separate Graduate Teaching Assistantship Application (pdf) (http://wp.vcu.edu/english-new/wp-content/uploads/sites/4432/2014/03/GA_application.pdf), which can be found on the program’s website. This separate/additional application also requires an undergraduate, graduate or professional paper, as well as a brief personal essay (two to three pages) in which applicants discuss their relevant teaching experience, educational background and particular interest in a graduate degree, suggesting where their education seems to be leading.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the M.F.A. in Creative Writing program are required to earn a minimum of 48 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Other requirements: Beyond the required courses, students should select elective courses, in conjunction with the program director or their thesis advisers, which are appropriate to their aims and interests. The thesis work gives students the opportunity to produce manuscripts of publishable quality. Course work also is available in the techniques of teaching creative writing, and the program is flexible enough to include studies undertaken in other departments of the university as well, including the departments of Art History, Theatre and Philosophy and the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture.

Curriculum requirements

Workshops

Select four of the following (majority of course work should be in the student’s genre):

| ENGL 666 | Creative Writing: Fiction |
| ENGL 667 | Creating Writing: Poetry |
| ENGL 668 | Creative Writing: Drama |
| ENGL 671 | Film and Television Scripts |
| ENGL 672 | Writing Nonfiction |

Elective courses in literature

Select four of the following:

| ENGL 552 | Children’s Literature II |
| ENGL 560 | Studies in British Literature and Culture |
| ENGL 570 | Special Topics in American Literature and Culture |
| ENGL/ENED 601 | Young Adult Literature |
| ENGL 605 | Introduction to Scholarship in English Studies |
| ENGL 606 | Literary Criticism |
| ENGL 611 | Authors |
| ENGL 614 | Cultural Discourses |
| ENGL 620 | Intertextuality |
| ENGL 624 | Texts and Contexts |
| ENGL 627 | Genres |
| ENGL 629 | Form and Theory of Poetry |
| ENGL 630 | Form and Theory of Fiction |
| ENGL 631 | Form and Theory of Creative Nonfiction |
| ENGL 692 | Independent Study |

Additional recommended electives

Select 18 credit hours of the following (may include up to three additional credit hours of thesis):

| ENGL/TEDU 528 | Children’s Literature II |
| ENGL/ENED 532 | Applied English Linguistics |
| ENGL 550 | Studies in Linguistics |
| ENGL/TEDU/LING 552 | Teaching English as a Second Language |
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| ENGL 624 | Texts and Contexts |
Creative Writing, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in fiction

Program goals
Our selective and academically rigorous 48-credit-hour, three-year program is designed to provide talented writers with the opportunity to work closely with both outstanding faculty and gifted peers to strengthen their craft, develop their literary aesthetics, enrich their understanding of existing traditions as well as compositional possibilities, and to participate actively in the life of the literary community at large.

The primary areas of study are poetry and fiction, and admission is highly competitive. In addition to the poetry and fiction workshops, there are courses available that focus on writing drama, nonfiction and screenplays, as well as courses that provide practical experience in editing.

Student learning outcomes
Students in the M.F.A. in Creative Writing program will:

1. Develop and refine their individual writerly voices, produce literary work of a high quality and demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of their own aesthetics, as well as the literary models and cultural sources of those aesthetics
2. Actively engage in a wider literary culture and community at the local, regional, national or international level
3. Develop constructive workshop practices and demonstrate the ability to read closely and respond perceptively and critically to the writing of their fellow M.F.A. students
4. Develop an advanced comprehension of editing and revision techniques and strategies, which include synthesizing challenges, advice and critiques from professors and fellow M.F.A. students
5. Develop, hone and articulate a keen sense of their artistic and career goals

Student learning outcomes specific to fiction
1. Demonstrate the use or knowledge of effective approaches for creating sustained works of fiction distinguished by a nuanced use of appropriate narrative elements, techniques and conventions
2. Demonstrate a highly developed proficiency in understanding and creating story structures appropriate to their purpose and audience, as well as to their chosen literary modes and styles
3. In a statement of purpose or aesthetics that is part of their thesis manuscripts, as well as in an exit interviews/thesis defense, appraise and locate their own work within literary and cultural contexts

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.grantuate.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
M.F.A. Guide may be accessed online at english.vcu.edu/mfa/mfa-guide (http://english.vcu.edu/mfa/mfa-guide).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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Special requirement
- Portfolio (see below)

The Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing program is designed to attract students from diverse undergraduate backgrounds who are writers of promise. The program is suited particularly to those interested primarily in the writing of fiction and poetry; however, some emphasis also is placed on nonfiction writing, playwriting and screenwriting.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. A portfolio of promising fiction or poetry, possibly with drama (as a minimum, approximately eight to 10 poems, or 20 or more pages of fiction or some combination of these; in all cases, applicants should submit only their strongest creative writing samples) to be submitted directly to the M.F.A. program
2. Three recommendations from persons who are qualified to give information concerning the applicant’s probable success in graduate school, especially in a creative writing program
3. A scholastic record that is indicative of the applicant’s ability to pursue a graduate degree successfully
4. A baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution

Should students wish to be considered for a possible graduate teaching assistantship, they must also complete a separate Graduate Teaching Assistantship Application (pdf) (http://wp.vcu.edu/english-new/wp-content/uploads/sites/4432/2014/03/GA_application.pdf), which can be found on the program’s website. This separate/additional application also requires an undergraduate, graduate or professional paper, as well as a brief personal essay (two to three pages) in which applicants discuss their relevant teaching experience, educational background and particular interest in a graduate degree, suggesting where their education seems to be leading.

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the M.F.A. in Creative Writing program are required to earn a minimum of 48 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Other requirements: Beyond the required courses, students should select elective courses, in conjunction with the program director or their thesis advisers, which are appropriate to their aims and interests. The thesis work gives students the opportunity to produce manuscripts of publishable quality. Course work also is available in the techniques of teaching creative writing, and the program is flexible enough to include studies undertaken in other departments of the university as well, including the departments of Art History, Theatre and Philosophy and the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture.

Curriculum requirements

Workshops
Select four of the following (majority of course work should be in the student’s genre):

ENGL 666 Creative Writing: Fiction
ENGL 667 Creating Writing: Poetry
ENGL 668 Creative Writing: Drama
ENGL 671 Film and Television Scripts
ENGL 672 Writing Nonfiction

Elective courses in literature
Select four of the following:

ENGL/TEDU 528 Children’s Literature II
ENGL 560 Studies in British Literature and Culture
ENGL 570 Special Topics in American Literature and Culture
ENGL/ENED 601 Young Adult Literature
ENGL 605 Introduction to Scholarship in English Studies
ENGL 606 Literary Criticism
ENGL 611 Authors
ENGL 614 Cultural Discourses
ENGL 620 Intertextuality
ENGL 624 Texts and Contexts
ENGL 627 Genres
Creative Writing, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in poetry

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**Additional recommended electives**

Select 18 credit hours of the following (may include up to three additional credit hours of thesis):

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**Thesis**

ENGL 798  Thesis (credit hours variable; may be repeated) 6

**Total Hours**  48

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48**

**Graduate program director**

Clint McCown
Professor, Department of English
Email: jcmccown@vcu.edu (jcmccown@vcu.edu)

Phone: (804) 828-1331

**Additional contact**

Thom Didato
Graduate programs adviser, Department of English
Email: tndidato@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1329

**Program website**: english.vcu.edu/mfa (http://english.vcu.edu/mfa)

Creative Writing, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in poetry

**Program goals**

Our selective and academically rigorous 48-credit-hour, three-year program is designed to provide talented writers with the opportunity to work closely with both outstanding faculty and gifted peers to strengthen their craft, develop their literary aesthetics, enrich their understanding of existing traditions as well as compositional possibilities, and to participate actively in the life of the literary community at large.

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**Student learning outcomes**

Students in the M.F.A. in Creative Writing program will:

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5. Develop, hone and articulate a keen sense of their artistic and career goals

**Student learning outcomes specific to poetry**

1. Demonstrate a skillful use or knowledge of major poetic devices, such as metaphor, imagery, lineation, persona, types of rhythm, rhyme and other sonic effect.
2. Demonstrate the use or knowledge of classic poetic forms, such as the sonnet, the ode and the elegy, as well as other contemporary, experimental or avant-garde forms.
3. In a statement of purpose or aesthetics that is part of their thesis manuscript, as well as in an exit interview/ thesis defense, appraise and locate their own work within literary and cultural contexts.
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ENGL 798 Thesis (credit hours variable; may be repeated)

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48

**Total Hours** 48

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**English, Master of Arts (M.A.)**

**Program goals**

The Department of English offers an M.A. degree for students seeking study beyond a bachelor's degree which prepares graduates to pursue a doctorate, to teach in secondary or higher education or to obtain other positions in the public and private sector. The M.A. in English is designed for students pursuing advanced English studies, and students may choose to focus their course work in either literature or writing and rhetoric. The M.A. in English with a research concentration is designed for students pursuing advanced English studies with an emphasis on research, criticism and methodology.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Develop advanced reading and writing skills
2. Engage in theoretical and/or textual/bibliographical scholarship
3. Conduct original research and advance an original argument under faculty direction
4. Explain and defend original research in a formal presentation or defense
Admission requirements

5. Survey the professional and academic work to which the degree leads

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**Graduation requirements**

As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must form a faculty committee. Students must obtain approval for their final projects from their supervising faculty committee, which culminates in an oral defense. Students must obtain approval for their final projects from their supervising faculty and the M.A. committee.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. A baccalaureate degree in an area appropriate to the study of literature or writing
2. A GPA that indicates the applicant can successfully pursue a graduate degree
3. Three letters of recommendation from former instructors
4. Completion of the general GRE
5. A writing sample, optimally ranging from 10-15 double-spaced pages

Should students wish to be considered for a possible graduate teaching assistantship, they must also complete a separate Graduate Teaching Assistantship Application (pdf) (http://wp.vcu.edu/english-new/wp-content/uploads/sites/4432/2014/03/GA_application.pdf), which can be found on the program’s website. This separate/additional application also requires an undergraduate, graduate or professional paper, as well as a brief personal essay (two to three pages) in which applicants discuss their relevant teaching experience, educational background and particular interest in a graduate degree, suggesting where their education seems to be leading.

Applicants may also indicate whether they intend to write a thesis and with which faculty members they hope to study.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the M.A. in English program are required to earn a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Other requirements: Students must complete one of two final projects: either a directed study, under the supervision of a faculty member with a public presentation; or a thesis in consultation with a faculty committee, which culminates in an oral defense. Students must obtain approval for their final projects from their supervising faculty and the M.A. committee.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Course requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGL 501</th>
<th>Introduction to Graduate Studies in English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 605</td>
<td>Introduction to Scholarship in English Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ENGL 606</td>
<td>Literary Criticism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 695</td>
<td>Directed Study/Major Project and Presentation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1-3

**Recommended electives**

Select 23-25 credit hours of the following:

- ENGL/TEDU 528 Children's Literature II
- ENGL/ENED 532 Applied English Linguistics
- ENGL 550 Studies in Linguistics
ENGL/TEDU/LING 552 Teaching English as a Second Language
ENGL 560 Studies in British Literature and Culture
ENGL 570 Special Topics in American Literature and Culture
ENGL/ENED 601 Young Adult Literature
ENGL 605 Introduction to Scholarship in English Studies
ENGL 606 Literary Criticism
ENGL 611 Authors
ENGL 614 Cultural Discourses
ENGL 620 Intertextuality
ENGL 624 Texts and Contexts
ENGL 627 Genres
ENGL 629 Form and Theory of Poetry
ENGL 630 Form and Theory of Fiction
ENGL 631 Form and Theory of Creative Nonfiction
ENGL 632 Community Writing
ENGL 636 Teaching Writing
ENGL 637 Theories of Rhetoric and Composition
ENGL 638 Responding to Writing
ENGL 652 Studies in Writing and Rhetoric: _____
ENGL 661 Themes in Interdisciplinary Studies
ENGL 666 Creative Writing: Fiction
ENGL 667 Creating Writing: Poetry
ENGL 668 Creative Writing: Drama
ENGL 670 Literary Editing and Publishing
ENGL 671 Film and Television Scripts
ENGL 672 Writing Nonfiction
ENGL 692 Independent Study
ENGL 694 Internship in Writing

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Graduate program director
Les Harrison, Ph.D.
Associate professor
Email: hlharrison@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1331

Additional contact
Thom Didato
Graduate programs adviser
Email: tndidato@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1329

Program website: english.vcu.edu/ma (http://english.vcu.edu/ma)

English, Master of Arts (M.A.) with a concentration in research

Program goals
The Department of English offers an M.A. degree for students seeking study beyond a bachelor’s degree which prepares graduates to pursue a doctorate, to teach in secondary or higher education or to obtain other positions in the public and private sector. The M.A. in English is designed for students pursuing advanced English studies, and students may choose to focus their course work in either literature or writing and rhetoric. The M.A. in English with a research concentration is designed for students pursuing advanced English studies with an emphasis on research, criticism and methodology.

Student learning outcomes
1. Develop advanced reading and writing skills
2. Engage in theoretical and/or textual/bibliographical scholarship
3. Conduct original research and advance an original argument under faculty direction
4. Explain and defend original research in a formal presentation or defense
5. Survey the professional and academic work to which the degree leads

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

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. A baccalaureate degree in an area appropriate to the study of literature or writing
2. A GPA that indicates the applicant can successfully pursue a graduate degree
3. Three letters of recommendation from former instructors
4. Completion of the GRE
5. A writing sample, optimally ranging from 10-15 double-spaced pages

Should students wish to be considered for a possible graduate teaching assistantship, they must also complete a separate Graduate Teaching Assistantship Application (pdf) (http://wp.vcu.edu/english-new/wp-content/uploads/sites/4432/2014/03/GA_application.pdf), which can be found on the program’s website. This separate/additional application also requires an undergraduate, graduate or professional paper, as well as a brief personal essay (two to three pages) in which applicants discuss their relevant teaching experience, educational background and particular interest in a graduate degree, suggesting where their education seems to be leading.

Applicants may also indicate whether they intend to write a thesis and with which faculty members they hope to study.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the M.A. in English program are required to earn a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Other requirements: Students must complete one of two final projects: either a directed study, under the supervision of a faculty member with a public presentation; or a thesis in consultation with a faculty committee, which culminates in an oral defense. Students must obtain approval for their final projects from their supervising faculty and the M.A. committee.

Curriculum requirements

Course requirements

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<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Introduction to Graduate Studies in English</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 605</td>
<td>Introduction to Scholarship in English Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 606</td>
<td>Literary Criticism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 799</td>
<td>Thesis (credit hours variable; may be repeated)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommended electives

Select 17 credit hours of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL/TEDU 528</td>
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<td>Applied English Linguistics</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
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<td>Teaching English as a Second Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 570</td>
<td>Special Topics in American Literature and Culture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL/ENED 601</td>
<td>Young Adult Literature</td>
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<td>Themes in Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 666</td>
<td>Creative Writing: Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 667</td>
<td>Creating Writing: Poetry</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Creative Writing: Drama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 670</td>
<td>Literary Editing and Publishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 671</td>
<td>Film and Television Scripts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 672</td>
<td>Writing Nonfiction</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Independent Study</td>
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<td>ENGL 694</td>
<td>Internship in Writing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 30

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Graduate program director
Les Harrison, Ph.D.
Associate professor
Email: hlharrison@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1331

Additional contact
Thom Didato
Graduate programs adviser
Email: tnididato@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1329

Program website: english.vcu.edu/ma (http://english.vcu.edu/ma)

Media, Art, and Text, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) [College of Humanities and Sciences]

Program goal
VCU's interdisciplinary doctoral program in media, art, and text is a joint endeavor of the Department of English, the School of the Arts and the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture. The program prepares students primarily to teach at the college or university level, although some pursue careers in related media fields. MATX emphasizes the historical and theoretical foundations essential to the scholarly study of media, both old and new, broadly defined. It provides an intellectually stimulating environment that encourages students to work both collaboratively and independently, as well as across and between disciplines and media. Students maintain a base in their primary area of research, which is usually but not always the field in which they have done prior graduate work.

Student learning outcomes
1. Develop advanced communication skills in writing, speaking and the use of multimedia
2. Demonstrate broad knowledge of history and theory as the foundation for interdisciplinary work in a specialized facet of media, art, and/or text
3. Develop competence in interdisciplinary and disciplinary research methods and responsible conduct of research
4. Develop specialized knowledge in relevant fields to support dissertation and subsequent research
5. Demonstrate the ability to conduct independent research and produce new, specialized knowledge within the broad parameters of media, art, and text
6. Develop a strong basis for ongoing professional practice

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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information
The MATX student handbook is available at matx.vcu.edu/program/handbook.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission.

1. Applicants must hold a master’s degree (M.A., M.F.A., M.S.) in a relevant field.
2. Applicants must submit the following, in the formats indicated via VCU's online application portal:
   a. Writing sample demonstrating the ability to write clearly, analyze effectively and conduct original research in advanced doctoral-level seminars — This may be a master’s thesis, a graduate-level seminar paper or a published essay. Submit as a PDF.
   b. Statement of purpose describing the applicant’s interest, motivation and goals in pursuing this degree — The statement should specifically address the importance of interdisciplinarity to the applicant’s academic goals, and it should also offer evidence of preparation for the study of media, art, and text. The
applicant should indicate the specific area of study and research to be pursued at VCU and identify faculty who might potentially direct dissertation research. Submit as a PDF.

c. Academic curriculum vitae or professional resume — List all colleges and universities attended and degrees earned, all professional and academic positions held, all publications and/or exhibitions, technical skills, and any other relevant information. Include URLs for personal and/or professional websites. Submit as PDF.

d. Letters of recommendation — Provide letters from three present or former instructors or other individuals qualified to evaluate the applicant’s ability to engage in interdisciplinary study at the doctoral level. Have recommenders submit their letters via the online application portal.

3. Applicants who wish to pursue creative work at VCU must also submit a portfolio. Those with an M.F.A. who do not wish to continue creative work should consult with the MATX director about this requirement. Materials submitted should demonstrate excellence in studio or professional practice and the potential to do graduate-level work in media, art, and text. Portfolios will be reviewed by the MATX admissions committee as well as relevant faculty in the School of the Arts and the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture. Please observe the following guidelines:

a. Those working in 2-D or 3-D mediums should provide 20 images of representative work arranged chronologically, beginning with the most recent.

b. Those working in sound and time-based media, as well as those in the performing arts, should provide clips totaling no more than 10 minutes.

c. Those working across media may submit a combination of the above.

d. The portfolio should include title, date, media and dimensions of each work, as well as a brief statement or other information that will help the admissions committee in its evaluation.

Small files illustrating 2-D or 3-D work should be submitted in a single PDF. Sound or video files should be posted to Vimeo or Sound Cloud with a functioning link submitted in a PDF with the required information posted to the portal. Portfolio materials may also be posted to a personal or professional website and the link required information posted to the portal. Portfolio materials may also be posted to a personal or professional website and the link included in a PDF posted to the portal.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the MATX program are required to earn a minimum of 42 graduate-level credit hours beyond the master’s. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher. The 42-hour curriculum comprises 36 hours of course work and a minimum of six hours of dissertation research. Course work includes a core of four required courses taken during the first two semesters by all incoming students. Three doctoral seminars provide a shared historical and theoretical foundation for the study of media, art, and text, while a workshop offers the opportunity to develop and expand professional and/or creative skills relevant to the student’s career goals and research focus. In addition, all students will take a research methods course in a field relevant to their anticipated area of dissertation research. Beyond the core, students select 21 hours of elective credit hours from course offerings in disciplines relevant to their research interests and career goals. The program offers a topics seminar focused on the history, theory or practice of media, art, and text. Independent study and internships are also available as electives. While enrollment in courses with the MATX prefix is guaranteed to matriculated MATX students, enrollment in other graduate courses is subject to the conditions established by individual units. Together the core and the electives support the interdisciplinary work of the dissertation, which is an original scholarly examination of some aspect of media, art, and/or text. It may include work in media other than text. It is supervised by a committee consisting of four or five members drawn from disciplines relevant to the research topic.

2. Grade requirements: To graduate, degree applicants must achieve an overall grade point average of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale with a grade of C in no more than two courses. The GPA for graduation will be based on all graduate courses attempted after acceptance into the program.

3. Requirements for admission to candidacy: Before beginning formal dissertation research, students must complete all 36 hours of required course work, both stages of the e-portfolio and the requirements described below. Upon completion of these, the student will apply for degree candidacy.

4. Dissertation committee: The dissertation committee consists of the director (who must hold a Ph.D.) and three or four additional members whose scholarly knowledge and interests are relevant to the project. The committee must have at least one member from each of the sponsoring units (Department of English, School of the Arts, Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture). All must be members of VCU’s graduate faculty. Appropriate faculty from outside VCU may serve on committees (but not as director) with the approval of the MATX director and the graduate dean. It is the student’s responsibility to assemble the committee, in consultation with the dissertation director. Committees will not be appointed by the program.

5. E-portfolio: Work on the e-portfolio will begin in MATX 604 in the spring of the first year. There are no technical specifications, and content will include, but is not limited to, work done in the first two years in the program. It will take the form of a website and must demonstrate the technical skills (Web design, audio, video, etc.) relevant to the student’s work on the dissertation and the career sought after VCU. Submission is a two-stage process:

a. Stage 1 (August of the second year): a three- to five-page design rationale for the portfolio site along with a mock-up or rough structure

b. Stage 2 (April of the second year): a finished, live site accompanied by a five-page statement relating it to the student’s work inside and outside the program and outlining how it uses media techniques to promote a specific professional and/or creative identity (Note: Each submission is graded pass/fail and may be repeated once. A second failure results in automatic termination from the program.)

6. Competency: Candidates must demonstrate competency in a skill or technique relevant to the dissertation research or planned professional career. The dissertation committee approves and administers the competency portion. Graded pass/fail, the test may be repeated once.

7. Bibliography exam: Candidates will complete an exam on a reading list of 20 to 30 sources relevant to or supportive of the dissertation topic. The dissertation committee approves and administers the bibliography exam. Graded pass/fail, the test may be repeated once.
8. Dissertation prospectus and prospectus defense: The prospectus is a 15- to 20-page document that indicates the significance of the proposed research, gives a short review of relevant literature, states the research question, specifies the proposed methodology and indicates how the project lays the foundation for the anticipated academic or professional career. It also includes a work plan for the completion of research and writing, as well as a complete bibliography. The prospectus is defended orally before the dissertation committee, which may accept, reject or require revisions. The defense may be repeated once.

9. Dissertation and dissertation defense: The dissertation is an original, interdisciplinary and scholarly examination of a topic relevant to an aspect of media, art, and/or text. It may include work in media other than text. Given the varied nature of doctoral research, there is no set time frame for completion of a dissertation. It is expected, however, that the dissertation will take about two years after attaining candidacy, but it must be defended within the eight-year time limit for completion of the doctoral degree. The dissertation will be defended orally before the dissertation committee. Successful defense of the dissertation completes the requirements for the degree.

Curriculum requirements

MATX 601  Texts and Textuality  3
MATX 602  History of Media, Art, and Text  3
MATX 603  Mass Media  3
MATX 604  Interdisciplinary Workshop  3
MATX 897  Dissertation Project  6
Select one methods course from list 1 below  3
Select elective courses from list 2 below  21

Total Hours  42

List 1: Methods courses

ARTH 690  Historiography and Methodology of Art History  3
ENGL 605  Introduction to Scholarship in English Studies  3
GSWS 602  Feminist Research Epistemology and Methods  3
MASC 611  Research Methods in Mass Communications  3

List 2: Recommended electives

ARTH 591  Special Topics in Art History  1-6
ARTH 690  Historiography and Methodology of Art History  3
ARTH 722  Seminar in 19th-century Art  3
ARTH 723  Seminar in 20th-century Art  3
ARTH 741  Seminar in Art and Theory  3
ARTH 742  Seminar in Trans-millennial Art and Ideas  3
ARTH 743  Seminar in Art and Representation  3
ARTH 791  Special Topics in Art History  3
ENGL 560  Studies in British Literature and Culture  3
ENGL 570  Special Topics in American Literature and Culture  3
ENGL 605  Introduction to Scholarship in English Studies  3
ENGL 611  Authors  3
ENGL 614  Cultural Discourses  3
ENGL 620  Intertextuality  3
ENGL 624  Texts and Contexts  3
ENGL 627  Genres  3
ENGL 629  Form and Theory of Poetry  3
ENGL 630  Form and Theory of Fiction  3
ENGL 631  Form and Theory of Creative Nonfiction  3
ENGL 661  Themes in Interdisciplinary Studies  3
GSWS 501  Feminist Theory  3
GSWS 602  Feminist Research Epistemology and Methods  3
GSWS 620  Theorizing Sexuality  3
GSWS 624  Gender and Cultural Production  3
GSWS 691  Topics in Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies  1-3
KINE 591  Topics in Contemporary Media  3
KINE 690  Graduate Seminar  4
KINE 695  Advanced Sound  3
MASC 611  Research Methods in Mass Communications  3
MASC 645  Visual Journalism  3
MASC 684  Multiplatform Storytelling  3
MASC 688  Converged Media Applications  3
MASC 691  Topics in Mass Communications  1-3
MATX 690  Seminar in Media, Art, and Text  3
MATX 696  Internship  1-3
MATX 791  Directed Study (may be taken for a maximum of 12 credit hours)  1-3

Graduate program director

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Additional contact

Thom Didato
Graduate programs adviser, Department of English
tndidato@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1329

Program website: matx.vcu.edu (http://matx.vcu.edu)

Department of Forensic Science

Tal Simmons, Ph.D.
Professor, chair and graduate program director

Catherine Connolly, Ph.D.
Instructor and undergraduate program director
The Department of Forensic Science offers programs leading to bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

The Bachelor of Science is for students who plan a career or graduate study in the forensic sciences. The forensic science program provides students with fundamental learning in forensic laboratory analyses and crime scene investigation, with academic emphasis in biology, chemistry and criminal justice. The program offers three concentrations: forensic biology, forensic chemistry and physical evidence. Students will select one of the three concentrations prior to the second semester of their sophomore year. The B.S. in Forensic Science supplies students with the necessary skills for professional careers in forensic laboratories, public and private, basic research laboratories, clinical laboratories, and/or to pursue graduate studies. Students also will be prepared to pursue advanced degrees in the physical sciences, biological sciences, forensic science, law, allied health and medicine, to name a few.

The Master of Science in Forensic Science prepares students for careers as forensic scientists in government and private laboratories. Students receive in-depth exposure to specializations within the field, including drug analysis, DNA analysis, trace evidence, criminalistics and legal issues.

For more information visit forensicscience.vcu.edu (http://forensicscience.vcu.edu).

- Forensic Science, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in forensic biology (p. 101)
- Forensic Science, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in forensic chemistry/drugs and toxicology (p. 103)
- Forensic Science, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in forensic chemistry/trace (p. 106)
- Forensic Science, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in forensic physical analysis (p. 108)

**Forensic Science, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in forensic biology**

**Program accreditation**
Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission

**Program goal**
The Master of Science in Forensic Science is one of only a few of its kind in the U.S. The mission of the program is to prepare students for careers as forensic scientists in government and private forensic laboratories. In addition, students will be prepared to pursue further graduate and/or professional academic degrees.

Core courses in the forensic science curriculum offer broad exposure to forensic laboratory equipment and instrumentation, as well as legal issues, expert testimony, forensic biology, forensic chemistry, trace evidence, physical evidence, professional ethics, quality assurance and current topics in research and development within the forensic sciences. Students entering the program will be required to select a concentration by the end of the first semester. Concentrations offered include forensic biology, forensic chemistry/drugs and toxicology, forensic chemistry/trace and forensic physical analysis. A strong emphasis is placed on laboratory course work, providing students with significant laboratory and research experience. Several of the laboratory courses are taught by practicing professional forensic scientists at the Virginia Division of Forensic Science Central Laboratory, which is nationally accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board.

**Student learning outcomes**
1. Students will be able to apply basic principles and laboratory procedures of biology and chemistry to forensic science through focused study in the available concentration options.
2. Students will demonstrate capabilities, use, potential and limitations of forensic laboratory theory and techniques.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to perform (report and orally present) independent research in an area of forensic science.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of legal procedure, rules of evidence, ethical and professional duties and responsibilities of the forensic scientist.

**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.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation
requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
The forensic science graduate student handbook is available at
forensicscience.vcu.edu/graduate/student-handbook (http://
forensicscience.vcu.edu/graduate/student-handbook).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://
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Admission requirements

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<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>GRE</td>
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</table>

Note: Review of application and offers of admission will begin Jan.
15 and proceed until enrollment openings are filled. All applicants
are automatically considered for graduate teaching assistantships
in the Department of Forensic Science; however, the earlier a
student’s application is complete, the better the chance of being selected
for an assistantship.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate
School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum
acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree in a natural science discipline, including forensic
   science, or a degree with equivalent course work
2. An undergraduate GPA that exceeds 2.9 on a 4.0 scale (Most
   students entering the forensic science graduate program have a
   minimum GPA of 3.0 on undergraduate work and a combined score of
   300 or more on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE
3. Completion of eight credit hours (two semesters or equivalent) of
   organic chemistry with laboratories and eight credit hours (two
   semesters or equivalent) of general biology with laboratories
4. Assessment of prior graduate course work and/or relevant laboratory
   experience (where applicable)
5. Three letters of recommendation pertaining specifically to the
   student’s potential ability as a graduate student in forensic science
6. Personal statement
7. Satisfactory scores on GRE

Applicants are required to select a concentration and will be considered
only for that concentration. If course work deficiencies are identified,
students may be required to take additional foundational courses beyond
those required for the concentration.

Additional admission requirements for concentration in
forensic biology

In addition to the M.S. in Forensic Science general admission
requirements, applicants to the forensic biology concentration must have
completed a minimum of nine credit hours or equivalent of upper-level
course work in the biological or biochemical sciences. This may include,
but is not limited to, course work in cell biology, general biochemistry,
genetics and/or molecular biology.

Degree requirements

The graduate program is a full-time, two-year program. Courses will vary
depending on the concentration selected. Required and elective courses
are offered at various times, day and night, throughout the week. The
M.S. in Forensic Science requires 42 graduate credit hours of course
work, including 27 credit hours of required core course work and 15
credit hours of specialized course work designed for each concentration
(including electives). The required course work includes a directed
research project, which is an extensive research experience conducted
within a forensic laboratory setting.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements
(p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and
elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students must complete a minimum of
   42 graduate-level credit hours as outlined in the list of core and
   concentration requirements, including electives.
2. Grade requirements: Students must maintain an ongoing, cumulative
   minimum GPA of 3.0. Receipt of a grade of C in two or more courses
   will constitute an automatic dismissal from the graduate program in
   forensic science. Receipt of a grade of D or lower in any one course
   will constitute an automatic dismissal from the graduate program in
   forensic science.
3. Other requirements: Students must maintain continuous, full-time
   enrollment. Interruption in continuous enrollment or full-time status
   for any reason without a leave of absence approved by the forensic
   science graduate committee will require that students reapply to
   the program. Request for credit for graduate course work taken at
   other institutions must be submitted to the director of graduate
   studies in forensic science and will be considered on a case-by-
   case basis by the forensic science graduate committee. If course
   work deficiencies are identified, students may be required to take
   additional foundational courses beyond those listed below. These will
   not count toward the 42 required credit hours.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 570</td>
<td>Forensic Science Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 661</td>
<td>Analysis of Pattern Evidence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 662</td>
<td>Firearm and Toolmark Identification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 670</td>
<td>Forensic Evidence and Criminal Procedure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 671</td>
<td>Instrumentation in Forensic Chemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 673</td>
<td>Forensic Microscopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; FRSZ 673</td>
<td>and Forensic Microscopy Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 675</td>
<td>Forensic Serology and DNA Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; FRSZ 675</td>
<td>and Forensic Serology and DNA Analysis Laboratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 677</td>
<td>Professional Practices and Expert Testimony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 793</td>
<td>Directed Research in Forensic Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
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</table>

Forensic biology concentration courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL/HGEN 516</td>
<td>Population Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 565</td>
<td>Scientific Crime Scene Investigation</td>
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</table>
FRSC 676 Advanced Forensic DNA Analysis 3 3

**Recommended electives**
Select six credit hours from the following: 4

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 530/</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 501</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Molecular Genetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 693</td>
<td>Current Topics in Biology (molecular biology)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 506</td>
<td>Introduction to Spectroscopic Methods in Organic Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 606</td>
<td>Advanced Spectroscopic Methods in Organic Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 630</td>
<td>Electroanalytical Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 631</td>
<td>Separation Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 632</td>
<td>Chemometrics</td>
<td></td>
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<td>CHEM 633</td>
<td>Mass Spectrometry</td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 634</td>
<td>Surface Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRJS 591</td>
<td>Topic Seminar (drugs and crime)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRSC 505</td>
<td>Forensic Entomology</td>
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<td>FRSC 510</td>
<td>Developmental Osteology</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRSC 515</td>
<td>Advanced Forensic Anthropology</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRSC 520</td>
<td>Forensic Fire Investigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRSC 566</td>
<td>Advanced Crime Scene Investigation 3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 580</td>
<td>Applied Statistics for Forensic Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRSC 607</td>
<td>Forensic Taphonomy</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRSC/PHTX 644</td>
<td>Forensic Toxicology 3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 661</td>
<td>Analysis of Pattern Evidence 3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 662</td>
<td>Firearm and Toolmark Identification 3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 663</td>
<td>Forensic Medicine</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 672</td>
<td>Advanced Drug Analysis 3</td>
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<td>FRSC/CRJS 680</td>
<td>Forensic Psychiatry</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRSC 681</td>
<td>Analysis of Fire Debris and Explosives 3</td>
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<td>FRSC 682</td>
<td>Forensic Analysis of Paint and Polymers 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRSC 690</td>
<td>Scientific Writing</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRSC 692</td>
<td>Forensic Science Independent Study</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 693</td>
<td>Current Topics in Forensic Science</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 792</td>
<td>Research Techniques</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PHIS 501</td>
<td>Mammalian Physiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 536</td>
<td>Principles of Pharmacology and Toxicology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHTX 548</td>
<td>Drug Dependence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours 42**

4 In consultation with adviser. At least one elective must be a graduate-level molecular biology related course.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 42**

**Graduate program director**
Tal Simmons, Ph.D., D-ABFA, Cert FA-I
Professor
Email: tlsimmons@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-3295

**Program website:** forensicscience.vcu.edu (http://forensicscience.vcu.edu)

**Forensic Science, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in forensic chemistry/drugs and toxicology**

**Program accreditation**
Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission

**Program goal**
The Master of Science in Forensic Science is one of only a few of its kind in the U.S. The mission of the program is to prepare students for careers as forensic scientists in government and private forensic laboratories. In addition, students will be prepared to pursue further graduate and/or professional academic degrees.

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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.

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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.

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Other information

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3. Completion of eight credit hours (two semesters or equivalent) of organic chemistry with laboratories and eight credit hours (two semesters or equivalent) of general biology with laboratories
4. Assessment of prior graduate course work and/or relevant laboratory experience (where applicable)
5. Three letters of recommendation pertaining specifically to the student’s potential ability as a graduate student in forensic science
6. Personal statement
7. Satisfactory scores on GRE

Applicants are required to select a concentration and will be considered only for that concentration. If course work deficiencies are identified, students may be required to take additional foundational courses beyond those required for the concentration.

Additional admission requirements for concentration in forensic chemistry/drugs and toxicology

In addition to the M.S. in Forensic Science general admission requirements, applicants to the concentration in forensic chemistry/drugs and toxicology must have completed a minimum of nine credit hours or equivalent of upper-level chemistry or biochemistry course work. This may include, but is not limited to, course work in physical chemistry, instrumental analysis, quantitative analysis, pharmacology and/or general biochemistry.

Degree requirements

The graduate program is a full-time, two-year program. Courses will vary depending on the concentration selected. Required and elective courses are offered at various times, day and night, throughout the week. The M.S. in Forensic Science requires 42 graduate credit hours of course work, including 27 credit hours of required core course work and 15 credit hours of specialized course work designed for each concentration (including electives). The required course work includes a directed research project, which is an extensive research experience conducted within a forensic laboratory setting.
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students must complete a minimum of 42 graduate-level credit hours as outlined in the list of core and concentration requirements, including electives.

2. Grade requirements: Students must maintain an ongoing, cumulative minimum GPA of 3.0. Receipt of a grade of C in two or more courses will constitute an automatic dismissal from the graduate program in forensic science. Receipt of a grade of D or lower in any one course will constitute an automatic dismissal from the graduate program in forensic science.

3. Other requirements: Students must maintain continuous, full-time enrollment. Interruption in continuous enrollment or full-time status for any reason without a leave of absence approved by the forensic science graduate committee will require that students reapply to the program. Request for credit for graduate course work taken at other institutions must be submitted to the director of graduate studies in forensic science and will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the forensic science graduate committee. If course work deficiencies are identified, students may be required to take additional foundational courses beyond those listed below. These will not count toward the 42 required credit hours.

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<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 570</td>
<td>Forensic Science Seminar</td>
<td>1,2 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 661</td>
<td>Analysis of Pattern Evidence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or FRSC 662</td>
<td>Forensic Evidence and Criminal Procedure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 670</td>
<td>Instrumentation in Forensic Chemistry</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; FRSZ 675</td>
<td>Forensic Serology and DNA Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; FRSZ 675</td>
<td>Forensic Serology and DNA Analysis Laboratory</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRSC 677</td>
<td>Professional Practices and Expert Testimony</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRSC 793</td>
<td>Directed Research in Forensic Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or FRSC 580</td>
<td>Applied Statistics for Forensic Science</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>or BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
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**Forensic chemistry/drugs and toxicology concentration courses**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>FRSC 565</td>
<td>Scientific Crime Scene Investigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>or FRSC 663</td>
<td>Forensic Medicine</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC/PHTX 644</td>
<td>Forensic Toxicology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 672</td>
<td>Advanced Drug Analysis</td>
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**Recommended electives**

Select six credit hours of the following: 4

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 530/</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>HGEN 501</td>
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**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 42**

**Graduate program director**

Tal Simmons, Ph.D., D-ABFA, Cert FA-I

Professor

Email: tlsimmons@vcu.edu

Phone: (804) 828-3295

**Program website:** forensicscience.vcu.edu (http://forensicscience.vcu.edu)
Forensic Science, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in forensic chemistry/trace

Program accreditation
Forensic Science Education Programs Accreditation Commission

Program goal
The Master of Science in Forensic Science is one of only a few of its kind in the U.S. The mission of the program is to prepare students for careers as forensic scientists in government and private forensic laboratories. In addition, students will be prepared to pursue further graduate and/or professional academic degrees.

Core courses in the forensic science curriculum offer broad exposure to forensic laboratory equipment and instrumentation, as well as legal issues, expert testimony, forensic biology, forensic chemistry, trace evidence, physical evidence, professional ethics, quality assurance and current topics in research and development within the forensic sciences. Students entering the program will be required to select a concentration by the end of the first semester. Concentrations offered include forensic biology, forensic chemistry/drugs and toxicology, forensic chemistry/trace and forensic physical analysis. A strong emphasis is placed on laboratory course work, providing students with significant laboratory and research experience. Several of the laboratory courses are taught by practicing professional forensic scientists at the Virginia Division of Forensic Science Central Laboratory, which is nationally accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will be able to apply basic principles and laboratory procedures of biology and chemistry to forensic science through focused study in the available concentration options.
2. Students will demonstrate capabilities, use, potential and limitations of forensic laboratory theory and techniques.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to perform (report and orally present) independent research in an area of forensic science.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of legal procedure, rules of evidence, ethical and professional duties and responsibilities of the forensic scientist.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
The forensic science graduate student handbook is available at forensicscience.vcu.edu/graduate/student-handbook (http://forensicscience.vcu.edu/graduate/student-handbook).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Review of application and offers of admission will begin Jan. 15 and proceed until enrollment openings are filled. All applicants are automatically considered for graduate teaching assistantships in the Department of Forensic Science; however, the earlier a student’s application is complete, the better the chance of being selected for an assistantship.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (http://www.pubapps.vcu.edu/Bulletins/prog_search/?uid=10045&iid=30033&did=20062), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree in a natural science discipline, including forensic science, or a degree with equivalent course work
2. An undergraduate GPA that exceeds 2.9 on a 4.0 scale (Most students entering the forensic science graduate program have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on undergraduate work and a combined score of 300 or more on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE)
3. Completion of eight credit hours (two semesters or equivalent) of organic chemistry with laboratories and eight credit hours (two semesters or equivalent) of general biology with laboratories
4. Assessment of prior graduate course work and/or relevant laboratory experience (where applicable)
5. Three letters of recommendation pertaining specifically to the student's potential ability as a graduate student in forensic science
6. Personal statement
7. Satisfactory scores on GRE

Applicants are required to select a concentration and will be considered only for that concentration. If course work deficiencies are identified, students may be required to take additional foundational courses beyond those required for the concentration.

Additional admission requirements for concentration in forensic chemistry/trace
In addition to the M.S. in Forensic Science general admission requirements, applicants to the forensic chemistry/trace concentration must have completed a minimum of nine semester credit hours or equivalent of upper-level chemistry course work. This may include, but is not limited to, course work in physical chemistry, instrumental analysis, quantitative analysis and/or inorganic chemistry.

Degree requirements
The graduate program is a full-time, two-year program. Courses will vary depending on the concentration selected. Required and elective courses are offered at various times, day and night, throughout the week. The M.S. in Forensic Science requires 42 graduate credit hours of course work, including 27 credit hours of required core course work and 15 credit hours of specialized course work designed for each concentration (including electives). The required course work includes a directed research project, which is an extensive research experience conducted within a forensic laboratory setting.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students must complete a minimum of 42 graduate-level credit hours as outlined in the list of core and concentration requirements, including electives.
2. Grade requirements: Students must maintain an ongoing, cumulative minimum GPA of 3.0. Receipt of a grade of C in two or more courses will constitute an automatic dismissal from the graduate program in forensic science. Receipt of a grade of D or lower in any one course will constitute an automatic dismissal from the graduate program in forensic science.
3. Other requirements: Students must maintain continuous, full-time enrollment. Interruption in continuous enrollment or full-time status for any reason without a leave of absence approved by the forensic science graduate committee will require that students reapply to the program. Request for credit for graduate course work taken at other institutions must be submitted to the director of graduate studies in forensic science and will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the forensic science graduate committee. If course work deficiencies are identified, students may be required to take additional foundational courses beyond those listed below. These will not count toward the 42 required credit hours.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 570</td>
<td>Forensic Science Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 661</td>
<td>Analysis of Pattern Evidence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or FRSC 662</td>
<td>Firearm and Toolmark Identification</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 670</td>
<td>Forensic Evidence and Criminal Procedure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 671</td>
<td>Instrumentation in Forensic Chemistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 673</td>
<td>Forensic Microscopy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; FRSZ 673</td>
<td>and Forensic Microscopy Laboratory</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 675</td>
<td>Forensic Serology and DNA Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; FRSZ 675</td>
<td>and Forensic Serology and DNA Analysis Laboratory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 677</td>
<td>Professional Practices and Expert Testimony</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 793</td>
<td>Directed Research in Forensic Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or FRSC 580</td>
<td>Applied Statistics for Forensic Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Forensic chemistry/trace concentration courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 565</td>
<td>Scientific Crime Scene Investigation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 681</td>
<td>Analysis of Fire Debris and Explosives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 682</td>
<td>Forensic Analysis of Paint and Polymers</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Recommended electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 530/</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 501</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 540</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Molecular Genetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 693</td>
<td>Current Topics in Biology (molecular biology)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 506</td>
<td>Introduction to Spectroscopic Methods in Organic Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 606</td>
<td>Advanced Spectroscopic Methods in Organic Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 630</td>
<td>Electroanalytical Chemistry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 631</td>
<td>Separation Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 632</td>
<td>Chemometrics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 633</td>
<td>Mass Spectrometry</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CHEM 634</td>
<td>Surface Science</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>CRJS 591</td>
<td>Topic Seminar (drugs and crime)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>FRSC 505</td>
<td>Forensic Entomology</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>FRSC 510</td>
<td>Developmental Osteology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 515</td>
<td>Advanced Forensic Anthropology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 520</td>
<td>Forensic Fire Investigation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>FRSC 566</td>
<td>Advanced Crime Scene Investigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRSC 580</td>
<td>Applied Statistics for Forensic Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Students entering the program will be required to select a concentration current topics in research and development within the forensic sciences. Issues, expert testimony, forensic biology, forensic chemistry, trace and forensic physical analysis. A strong emphasis is placed on laboratory course work, providing students with significant laboratory and research experience. Several of the laboratory courses are taught by practicing professional forensic scientists at the Virginia Division of Forensic Science Central Laboratory, which is nationally accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors/Laboratory Accreditation Board.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Students will be able to apply basic principles and laboratory procedures of biology and chemistry to forensic science through focused study in the available concentration options.
2. Students will demonstrate capabilities, use, potential and limitations of forensic laboratory theory and techniques.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to perform (report and orally present) independent research in an area of forensic science.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of legal procedure, rules of evidence, ethical and professional duties and responsibilities of the forensic scientist.

**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.graduateducation.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)
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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

The forensic science graduate student handbook is available at forensicscience.vcu.edu/graduate/student-handbook (http://forensicscience.vcu.edu/graduate/student-handbook).

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Note: Review of application and offers of admission will begin Jan. 15 and proceed until enrollment openings are filled. All applicants are automatically considered for graduate teaching assistantships in the Department of Forensic Science; however, the earlier a student’s application is complete, the better the chance of being selected for an assistantship.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree in a natural science discipline, including forensic science, or a degree with equivalent course work
2. An undergraduate GPA that exceeds 2.9 on a 4.0 scale (Most students entering the forensic science graduate program have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on undergraduate work and a combined score of 300 or more on the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE
3. Completion of eight credit hours (two semesters or equivalent) of organic chemistry with laboratories and eight credit hours (two semesters or equivalent) of general biology with laboratories
4. Assessment of prior graduate course work and/or relevant laboratory experience (where applicable)
5. Three letters of recommendation pertaining specifically to the student’s potential ability as a graduate student in forensic science
6. Personal statement
7. Satisfactory scores on GRE

Applicants are required to select a concentration and will be considered only for that concentration. If course work deficiencies are identified, students may be required to take additional foundational courses beyond those required for the concentration.

Additional admission requirements for concentration in forensic physical analysis

In addition to the M.S. in Forensic Science general admission requirements, applicants to the forensic physical analysis concentration must have completed a minimum of nine credit hours or equivalent of upper-level science course work. This may include, but is not limited to, course work in the areas of biology, chemistry, physics or biochemistry.

Degree requirements

The graduate program is a full-time, two-year program. Courses will vary depending on the concentration selected. Required and elective courses are offered at various times, day and night, throughout the week. The M.S. in Forensic Science requires 42 graduate credit hours of course work, including 27 credit hours of required core course work and 15 credit hours of specialized course work designed for each concentration (including electives). The required course work includes a directed research project, which is an extensive research experience conducted within a forensic laboratory setting.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students must complete a minimum of 42 graduate-level credit hours as outlined in the list of core and concentration requirements, including electives.
2. Grade requirements: Students must maintain an ongoing, cumulative minimum GPA of 3.0. Receipt of a grade of C in two or more courses will constitute an automatic dismissal from the graduate program in forensic science. Receipt of a grade of D or lower in any one course will constitute an automatic dismissal from the graduate program in forensic science.
3. Other requirements: Students must maintain continuous, full-time enrollment. Interruption in continuous enrollment or full-time status for any reason without a leave of absence approved by the forensic science graduate committee will require that students reapply to the program. Request for credit for graduate course work taken at other institutions must be submitted to the director of graduate studies in forensic science and will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the forensic science graduate committee. If course work deficiencies are identified, students may be required to take additional foundational courses beyond those listed below. These will not count toward the 42 required credit hours.

Curriculum requirements

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 570</td>
<td>Forensic Science Seminar (three credits minimum) 1,2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 661</td>
<td>Analysis of Pattern Evidence 3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or FRSC 662</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRSC 670</td>
<td>Forensic Evidence and Criminal Procedure</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 671</td>
<td>Instrumentation in Forensic Chemistry 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 673 &amp; FRSZ 673</td>
<td>Forensic Microscopy and Forensic Microscopy Laboratory 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 675 &amp; FRSZ 675</td>
<td>Forensic Serology and DNA Analysis Laboratory 4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC 677</td>
<td>Professional Practices and Expert Testimony</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
FRSC 793 Directed Research in Forensic Science 3
STAT 543 Statistical Methods I 3
or FRSC 580 Applied Statistics for Forensic Science
or BIOS 543 Graduate Research Methods I

Forensic physical analysis concentration courses
FRSC 565 Scientific Crime Scene Investigation 3
FRSC 566 Advanced Crime Scene Investigation 3

Elective area options (select one of the following) 9

Pattern evidence
FRSC 661 Analysis of Pattern Evidence 3
or FRSC 662 Firearm and Toolmark Identification
(Choose the course not taken as part of the core curriculum)

Choose an additional six credits of electives

or

Forensic anthropology and entomology
Select two from:
FRSC 505 Forensic Entomology
FRSC 510 Developmental Osteology
FRSC 515 Advanced Forensic Anthropology
FRSC 607 Forensic Taphonomy

Choose an additional three credits of electives

Recommended electives
Select the requisite credit hours for your elective area option from the following:* 4

BIOC 503 Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology
BIOC 504 Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology
BIOL 530/HGEN 501 Introduction to Human Genetics
BIOL/BINFO 540 Fundamentals of Molecular Genetics
BIOL 693 Current Topics in Biology (molecular biology)

CHEM 506 Introduction to Spectroscopic Methods in Organic Chemistry
CHEM 606 Advanced Spectroscopic Methods in Organic Chemistry
CHEM 630 Electroanalytical Chemistry
CHEM 631 Separation Science
CHEM 632 Chemometrics
CHEM 633 Mass Spectrometry
CHEM 634 Surface Science
CRJS 591 Topic Seminar (drugs and crime)
FRSC 505 Forensic Entomology
FRSC 510 Developmental Osteology
FRSC 515 Advanced Forensic Anthropology
FRSC 520 Forensic Fire Investigation
FRSC 580 Applied Statistics for Forensic Science
FRSC 607 Forensic Taphonomy
FRSC/PHTX 644 Forensic Toxicology
FRSC 661 Analysis of Pattern Evidence 3
FRSC 662 Firearm and Toolmark Identification 3
FRSC 663 Forensic Medicine
FRSC 676 Advanced Forensic DNA Analysis 3
FRSC/CRJS 680 Forensic Psychiatry
FRSC 681 Analysis of Fire Debris and Explosives 3
FRSC 682 Forensic Analysis of Paint and Polymers 3
FRSC 690 Scientific Writing
FRSC 692 Forensic Science Independent Study
FRSC 693 Current Topics in Forensic Science
FRSC 792 Research Techniques
PHIS 501 Mammalian Physiology
PHTX 536 Principles of Pharmacology and Toxicology
PHTX 548 Drug Dependence

Total Hours 42

1. One-credit hour must be completed each semester during first year.
2. Courses required during the first fall semester upon entry in to the program.
3. Course consists of lecture and laboratory.
4. In consultation with adviser

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 42

Graduate program director
Tal Simmons, Ph.D., D-ABFA, Cert FA-I
Professor
Email: tlsimmons@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-3295

Program website: forensicscience.vcu.edu (http://forensicscience.vcu.edu)

Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies

Kathleen Ingram, Ph.D.
Associate professor and interim chair
gsws.vcu.edu (http://gsws.vcu.edu)

Gender, sexuality and women’s studies provides a broad interpretation and view of diversity, including the interdisciplinary, cross-cultural examination of women’s perspectives and experiences, masculinity and femininity, and heterosexuality and alternate sexualities as culturally constructed and socially experienced.

- Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies, Certificate in (Post baccalaureate graduate certificate) (p. 110)

Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)

Program goal
The Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies is devoted to the interdisciplinary, multicultural study of the achievements, contributions, perspectives, experiences, roles and status of women
encompassing the intersectionality of race, class, age, ethnicity, disability status, nationality and sexual identity.

**Student learning outcomes**
1. Have a firm grasp of the feminist paradigm, including feminist theories and the theoretical frameworks that inform the analysis of social, cultural, historical, economic and political forces that shape the experiences of women
2. Demonstrate facility for problem-solving and critical-thinking
3. Demonstrate facility for intersectional analysis as it relates to diversity
4. Be grounded in and understand the linkages between the liberal arts and sciences including commonalities, differences and contributions of each to the field of gender, sexuality and women's studies

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**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.

**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.
Courses outside departmental GSWS offerings required prior approval.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 15

Graduate program director
Kimberly N. Brown, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Gender, Sexuality and Women’s Studies
knbrown@vcu.edu
(804) 828-3893

Program website: gsws.vcu.edu (http://www.gsws.vcu.edu)

Department of History
811 and 813 South Cathedral Place
P.O. Box 842001
Richmond, Virginia 23284
Phone: (804) 828-1635
Fax: (804) 828-7085

history.vcu.edu (http://history.vcu.edu)

John T. Kneebone, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair

Peter Stone, Ph.D.
Assistant professor, assistant to the chair and faculty adviser for undergraduate studies

Ryan K. Smith, Ph.D.
Associate professor and director of graduate studies

Kathleen Murphy
Administrative coordinator

The Department of History offers programs at the graduate and undergraduate levels, specializing in a multidimensional analysis of the human past. Faculty research interests vary among thematic, topical, national or chronological emphases. For more information regarding the department and its specialty areas, visit the website at history.vcu.edu (http://history.vcu.edu).

History, Master of Arts (M.A.)

Program goals
The master’s program in history draws on faculty expertise and the wealth of historical resources available in the Richmond area to support the extended exploration of the human past and the craft of history. It prepares students for the successful practice of historical scholarship in a variety of fields including archives, libraries, historical sites, museums, government agencies, businesses, publishing and secondary education, as well as for advanced study in doctoral programs.

Student learning outcomes
Graduates of the program will:

1. Develop the ability to understand the processes and methodologies historians use to study the past
2. Develop the ability to understand and think critically about scholarly works of history
3. Develop the ability to do historical research and present interpretations in writing
4. Develop the ability to understand the myriad of forces that shape human experiences and critically weigh change and continuity over time

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

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduatte.admissions.vcu.edu).
Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
M.A. Fall Jul 1 GRE
Spring Dec 1

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Normally, 30 credit hours of undergraduate history courses, of which 18 credit hours should be at the upper-division level
2. A GPA indicative of the ability to successfully pursue a graduate degree
3. Three letters of recommendation from persons qualified to provide information concerning the applicant’s probable success in graduate school
4. Satisfactory completion of the Graduate Record Examination
5. Submission of a written statement of intent, indicating why the applicant wishes to pursue a graduate degree in history

The submission of a writing sample, demonstrating the applicant’s writing ability and research skills, is strongly encouraged.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. The Master of Arts in History may be achieved through one of two options:
   a. The thesis option requires 30 graduate credit hours with six credit hours of HIST 698.
   b. The non-thesis option requires 36 graduate credit hours with a minimum of six credits in research-level courses and an oral comprehensive exam.
2. At least half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
3. Students may take up to six credits of non-history electives from an approved list of elective courses. In addition, students who wish to pursue specific areas of study may, with the approval of the graduate director, substitute other courses when appropriate, but in no case shall be able to count more than six credit hours of non-history courses.

Curriculum requirements

Thesis option

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 601</td>
<td>Historiography and Methodology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 698</td>
<td>M.A. Thesis</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Select seven of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 511</td>
<td>Studies in American History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 515</td>
<td>Studies in European History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 519</td>
<td>Studies in Ethnic and Social History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 523</td>
<td>Studies in Virginia and Southern History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 527</td>
<td>Studies in African-American History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 591</td>
<td>Special Topics in History</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-thesis option

Required course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 601</td>
<td>Historiography and Methodology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Select two research courses of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 631</td>
<td>Research in American History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 635</td>
<td>Research in European History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 638</td>
<td>Research in Transatlantic History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 639</td>
<td>Research in Ethnic and Social History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 643</td>
<td>Research in Virginia and Southern History</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select nine of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIST 647</td>
<td>Research in African-American History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 511</td>
<td>Studies in American History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 515</td>
<td>Studies in European History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 519</td>
<td>Studies in Ethnic and Social History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 523</td>
<td>Studies in Virginia and Southern History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 527</td>
<td>Studies in African-American History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 591</td>
<td>Special Topics in History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 611</td>
<td>Readings in American History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 615</td>
<td>Readings in European History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 618</td>
<td>Readings in Transatlantic History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIST 619</td>
<td>Readings in Ethnic and Social History</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

1. With prior approval, a student may take up to six graduate credit hours from outside of the history department.
2. Six credits maximum allowed for independent study or internship.

VCU
The Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences offers programs that prepare students to pursue careers that utilize exercise interventions for both healthy and diseased populations and/or careers designed for students who wish to enter a health care-related field (that does not require licensure, certification or registry status). The department offers one undergraduate degree program; the Bachelor of Science with either the exercise science concentration or the health science concentration.

Along with the undergraduate program, the department also offers a Master of Science in Health and Movement Sciences and Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation and Movement Science.

The M.S. in Health and Movement Sciences program provides advanced course work for students interested in the application of health and movement science principles to exercise science, teaching and sports medicine. This program has a central focus on the sciences and is flexible enough so that students, with the assistance of an adviser, can design a program that truly meets their professional goals.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Rehabilitation and Movement Science program is interdisciplinary in nature and includes faculty from the departments of Kinesiology and Health Sciences, Physical Therapy, and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Students choose a concentration in either exercise physiology or neuromusculoskeletal dynamics.

The department also offers a post-baccalaureate undergraduate Certificate in Health Sciences that is designed for students who hold a baccalaureate degree in a non-science area and wish to pursue their undergraduate pre-health sciences requirements at VCU.

For more information, consult the department’s website at khs.vcu.edu (http://khs.vcu.edu).

Health and Movement Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in exercise science

Program goal

This program provides advanced course work for students interested in the application of health and movement science principles to exercise science, teaching and sports medicine. Applicants planning to enter the teaching profession should hold a valid teaching endorsement. Students admitted to this program typically have backgrounds in exercise science, life science or related fields. This program does not provide opportunities for initial licensure in health and physical education.

Student learning outcomes

1. Demonstrate an understanding of research design and statistical applications relative to the disciplines comprising the health and movement sciences

2. Demonstrate mastery of essential knowledge in health and movement science

3. Demonstrate a comprehensive or advanced knowledge of the field of health and movement science

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 Bulletin.
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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>GRE-General MAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have received a bachelor’s degree in exercise science or a related field from an accredited university or college.

Degree requirements
In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the M.S. in Health and Movement Sciences program are required to earn a minimum of 36 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least one-third of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.

2. Master’s-level candidacy and requirements: The Master of Science in Health and Movement Sciences program offers a thesis and non-thesis option. After completing at least 12 graduate credit hours and not more than 18 credit hours, with a minimum GPA of 3.0, all students must apply for advancement to candidacy. In the thesis option, students must complete HEMS 798 Thesis for six credit hours and 30 hours of prescribed course work. Students enrolling in this option will not be required to complete a comprehensive examination. In the non-thesis option, students must complete 36 hours of prescribed course work and must pass a comprehensive examination, which is taken after completing 30 hours of course work.

Curriculum requirements

**Thesis option**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIOS 543 or STAT 543</th>
<th>Graduate Research Methods I</th>
<th>Statistical Methods I</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 600</td>
<td>Introduction to Research Design in Health and Movement Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 601</td>
<td>Movement Physiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 604</td>
<td>Nutrition for Health and Physical Activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 605</td>
<td>Psychology of Physical Activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 610</td>
<td>Laboratory Techniques in Rehabilitation Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS/REMS 611</td>
<td>Biomechanics of Human Motion (or a course from the list of general electives)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 675</td>
<td>Clinical Exercise Physiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 798</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General elective from list below</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specified elective from list below</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>36</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Non-thesis option**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIOS 543 or STAT 543</th>
<th>Graduate Research Methods I</th>
<th>Statistical Methods I</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 600</td>
<td>Introduction to Research Design in Health and Movement Sciences</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 601</td>
<td>Movement Physiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Nutrition for Health and Physical Activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Psychology of Physical Activity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 611</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 675</td>
<td>Clinical Exercise Physiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 692</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or HEMS 797</td>
<td>Directed Research Study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 695</td>
<td>Externship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General elective from list below</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specified elective from list below</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>36</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 36**

**Specified electives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 550</td>
<td>Exercise, Nutrition and Weight Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 703</td>
<td>Cardiovascular Exercise Physiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 704</td>
<td>Psychobiology of Physical Activity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 705</td>
<td>Metabolic Aspects of Physical Activity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General electives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 550</td>
<td>Exercise, Nutrition and Weight Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS/REMS 660</td>
<td>Neuromuscular Performance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 692</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 695</td>
<td>Externship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 797</td>
<td>Directed Research Study</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 690</td>
<td>Research Seminar in Rehabilitation and Movement Science</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 701</td>
<td>Advanced Exercise Physiology I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 702</td>
<td>Advanced Exercise Physiology II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 703</td>
<td>Cardiovascular Exercise Physiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 704</td>
<td>Psychobiology of Physical Activity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 705</td>
<td>Metabolic Aspects of Physical Activity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Graduate program director**

Ronald K. Evans, Ph.D.
Associate professor and director of graduate studies, Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences
rkevans@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1948

**Program website:** khs.vcu.edu (http://www.khs.vcu.edu)

---

**Rehabilitation and Movement Science, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in exercise physiology [College of Humanities and Sciences]**

**Program goal**

The Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science is an interdisciplinary degree program developed through a collaborative partnership of the departments of Kinesiology and Health Sciences, Physical Therapy, and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. The mission of this collaborative degree program is to prepare applied scientists capable of approaching multifaceted health care, preventive medicine and rehabilitation initiatives from an integrative perspective and to prepare graduates to assume research, teaching and leadership positions within rehabilitation and movement science professions.

There are two program concentrations: exercise physiology and neuromusculoskeletal dynamics. The exercise physiology concentration prepares individuals to conduct research, direct external funding initiatives and teach in the area of exercise physiology, with particular focus on physical activity’s impact on chronic disease states. The neuromusculoskeletal dynamics concentration prepares individuals for research, teaching and clinical initiatives associated with the identification and rehabilitation of movement disorders.

**Student learning outcomes**

At the completion of the program students will:

1. Demonstrate teaching effectiveness in the classroom, clinical environment or both
2. Have disseminated research findings at an appropriate regional, national or international conference
3. Demonstrate the ability to independently collect research data, analyze research data and synthesize conclusions from research data

**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 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.

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**Degree candidacy requirements**

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall preferred</td>
<td>Applications received prior to Jan. 9 will be given priority consideration. Applications received following the deadline may be considered if space and resources are available.</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must:

1. Have completed at least one of a master’s degree in a related area, 30 hours of post-baccalaureate work (e.g. course work at 500 level or greater) or a first-professional degree program
2. Provide official GRE score
3. Submit a curriculum vitae or professional resume indicating an applicant’s educational and career experience as well as evidence of research potential

Admission decisions are made only on the basis of a completed application packet.

Applicants being considered for admission must complete an interview with a Ph.D. admissions committee representative and/or research faculty member with whom the student would like to work.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students pursuing the Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science must successfully complete:

1. A minimum of 50 credit hours developed in conjunction with their advisers
2. Written and oral comprehensive examinations
3. All other university requirements of qualification for degree candidacy
4. Written dissertation based on a focused line of research
5. Oral defense of the dissertation

Curriculum requirements

Research core courses

Select one of the following: 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 761</td>
<td>Health Related Sciences Research Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 710</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 761</td>
<td>Health Services Research Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 600</td>
<td>Introduction to Research Design in Health and Movement Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I or BIOS 543 Graduate Research Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 544</td>
<td>Statistical Methods II or BIOS 544 Graduate Research Methods II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one additional research design class of above or of the following: 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 716</td>
<td>Grant Writing and Project Management in Health Related Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 531</td>
<td>Clinical Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 553</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 571</td>
<td>Clinical Trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 572</td>
<td>Analysis of Biomedical Data I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Core concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 501</td>
<td>Mammalian Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 701</td>
<td>Advanced Exercise Physiology I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following: 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REMS 703</td>
<td>Cardiovascular Exercise Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 704</td>
<td>Psychobiology of Physical Activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 705</td>
<td>Metabolic Aspects of Physical Activity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approved electives (from list below) 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 716</td>
<td>Grant Writing and Project Management in Health Related Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 531</td>
<td>Clinical Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 553</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 571</td>
<td>Clinical Trials</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOS 572</td>
<td>Analysis of Biomedical Data I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 501</td>
<td>Mammalian Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 701</td>
<td>Advanced Exercise Physiology I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Laratory rotations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REMS 710</td>
<td>Research Techniques in Rehabilitation and Movement Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional development course work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REMS 690</td>
<td>Research Seminar in Rehabilitation and Movement Science (.5 credit-hour course repeated for a total of 3 credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 793</td>
<td>Teaching Practicum in Higher Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 794</td>
<td>Research Presentation Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 798</td>
<td>Research in Rehabilitation and Movement Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dissertation research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REMS 710</td>
<td>Research Techniques in Rehabilitation and Movement Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 50

Approved electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 524</td>
<td>Endocrinology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 610</td>
<td>Laboratory Techniques in Rehabilitation Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 675</td>
<td>Clinical Exercise Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 614</td>
<td>Foundation in Psychoneuroimmunology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS/HEMS 660</td>
<td>Neuromuscular Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 702</td>
<td>Advanced Exercise Physiology II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 703</td>
<td>Cardiovascular Exercise Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 704</td>
<td>Psychobiology of Physical Activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 705</td>
<td>Metabolic Aspects of Physical Activity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 50
Graduate program director
Ronald K. Evans, Ph.D.
Associate professor and director of graduate studies, Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences
rkevans@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1948
Additional contact
Sheryl D.G. Finucane, Ph.D., P.T.
Assistant professor and graduate program director, Department of Physical Therapy
sfinucan@vcu.edu
(804) 828-0234

Rehabilitation and Movement Science, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in neuromusculoskeletal dynamics [College of Humanities and Sciences]

Program goal
The Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science is an interdisciplinary degree program developed through a collaborative partnership of the departments of Kinesiology and Health Sciences, Physical Therapy, and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. The mission of this collaborative degree program is to prepare applied scientists capable of approaching multifaceted health care, preventive medicine and rehabilitation initiatives from an integrative perspective and to prepare graduates to assume research, teaching and leadership positions within rehabilitation and movement science professions.

There are two program concentrations: exercise physiology and neuromusculoskeletal dynamics. The exercise physiology concentration prepares individuals to conduct research, direct external funding initiatives and teach in the area of exercise physiology, with particular focus on physical activity’s impact on chronic disease states. The neuromusculoskeletal dynamics concentration prepares individuals for research, teaching and clinical initiatives associated with the identification and rehabilitation of movement disorders.

Student learning outcomes
At the completion of the program students will:
1. Demonstrate teaching effectiveness in the classroom, clinical environment or both
2. Have disseminated research findings at an appropriate regional, national or international conference
3. Demonstrate the ability to independently collect research data, analyze research data and synthesize conclusions from research data

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.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).
Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
Ph.D. Fall preferred Applications received prior to Jan. 9 will be given priority consideration. Applications received following the deadline may be considered if space and resources are available.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must:

1. Have completed at least one of a master’s degree in a related area, 30 hours of post-baccalaureate work (e.g. course work at 500 level or greater) or a first-professional degree program
2. Provide official GRE score
3. Submit a curriculum vitae or professional resume indicating an applicant’s educational and career experience as well as evidence of research potential

Admission decisions are made only on the basis of a completed application packet.

Applicants being considered for admission must complete an interview with a Ph.D. admissions committee representative and/or research faculty member with whom the student would like to work.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students pursuing the Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science must successfully complete:

1. A minimum of 50 credit hours developed in conjunction with their advisors
2. Written and oral comprehensive examinations
3. All other university requirements of qualification for degree candidacy
4. Written dissertation based on a focused line of research
5. Oral defense of the dissertation

Curriculum requirements

Research core courses
Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 761</td>
<td>Health Related Sciences Research Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 710</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 761</td>
<td>Health Services Research Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 600</td>
<td>Introduction to Research Design in Health and Movement Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 544</td>
<td>Statistical Methods II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

or BIOS 544 Graduate Research Methods II

Select one additional research design class of above or of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 716</td>
<td>Grant Writing and Project Management in Health Related Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 531</td>
<td>Clinical Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 553</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 571</td>
<td>Clinical Trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 572</td>
<td>Analysis of Biomedical Data I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Core concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REMS/HEMS 611</td>
<td>Biomechanics of Human Motion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS/HEMS 660</td>
<td>Neuromuscular Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 665</td>
<td>Instrumentation in Motion Analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approved electives (from list below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPID 622</td>
<td>Maternal and Child Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 603</td>
<td>Developmental Processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 614</td>
<td>Development in Infancy and Early Childhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS/PHTY 608</td>
<td>Advanced Musculoskeletal Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS/PHTY 612</td>
<td>Advanced Biomechanics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 692</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 50

Graduate program director
Sheryl D.G. Finucane, Ph.D., P.T.
Assistant professor and graduate program director, Department of Physical Therapy
sfinucan@vcu.edu
(804) 828-0234

Additional contact
Ronald K. Evans, Ph.D.
Associate professor and director of graduate studies, Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences
rkevans@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1948

Program website: sahp.vcu.edu/departments/pt/prospective-students/phd-programs/rehabilitation-and-movement-science (http://
sahp.vcu.edu/departments/pt/prospective-students/phd-programs/rehabilitation-and-movement-science)

**Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics**

Glenn Hurlbert, Ph.D.  
Professor and chair  
math.vcu.edu (http://www.math.vcu.edu)

The Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics offers an undergraduate program leading to a Bachelor of Science in Mathematical Sciences with concentrations in applied mathematics, biomathematics, mathematics and secondary mathematics teacher preparation. The department administers the Master of Science in Mathematical Sciences concentrations in applied mathematics or mathematics and is involved in administering the Doctor of Philosophy in Systems Modeling and Analysis. The curricula of these programs are run jointly with additional concentrations offered by the Department of Statistical Sciences and Operations Research.

- Mathematical Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in applied mathematics (p. 120)  
- Mathematical Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in mathematics (p. 122)  
- Systems Modeling and Analysis, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 124)

**Mathematical Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in applied mathematics**

**Program goal**

The Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics and the Department of Statistical Sciences and Operations Research jointly offer the M.S. in Mathematical Sciences.

The mission of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics is to foster excellence in mathematical research and to offer a strong undergraduate and graduate education that will prepare students for stimulating and rewarding employment, career and lifelong learning opportunities. In addition, the department strives to help all VCU students achieve a level of quantitative literacy and analytical skills enabling them to deal effectively with the quantitative issues that they will encounter throughout their lives.

The program offers maximum flexibility by allowing students, in consultation with their graduate committees, to design a course of study that will best develop competence in those areas most relevant to their scholarly and professional objectives. Students may obtain a designation on their transcripts indicating that their graduate study has emphasized the applied mathematics concentration by completing the requirements that are listed here. A student who has not satisfied the requirements for one of the program concentrations offered, but who has otherwise fulfilled all the requirements for a master’s degree, will be awarded a degree of Master of Science in Mathematical Sciences without any specialization.

Student learning outcomes

1. Students will develop creative-thinking skills to apply to mathematical problems and proofs.  
2. Students will be able to analyze mathematical arguments and write their own arguments and proofs.  
3. Students will be able to read and interpret mathematical literature, including technical articles, within their chosen mathematical subfield.  
4. Students will be able to use technology, including specialized computational and graphics software, to test the validity of certain conjectures, to solve problems, to conduct mathematical experiments and do mathematical research.

**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.grad.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

### Admission requirements

**Degree** | **Semester(s) of entry** | **Deadline dates** | **Test requirements**
--- | --- | --- | ---
M.S. | Fall | Mar 1 | GRE – general

**Degree** | **Semester(s) of entry** | **Deadline dates** | **Test requirements**
--- | --- | --- | ---
Spring | Oct 1 | TOEFL (international students only)

### Special requirements

- Students should follow priority deadlines for funding consideration.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Thirty credit hours in undergraduate mathematical sciences, computer science or related areas of which at least 18 credit hours must represent upper-level courses
2. Three letters of recommendation pertaining to the student’s potential ability as a graduate student in mathematical sciences

Provisional admission may be granted when deficiencies exist. These deficiencies must be removed by the end of the first year of residence, or its part-time equivalent, when the student’s application will be re-examined. Courses that are remedial or designed to remove deficiencies will not be accepted for credit hours toward the fulfillment of the course requirements for the master’s degree.

### Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to meet the following requirements.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the M.S. in Mathematical Sciences program are required to earn a minimum of 30 graduate-level credit hours. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Other requirements: Students must pass a comprehensive exam in the core courses and selected elective courses determined by the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics.

### Curriculum requirements

#### Thesis option

**Concentration core courses**

- **MATH 507**: Bridge to Modern Analysis 3
- **MATH 515**: Numerical Analysis 3
- **MATH 535**: Introduction to Dynamical Systems 3

**Additional courses**

- **MATH 690**: Research Seminar 2
- **MATH 697**: Directed Research 1 0-3
- **MATH 698**: Thesis (three or six hours) 1,2 3 or 6

Mathematics electives (Choose courses from list one below) 6 or 9

Mathematical sciences or allied field electives (Choose courses from list two below) 7

1. A maximum total of six credit hours for MATH 697 and MATH 698 may count toward the degree.
2. A minimum of 12 credits from mathematics electives (list one) and thesis are required for the degree.

### Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

#### Non-thesis option

**Concentration core courses**

- **MATH 507**: Bridge to Modern Analysis 3
- **MATH 515**: Numerical Analysis 3
- **MATH 535**: Introduction to Dynamical Systems 3

**Additional courses**

- **MATH 690**: Research Seminar 2
- **MATH 697**: Directed Research 1 0-3
- **MATH 698**: Thesis (three or six hours) 1,2 3 or 6

Mathematics electives (Choose courses from list one below) 7

Mathematical sciences or allied field electives (Choose courses from list two below) 12

1. A maximum of three credit hours for MATH 697 may count toward the degree.

### Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

#### List one: Approved mathematics electives

- **MATH 661**: Number and Operations 3
- **MATH 662**: Geometry and Measurement 3
- **MATH 663**: Functions and Algebra 3
- **MATH 664**: Statistics and Probability 3
- **MATH 665**: Rational Numbers and Proportional Reasoning 3
- **MATH 667**: Functions and Algebra II 3

#### List two: Approved electives in mathematical sciences or allied field

500-, 600- or 700-level MATH courses except the following:

- **MATH 661**: Number and Operations 3
- **MATH 662**: Geometry and Measurement 3
- **MATH 663**: Functions and Algebra 3
- **MATH 664**: Statistics and Probability 3
- **MATH 665**: Rational Numbers and Proportional Reasoning 3
- **MATH 667**: Functions and Algebra II 3
- **STAT/SOCY 508**: Introduction to Social Statistics 3
- **STAT 543**: Statistical Methods I 3
- **STAT/SOCY 608**: Statistics for Social Research 3
- **SYSM 681**: Systems Seminar I 3
- **SYSM 682**: Systems Seminar II 3
- **SYSM 683**: Systems Seminar III 3

**Graduate program director**

Angela M. Reynolds, Ph.D.
Student learning outcomes

1. Students will develop creative-thinking skills to apply to mathematical problems and proofs.
2. Students will be able to analyze mathematical arguments and write their own arguments and proofs.
3. Students will be able to read and interpret mathematical literature, including technical articles, within their chosen mathematical subfield.
4. Students will be able to use technology, including specialized computational and graphics software, to test the validity of certain conjectures, to solve problems, to conduct mathematical experiments and do mathematical research.

Mathematical Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in mathematics

Program goal

The Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics and the Department of Statistical Sciences and Operations Research jointly offer the M.S. in Mathematical Sciences.

The mission of the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics is to foster excellence in mathematical research and to offer a strong undergraduate and graduate education that will prepare students for stimulating and rewarding employment, career and lifelong learning opportunities. In addition, the department strives to help all VCU students achieve a level of quantitative literacy and analytical skills enabling them to deal effectively with the quantitative issues that they will encounter throughout their lives.

The program offers maximum flexibility by allowing students, in consultation with their graduate committees, to design a course of study that will best develop competence in those areas most relevant to their scholarly and professional objectives. Students may obtain a designation on their transcripts indicating that their graduate study has emphasized the applied mathematics concentration by completing the requirements that are listed here. A student who has not satisfied the requirements for one of the program concentrations offered, but who has otherwise fulfilled all the requirements for a master’s degree, will be awarded a degree of Master of Science in Mathematical Sciences without any specialization.

Student learning outcomes

1. Students will be able to use technology, including specialized computational and graphics software, to test the validity of certain conjectures, to solve problems, to conduct mathematical experiments and do mathematical research.

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Degree candidacy requirements

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Graduation requirements

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Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>GRE – general</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Special requirements

- Students should follow priority deadlines for funding consideration.

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2. Three letters of recommendation pertaining to the student’s potential ability as a graduate student in mathematical sciences

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Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to meet the following requirements.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the M.S. in Mathematical Sciences program are required to earn a minimum of 30 graduate-level credit hours. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Other requirements: Students must pass a comprehensive exam in the core courses and selected elective courses determined by the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics.

Curriculum requirements

Thesis option

Concentration core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 502</td>
<td>Abstract Algebra I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MATH 610</td>
<td>Advanced Linear Algebra</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 507</td>
<td>Bridge to Modern Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 556</td>
<td>Graph Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 690</td>
<td>Research Seminar</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 697</td>
<td>Directed Research</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 698</td>
<td>Thesis (three or six hours)</td>
<td>3 or 6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mathematics electives (Choose courses from list one below) 2 6 or 9

Mathematical sciences or allied field electives (Choose courses from list two below) 7

1 A maximum total of six credit hours for MATH 697 and MATH 698 may count toward the degree.

2 A minimum of 12 credits from mathematics electives (list one) and thesis are required for the degree.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Non-thesis option

Concentration core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 502</td>
<td>Abstract Algebra I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MATH 610</td>
<td>Advanced Linear Algebra</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 507</td>
<td>Bridge to Modern Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 556</td>
<td>Graph Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional courses

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<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 690</td>
<td>Research Seminar</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 697</td>
<td>Directed Research</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics electives (Choose courses from list one below) 1 2 12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics electives (Choose courses from list two below) 7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 A maximum of three credit hours of MATH 697 may count toward the degree.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

List one: Recommended electives in mathematical sciences

Any 500-, 600- or 700-level MATH courses except the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 661</td>
<td>Number and Operations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 662</td>
<td>Geometry and Measurement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 663</td>
<td>Functions and Algebra</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 664</td>
<td>Statistics and Probability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 665</td>
<td>Rational Numbers and Proportional Reasoning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 667</td>
<td>Functions and Algebra II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List two: Recommended electives in mathematical sciences or allied field

Any 500-, 600- or 700-level MATH, OPER, STAT or SYSM courses except the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 661</td>
<td>Number and Operations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 662</td>
<td>Geometry and Measurement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 663</td>
<td>Functions and Algebra</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 664</td>
<td>Statistics and Probability</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 665</td>
<td>Rational Numbers and Proportional Reasoning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 667</td>
<td>Functions and Algebra II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT/SOCY 508</td>
<td>Introduction to Social Statistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT/SOCY 608</td>
<td>Statistics for Social Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYSM 681</td>
<td>Systems Seminar I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYSM 682</td>
<td>Systems Seminar II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYSM 683</td>
<td>Systems Seminar III</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate program director

Angela M. Reynolds, Ph.D.
Associate professor
Email: areynolds2@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1319

Additional contact

J. Alex McWhorter
Administrative assistant
Email: mcwhorterja@vcu.edu
for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate students in all graduate and general academic policies and regulations.

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School

Student learning outcomes

1. Gain a solid foundation in the theory and application of optimization, stochastic processes, simulation, decision analysis and biomathematics, and demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of these concepts.
2. Learn to perform appropriate collection, modeling and analysis of data using statistical methods.
3. Demonstrate the ability to identify situations in which mathematics, operations research or statistics can be applied and model the situation.
4. Demonstrate the ability to solve a wide variety of mathematics, operations research or statistics problems using the software commonly used in industry.
5. Demonstrate the ability to write code using appropriate research programming environments to implement research ideas.
6. Learn how to interpret the analysis from mathematics, operations research or statistics models to draw meaningful conclusions about the systems being studied.
7. Gain the ability to successfully communicate research ideas through writing and presentations.
8. Gain the skills needed to successfully participate in research under the guidance of faculty.

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.

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Jul 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Assistantships are only available starting in the fall semester. Spring and summer semester admission deadlines are only for students not seeking an assistantship.

In addition to general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission: have completed an undergraduate degree with at least 30 credit hours of undergraduate-level mathematics, including calculus I and II, multivariate calculus, linear algebra, probability.
Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete core work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the systems modeling and analysis Ph.D. program are required to earn a minimum of 57 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.

2. Qualifying exam: Students must pass a qualifying exam covering material from each of the first three core courses they take after admission to the program. Two attempts are allowed for each exam. This requirement must be fulfilled by the end of the semester following completion of 18 graduate credit hours. Students are exempt from a qualifying exam if they earned an A in the corresponding core course or if they took an equivalent course at another university, as determined by the Ph.D. steering committee.

3. Doctoral candidacy: Admission to candidacy is made by evaluation of a qualifying portfolio, including exams and project work from courses; writing samples from the research seminars (SYSM 681, SYSM 682 and SYSM 683); research products from systems research projects (SYSM 697); and statements from faculty advisers and instructors. The portfolio can be submitted after all course work has been completed, as well as any additional preparatory course work required at admission. The candidacy committee will evaluate the student’s readiness to begin their dissertation work. Supplementary examination may be required by the committee.

4. Dissertation proposal: After admission to candidacy and the completion of all course work, the student will prepare a written and oral proposal of the intended dissertation research area, including a complete literature review. A successful proposal must be completed at least nine months prior to the dissertation defense.

5. Dissertation defense: The student must complete 18 credit hours in SYSM 798 resulting in a publishable dissertation and a successful oral defense. The student also must have submitted at least one paper to a refereed academic journal and prepared a second manuscript or given a conference presentation on the research prior to the defense.

Curriculum requirements
Choose three from the following foundation courses: 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 535</td>
<td>Introduction to Dynamical Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 556</td>
<td>Graph Theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 527</td>
<td>Optimization I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 513</td>
<td>Mathematical Statistics I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYSM 681</td>
<td>Systems Seminar I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYSM 682</td>
<td>Systems Seminar II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYSM 683</td>
<td>Systems Seminar III</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYSM 697</td>
<td>Systems Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYSM 798</td>
<td>Dissertation Research</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives (Choose courses from lists below.) 2 24

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 750</td>
<td>Topics in Combinatorics: ___</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 756</td>
<td>Topics in Graph Theory: ___</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 715</td>
<td>Numerical Solutions for Differential Equations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 732</td>
<td>Ordinary Differential Equations II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 769</td>
<td>Topics in Applied Mathematics: ___</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYSM 780</td>
<td>Stochastic Methods in Mathematical Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 731</td>
<td>Discrete Optimization</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 732</td>
<td>Optimization Under Uncertainty</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER/STAT 736</td>
<td>Mathematics of Knowledge and Search Engines</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 741</td>
<td>Advanced Stochastic Simulation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 743</td>
<td>Decision Analysis II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 791</td>
<td>Special Topics in Operations Research</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 725</td>
<td>Advanced Multivariate Statistical Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT/OPER 736</td>
<td>Mathematics of Knowledge and Search Engines</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 742</td>
<td>Design and Analysis of Experiments II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 744</td>
<td>Regression II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 745</td>
<td>Advanced Bayesian Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 746</td>
<td>Spatial Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 791</td>
<td>Special Topics in Statistics</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYSM 780</td>
<td>Stochastic Methods in Mathematical Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 57

Elective courses in discrete mathematics

Elective courses in mathematical biology

Elective courses in operations research

Elective courses in statistics

Other electives
Select 500-, 600- or 700-level MATH, OPER, STAT or SYSM courses except the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 505</td>
<td>Modern Geometry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 593</td>
<td>Internship in Mathematical Sciences</td>
<td>3,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 661</td>
<td>Number and Operations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 662</td>
<td>Geometry and Measurement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 663</td>
<td>Functions and Algebra</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 664</td>
<td>Statistics and Probability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Department of Philosophy

Anthony Ellis
Professor and chair

philosophy.vcu.edu (http://philosophy.vcu.edu)

Philosophy aims at a deeper understanding of matters that should most concern the human race. Philosophical questions crop up in science, religion, art, morality, politics, medicine and in everyday life. Students enrolled in philosophy are encouraged to think seriously about fundamental issues in all these domains and to formulate coherent and well-grounded points of view. Because of its extensive use of critical and analytical reasoning, philosophy equips students for careers in medicine, law, business and other fields that require careful thought and the clear expression of ideas.

The Department of Philosophy offers a Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy. The department offers courses for students in other programs, as well as for those majoring in philosophy or religious studies.

Department of Physics

Shiv Khanna, Ph.D.
Professor and chair

physics.vcu.edu (http://www.physics.vcu.edu)

The Department of Physics offers programs leading to the Bachelor of Science in Physics and the Master of Science in Physics and Applied Physics. The department also offers an accelerated B.S.-M.S. program that allows students in the baccalaureate program to take graduate courses that will count toward the M.S. in Physics and Applied Physics degree.

Physics and Applied Physics, Master of Science (M.S.)

Program goal

The Department of Physics teaches graduate students advanced concepts, applications and skills that reach to the frontiers of current research in physics. The master’s program offers traditional core physics courses and a variety of specialized electives emphasizing the department’s strengths in theoretical and experimental physics. Research interests include theoretical and experimental condensed matter physics, general relativity and cosmology.

Student learning outcomes

1. Students will achieve a broad knowledge of the principles of physics.
2. Students will demonstrate analytical problem-solving skills.
3. Students will demonstrate mastery of a topic at the frontier of physics research.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Students must have a minimum of 30 credit hours in undergraduate physics or engineering, of which at least 18 credit hours must be at the upper-level in physics.
2. Students must present satisfactory GRE scores.

Provisional admission may be granted where deficiencies exist. These deficiencies must be removed by the end of the first year of residence or its part-time equivalent, when the student’s application will be re-examined. Courses that are designed to remove deficiencies will not be accepted for credit toward the graduate degree.

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to earn a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours with at least 15 credit hours at the 600 level. PHYS 690 and PHYS 697 may not exceed 15 of the required 30 credit hours.
2. M.S. plan of study: Students will choose a primary adviser during the first semester of study. At the end of the first semester, the student and adviser will propose an M.S. plan of study to the physics graduate curriculum committee. This plan will include the graduate courses and research subject matter to fulfill the student's individual career goals. Normally, students will select courses for their individual M.S. plans of study from the list of graduate courses in physics. The courses selected will include no fewer than nine credits of traditional physics core courses, such as PHYS 576 and PHYS 580, to provide a solid foundation in fundamental physics. However, students also may select graduate courses in chemistry, mathematics, computer science and engineering, as well as courses from the School of Medicine, when such courses are consistent with the student’s career goals. The M.S. plan of study must be approved by the physics graduate curriculum committee. Courses taken outside this plan will not count toward the above general course requirements.
3. Thesis or non-thesis option: Each student must select either the thesis option or non-thesis option. Students selecting the thesis option must take at least nine credit hours of PHYS 697. No more than nine credit hours of directed research may be counted toward the 15 credit-hour, 600-level requirement. Students selecting the non-thesis option may take no more than three credit hours of PHYS 697. A student who elects the non-thesis option must pass a written comprehensive exam administered by the physics graduate curriculum committee.

Curriculum requirements

Thesis option
Core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Select nine credits of the following:</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NANO 570 Nanoscale Physics</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANO 650 Experimental Techniques in Nanoscience I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANO 651 Experimental Techniques in Nanoscience II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 571 Theoretical Mechanics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 576 Electromagnetic Theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 580 Quantum Mechanics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 641 Solid State Physics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional course work

| PHYS 690 Research Seminar 1,3 | 0-4 |
| PHYS 697 Directed Research 2,3 | 9 |

Electives (Choose courses from list of recommended electives below) 8-12

Total Hours 30

1. PHYS 690 may be repeated for a maximum of four credit hours toward the required 30 credit hours.
2. PHYS 697 can only satisfy up to nine credit hours of the 15 credit hours for 600-level and above.
3. PHYS 690 and PHYS 697 may not exceed 15 credit hours of the required 30 credit hours.

Non-thesis option
Core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Select nine credits of the following:</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NANO 570 Nanoscale Physics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANO 650 Experimental Techniques in Nanoscience I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NANO 651 Experimental Techniques in Nanoscience II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 571 Theoretical Mechanics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 576 Electromagnetic Theory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 580 Quantum Mechanics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 641 Solid State Physics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional course work
Physics and Applied Physics, Master of Science (M.S.), accelerated Bachelor of Science in Physics (B.S.) to master's

Students who are enrolled in the B.S. in Physics program may elect to take graduate courses that will count toward the M.S. in Physics and Applied Physics degree. Up to six hours of graduate credit may be earned in this way without any special provision. In order to offer more than six hours of pre-admission graduate credit toward the graduate degree, a student must apply to the Department of Physics graduate admission committee for admission to the accelerated B.S.-M.S. program. Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Persons applying for admission to this program should (1) submit a curricular plan for completing the bachelor's degree within two years or its part-time equivalent, (2) indicate which graduate courses they intend to offer toward the physics master's degree and (3) have a B average or better. The M.S. degree completion form must include a memo from the Department of Physics graduate admission committee to indicate which graduate courses were taken under the accelerated B.S.-M.S. program.

Graduate program director
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Commonwealth Professor
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Phone: (804) 828-1818

Additional contact
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Chair, Department of Physics
Email: rgowdy@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1818

Program website: physics.vcu.edu (http://physics.vcu.edu)

Department of Political Science

Deirdre M. Condit, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair
politicalscience.vcu.edu (http://politicalscience.vcu.edu)

Political science is the study of governments, public policies and political processes, systems, and political behavior. Political science students gain a versatile set of skills that can be applied in a wide range of exciting careers in federal, state and local governments; law; business; international organizations; nonprofit associations and organizations; campaign management and polling; journalism; education; electoral politics; and research.

The Department of Political Science faculty includes professors with a broad spectrum of expertise in public sector management, international affairs, genocide and human rights, feminist political theory, international and comparative health, Russian politics, human security, U.S. presidential decision-making for national security and foreign policy, Asian politics, Middle Eastern politics and societies, and U.S. information/secrecy politics.

Department of Psychology

Wendy Kliewer, Ph.D.
After the completion of nine semester hours in the department. Transfer credits for graduate work at other institutions will be evaluated for admission. The three divisions they are applying (i.e., biopsychology, developmental psychology, social psychology) and clinical psychology, counseling psychology, general psychology have been made and final acceptances by students have been received, admission are made by April 1. By June 1, after other offers to alternates and staff available. All applicants will be notified of the decision made. The screening process may begin as early as Jan. 1. First offers of admission are made by April 1. By June 1, after other offers to alternates have been made and final acceptances by students have been received, admissions may be closed. See the admission requirements summary tables to view admission deadlines for each of the Ph.D. programs: clinical psychology, counseling psychology, general psychology (biopsychology, developmental psychology, social psychology) and health psychology.

Applicants to the general psychology program should specify to which of the three divisions they are applying (i.e., biopsychology, developmental or social).

Transfer credits for graduate work at other institutions will be evaluated after the completion of nine semester hours in the department.

Degree requirements for doctoral programs

The following requirements are in addition to those described for the graduate programs in the Graduate School and the College of Humanities and Sciences section of this bulletin.

All students are required to complete a core curriculum of 15 credits (or its equivalent for students entering with a master’s degree).

Students who receive grades of B or better in each of the department core courses are considered to have fulfilled the university requirements of a master’s level comprehensive examination and will then officially be considered candidates for the Master of Science degree. Students who receive grades of C or lower in two or more department core courses will have failed the comprehensive examination and will be dismissed automatically from the program. Students who receive a grade of C or lower in one of the department core courses must either (a) satisfactorily complete a re-examination of the material covered in the course within one semester following the receipt of the grade (this re-examination is to be arranged and evaluated by the course instructor) or (b) repeat the course for credit the next time it is offered and receive a grade of B or better. Regardless of which of these approaches is chosen, the students will be given only one opportunity to demonstrate that they have mastered the course material. Students who either fail the re-examination or repeat the course and receive a grade of C or lower will have failed the comprehensive examination and will be dismissed from the program.

Additional courses and training experiences will be determined in consultation with and subject to the approval of the student’s faculty adviser and graduate program committee.

Receipt of a grade of C or lower in two courses, or grades of C or lower in more than six credits of psychology courses, constitutes automatic dismissal of a student from the program.

All students are required to complete a master’s thesis and to defend it successfully in an oral examination. Ideally, the thesis should be publishable as a piece of research and make a contribution to the field of psychology. Students who have previously completed a master’s thesis in psychology at another university may have the thesis requirement waived if the thesis is accepted by their graduate program committee.

The residence requirement for the master’s degree is 18 hours, nine in each of two consecutive semesters. Completion of the degree usually requires four semesters. At least six semester credits in PSYC 798 must be completed, and no more than six can be counted toward the M.S. degree.

Students are obligated to request, in writing from their program committees, continuation of study beyond the master’s degree and approval of their doctoral plan of study. Application from a student for continuation beyond the master’s level will be evaluated by the appropriate program committee after completion of all requirements for the master’s degree. The program committee reviews the student’s request and approves or disapproves the request.

The student must pass a written preliminary examination to become a doctoral candidate. Students are required to complete this requirement prior to defense of their dissertations and prior to leaving on internship for students in the clinical and counseling psychology programs.

With the consent of the program committee, doctoral students may design a minor consisting of courses in departments other than psychology or courses in an area of psychology other than the major.
Both the clinical and counseling psychology programs require completion of applied practica and a one-year predoctoral internship approved by the program committee. Research practica are required by all programs. Practicum credit will vary depending on the program. Internship will be one-half credit per semester.

A dissertation requiring the planning, completion and oral defense of an original research project is an integral part of the doctoral program. At least 12 semester credits in PSYC 898 must be completed, and no more than 12 can be counted toward the Ph.D. degree.

Completion of the entire program usually requires four to six years (including the internship year for students in the clinical and counseling programs). Candidates must complete all requirements for the Ph.D. degree within an eight-year period from the date of admission to the graduate program unless permission is granted for an extension. In some cases, specific programs and divisions may have requirements in addition to those stated here.

A more detailed description of the requirements for each of the graduate programs is included in the Department of Psychology’s graduate student handbook, which is provided to each incoming graduate student. Visit the website for more information: psychology.vcu.edu (http://www.psychology.vcu.edu).

• Clinical Psychology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in behavioral medicine (p. 130)
• Clinical Psychology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in clinical child (p. 132)
• Counseling Psychology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 135)
• Health Psychology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 137)
• Psychology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in biopsychology (p. 140) (admissions suspended)
• Psychology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in developmental psychology (p. 143)
• Psychology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in social psychology (p. 146)

Clinical Psychology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in behavioral medicine

Program accreditation
American Psychological Association

Program goal
The Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical Psychology offered by VCU is accredited by the American Psychological Association. The program emphasizes the scientist-practitioner model and prepares students for research and service in professional psychology, including positions in university academic and medical school departments, counseling centers, mental health agencies and hospitals, physical health facilities, and other organizational settings.

The Center for Psychological Services and Development, a campus-based community service agency operated by the department, provides training opportunities for graduate students in all departmental programs, including practicum and research training for graduate students in the clinical psychology program. A wide variety of other on- and off-campus practicum placements also are available.

The department maintains laboratory facilities for research in the areas of behavioral assessment, behavioral medicine, developmental, learning, behavioral pharmacology, psychophysiology, psychotherapy process, social perception, social influence and group dynamics. Opportunities for field research also are available in a variety of settings.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will know, integrate and critically evaluate the literature in the breadth of scientific and clinical psychology.
2. Students will be able to contribute to the scientific literature and disseminate the information from their contributions.
3. Students will know and be able to apply the scientific, methodological and theoretical foundations of practice in the substantive areas of professional psychology.
4. Students will know the available empirically supported treatment techniques and be competent in their use.
5. Students will know how to operationalize treatment outcome goals and will consistently evaluate treatment outcome with all clinical cases.

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

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.
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.

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Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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<td>Dec 1</td>
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</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission.

1. Applicants must have graduated with a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, but not necessarily with a major in psychology.
2. Applicants must present 18 semester hours of undergraduate course work in psychology. This is the minimal, but not optimal, number of hours for an applicant to be considered for admission. Included must be each of the following courses: general psychology, statistics and experimental psychology. Exceptionally well-qualified applicants with less than a major in psychology, or applicants whose undergraduate work is considered outdated by the admissions committee, may be advised to complete some additional undergraduate courses at the beginning of their graduate study program.
3. Applicants must present an undergraduate record indicating superior academic potential.
4. Students must show proof of satisfactory performance on the GRE.
5. Three letters of recommendation from previous instructors are required.
6. A personal interview may be required at the discretion of the department.

The number of students who can be admitted is limited by the facilities and staff available. All applicants will be notified of the decision made. The screening process may begin as early as Jan. 1. First offers of admission are made by April 1. By June 1, after other offers to alternates have been made and final acceptances by students have been received, admissions may be closed.

Transfer credit hours for graduate work at other institutions will be evaluated after the completion of nine semester hours in the department.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research. All work toward the Ph.D. degree must be completed within eight years of the first enrollment.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the clinical psychology Ph.D. program are required to earn a minimum of 87.5 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Grade requirement: Receipt of a grade of C or lower in two courses, or grades of C or lower in more than six credit hours of psychology courses, constitutes automatic dismissal of a student from the program.
3. Master’s-level candidacy and requirements: All students in the Department of Psychology are required to complete a department core curriculum (14 credit hours) or its equivalent for students entering with a master’s degree. Students who receive a grade of C or lower in one of the department core courses must either (a) satisfactorily complete a re-examination of the material covered in the course within one semester following the receipt of the grade (this re-examination is to be arranged and evaluated by the course instructor) or (b) repeat the course for credit the next time it is offered and receive a grade of B or better. Regardless of which of these approaches is chosen, the students will be given only one opportunity to demonstrate that they have mastered the course material. Students who either fail the re-examination or repeat the course and receive a grade of C or lower will have failed the comprehensive examination and will be dismissed from the program. Additional courses and training experiences will be determined in consultation with and subject to the approval of the student’s faculty adviser and graduate program committee. All students are required to complete a master’s thesis and to defend it successfully in an oral examination. The successful proposal of the thesis will elevate the student to master’s degree candidacy status. Ideally, the thesis should be publishable as a piece of research and make a contribution to the field of psychology. Students who have previously completed a master’s thesis in psychology at another university may have the thesis requirement waived if the thesis is accepted by their graduate program committee. The residence requirement for the master’s degree is 18 hours, nine in each of two consecutive semesters. Completion of the degree usually requires four semesters. At least six credit hours in PSYC 798 must be completed, and no more than six can be counted toward the M.S. degree.
4. Doctoral candidacy and requirements: Students are obligated to request, in writing from their program committees, continuation of study beyond the master’s degree and approval of their doctoral plan of study. Application from a student for continuation beyond the master’s level will be evaluated by the appropriate program committee after completion of all requirements for the master’s degree. The program committee reviews the student’s request and approves or disapproves the request. The student must pass a written preliminary examination to become a doctoral candidate. Students are required to complete this requirement prior to defense of their dissertations and prior to leaving on internship for students in the clinical and counseling psychology programs. With the consent of the program committee, doctoral students may design a minor consisting of courses in departments other than psychology or courses in an area of psychology other than the major. Both the clinical and counseling psychology programs require completion of applied practica and a one-year predoctoral internship approved by the program committee. Research practica are required by all programs. Practicum credit hours will vary depending on the program. Internship will be one-half credit hour per semester. A dissertation requiring the planning, completion and oral defense of an original research project is an integral part of the doctoral program. At least 12 credit hours in PSYC 898 must be completed, and no
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<td>Psychopathology</td>
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<td>PSYC 627</td>
<td>Research Methods in Clinical Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>PSYC 643</td>
<td>Principles of Psychological Measurement</td>
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<td>PSYC 644</td>
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</tr>
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<td>PSYC 651</td>
<td>Theories of Counseling and Interviewing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
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<td>PSYC 660</td>
<td>Health Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 661</td>
<td>Clinical Applications of Health Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 662</td>
<td>Diagnostic and Behavioral Assessment</td>
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<td>Individual Tests of Intelligence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 650</td>
<td>Advanced Child Psychopathology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 651</td>
<td>Theories of Counseling and Interviewing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 652</td>
<td>Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy</td>
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**Development course**

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<td>Internship (0.5 credit hours for three consecutive semesters)</td>
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**Thesis/dissertation**

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<tr>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 798</td>
<td>M.S. Thesis</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 898</td>
<td>Doctoral Dissertation</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 87.5

1 Required course for M.S. degree (49 credit hours minimum)

2 Up to four credit hours of PSYC 694 may be waived depending on experience and ability.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 87.5**

**Graduate program director**

Michael A. Southam-Gerow, Ph.D.

Professor, associate chair and director of graduate studies

Email: masouthamger@vcu.edu
Student learning outcomes

1. Students will gain a thorough grounding in research strategies, theories and content of psychology that provides a foundation for mastering the applied knowledge and skills of the profession.
2. Students will demonstrate competence in the provision of cutting-edge empirically informed professional practice, an ability to communicate about clinical case material, and will obtain and complete an APA-approved internship.
3. Students will become knowledgeable about the principles of leadership and their own approach and orientation to becoming a leader in counseling psychology.
4. Students must demonstrate that they have been exposed to a variety of cultures, have made an effort to become aware of their own culturally based values and attitudes and have developed skills as part of an ongoing commitment to increasing their multicultural competence.

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<td>Ph.D.</td>
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<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission.

1. Applicants must have graduated with a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, but not necessarily with a major in psychology.

2. Applicants must present 18 semester hours of undergraduate course work in psychology. This is the minimal, but not optimal, number of hours for an applicant to be considered for admission. Included must be each of the following courses: general psychology, statistics and experimental psychology. Exceptionally well-qualified applicants with less than a major in psychology, or applicants whose undergraduate work is considered outdated by the admissions committee, may be advised to complete some additional undergraduate courses at the beginning of their graduate study program.

3. Applicants must present an undergraduate record indicating superior academic potential.

4. Students must show proof of satisfactory performance on the GRE.

5. Three letters of recommendation from previous instructors are required.

6. A personal interview may be required at the discretion of the department.

The number of students who can be admitted is limited by the facilities and staff available. All applicants will be notified of the decision made. The screening process may begin as early as Jan. 1. First offers of admission are made by April 1. By June 1, after other offers to alternates have been made and final acceptances by students have been received, admissions may be closed.

Transfer credit hours for graduate work at other institutions will be evaluated after the completion of nine semester hours in the department.

The finalists for admission will be interviewed on site (or by phone) by counseling faculty.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research. All work toward the Ph.D. degree must be completed within eight years of the first enrollment.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the counseling psychology Ph.D. program are required to earn a minimum of 90.5 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.

2. Grade requirement: Receipt of a grade of C or lower in two courses, or grades of C or lower in more than six credit hours of psychology courses, constitutes automatic dismissal of a student from the program.

3. Master’s-level candidacy and requirements: All students in the Department of Psychology are required to complete a department core curriculum (14 credit hours) or its equivalent for students entering with a master’s degree. Students who receive a grade of C or lower in one of the department core courses must either (a) satisfactorily complete a re-examination of the material covered in the course within one semester following the receipt of the grade (this re-examination is to be arranged and evaluated by the course instructor) or (b) repeat the course for credit the next time it is offered and receive a grade of B or better. Regardless of which of these approaches is chosen, the students will be given only one opportunity to demonstrate that they have mastered the course material. Students who either fail the re-examination or repeat the course and receive a grade of C or lower will have failed the comprehensive examination and will be dismissed from the program. Additional courses and training experiences will be determined in consultation with and subject to the approval of the student’s faculty adviser and graduate program committee. All students are required to complete a master’s thesis and to defend it successfully in an oral examination. The successful proposal of the thesis will elevate the student to master’s degree candidacy status. Ideally, the thesis should be publishable as a piece of research and make a contribution to the field of psychology. Students who have previously completed a master’s thesis in psychology at another university may have the thesis requirement waived if the thesis is accepted by their graduate program committee. The residence requirement for the master’s degree is 18 hours, nine in each of two consecutive semesters. Completion of the degree usually requires four semesters. At least six credit hours in PSYC 798 must be completed, and no more than six can be counted toward the M.S. degree.

4. Doctoral candidacy and requirements: Students are obligated to request, in writing from their program committees, continuation of study beyond the master’s degree and approval of their doctoral plan of study. Application from a student for continuation beyond the master’s level will be evaluated by the appropriate program committee after completion of all requirements for the master’s degree. The program committee reviews the student’s request and approves or disapproves the request. The student must pass a written preliminary examination to become a doctoral candidate. Students are required to complete this requirement prior to defense of their dissertations and prior to leaving on internship for students in the clinical and counseling psychology programs. With the consent of the program committee, doctoral students may design a minor consisting of courses in departments other than psychology or courses in an area of psychology other than the major. Both the clinical and counseling psychology programs require completion of applied practica and a one-year predoctoral internship approved by the program committee. Research practica are required by all programs. Practicum credit hours will vary depending on the program. Internship will be one-half credit hour per semester. A dissertation requiring the planning, completion and oral defense of an original research project is an integral part of the doctoral program. At least 12 credit hours in PSYC 898 must be completed, and no more than 12 can be counted toward the Ph.D. degree. Completion of the entire program usually requires four to six years (including the internship year for students in the clinical and counseling programs). Candidates must complete all requirements for the Ph.D. degree within an eight-year period from the date of admission to the graduate program unless permission is granted for an extension. In some cases, specific programs and divisions may have requirements in addition to those stated here.

A more detailed description of the requirements for each of the graduate programs is included in the Department of Psychology’s Graduate Student Handbook, which is provided to each incoming graduate student.
Visit the website for more information: psychology.vcu.edu (http://www.psychology.vcu.edu).

**Curriculum requirements**

**Department core courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 619</td>
<td>Learning and Cognition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 629</td>
<td>Biological Basis of Behavior</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 675</td>
<td>Ethical Principles of Psychology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 680</td>
<td>Statistics in Psychological Research I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 681</td>
<td>Statistics in Psychological Research II</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Required counseling courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 608</td>
<td>Research in Counseling Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 611</td>
<td>Contemporary Issues, Supervision and Leadership in Counseling Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 616</td>
<td>Psychopathology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 623</td>
<td>Counseling Theories and Personality</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 625</td>
<td>Career Development and Occupational Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 643</td>
<td>Principles of Psychological Measurement</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 644</td>
<td>Individual Tests of Intelligence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 645</td>
<td>Assessment of Personality</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 651</td>
<td>Theories of Counseling and Interviewing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 655</td>
<td>Community Interventions: Development, Implementation and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PSYC 660</td>
<td>Health Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 676</td>
<td>Personal Awareness in Multicultural Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 695</td>
<td>Practicum in Clinical or Counseling Supervision (highly recommended but not required)</td>
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</table>

**Research and counseling practice**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC 693</td>
<td>Counseling Practicum (six credit hours for M.S.)</td>
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**Developmental course**

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 603</td>
<td>Developmental Processes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Social aspects of behavior course**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 630</td>
<td>Social Psychology (or other social aspects course as approved by graduate program director)</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

**Approved internship**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 696</td>
<td>Internship (0.5 credit hours for three consecutive semesters)</td>
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**Thesis/dissertation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 798</td>
<td>M.S. Thesis</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 898</td>
<td>Doctoral Dissertation</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Open electives**

Student should consult with program director for recommendations. 3-6

1 Required course for M.S. degree (53 credit hours minimum)

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 87.5**

---

**Graduate program director**

Michael A. Southam-Gerow, Ph.D.

Professor, associate chair and director of graduate studies

Email: masouthamger@vcu.edu

Phone: (804) 827-0585

**Additional contact**

Suzanne E. Mazzeo, Ph.D.

Professor and director, counseling psychology training program

Email: semazzeo@vcu.edu

Phone: (804) 828-1708

**Program website:** psychology.vcu.edu/counseling (http://www.psychology.vcu.edu/counseling)

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**Health Psychology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

**Program goal**

The Doctor of Philosophy in Health Psychology offered by VCU is an experimentally oriented program that is designed to train students to contribute to the knowledge of psychological contributions to health and illness via training in basic and clinical research. Students completing the Ph.D. in Health Psychology will not be eligible for licensure. Research in health psychology examines the causes and development of illness, methods to help individuals develop healthy lifestyles to promote good health and prevent illness, the treatment individuals receive for their medical problems, the effectiveness with which individuals cope with and reduce stress and pain, biopsychosocial connections with immune functioning, and factors in the recovery, rehabilitation and psychosocial adjustment of patients with serious health problems. Thus, graduates from the Ph.D. program in Health Psychology are prepared for work in a range of settings including colleges and universities, medical centers, research centers, nonprofit agencies and local, state and national government.

The Center for Psychological Services and Development, a campus-based community service agency operated by the department, provides training opportunities for graduate students in all departmental programs. A wide variety of other on- and off-campus practicum placements also are available.

The department maintains laboratory facilities for research in the areas of behavioral assessment, behavioral medicine, developmental, learning, behavioral pharmacology, psychophysiology, psychotherapy process, social perception, social influence and group dynamics. Opportunities for field research also are available in a variety of settings.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the models, theories and processes of health psychology; the biological, cognitive, attitudinal, social and cultural underpinnings of health psychology; primary and secondary prevention of disease in a diverse range of communities; and community applications of health psychology.

2. Students will use scientifically sound research methodologies, univariate and multivariate statistics and ethical practices in their conduct of research.

3. Students will adhere to the highest standards of ethics in their research, teaching and applied practice. Students will follow
standards set by the university and the American Psychological Association.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

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**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Applicants must have graduated with a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, but not necessarily with a major in psychology.
2. Applicants must present 18 semester hours of undergraduate coursework in psychology. This is the minimal, but not optimal, number of hours for an applicant to be considered for admission. Included must be each of the following courses: general psychology, statistics and experimental psychology. Exceptionally well-qualified applicants with less than a major in psychology, or applicants whose undergraduate work is considered outdated by the admissions committee, may be advised to complete some additional undergraduate courses at the beginning of their graduate study program.
3. Applicants must present an undergraduate record indicating superior academic potential.
4. Students must show proof of satisfactory performance on the GRE.
5. Three letters of recommendation from previous instructors are required.
6. A personal interview may be required at the discretion of the department.

The number of students who can be admitted is limited by the facilities and staff available. All applicants will be notified of the decision made. The screening process may begin as early as Jan. 1. First offers of admission are made by April 1. By June 1, after other offers to alternates have been made and final acceptances by students have been received, admissions may be closed.

Transfer credit hours for graduate work at other institutions will be evaluated after the completion of nine semester hours in the department.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete core work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research. All work toward the Ph.D. degree must be completed within eight years of the first enrollment:

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the health psychology Ph.D. program are required to earn a minimum of 80 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Grade requirement: Receipt of a grade of C or lower in two courses, or grades of C or lower in more than six credit hours of psychology courses, constitutes automatic dismissal of a student from the program.
3. Master’s-level candidacy and requirements: All students in the Department of Psychology are required to complete a department core curriculum (13-15 credit hours) or its equivalent for students entering with a master’s degree. Students who receive a grade of C or lower in one of the department core courses must either (a) satisfactorily complete a re-examination of the material covered in the course within one semester following the receipt of the grade.
4. Doctoral candidacy and requirements: Students are obligated to request, in writing from their program committees, continuation of study beyond the master’s degree and approval of their doctoral plan of study. Application from a student for continuation beyond the master’s level will be evaluated by the appropriate program committee after completion of all requirements for the master’s degree. The program committee reviews the student’s request and approves or disapproves the request. The student must pass a written preliminary examination to become a doctoral candidate. Students are required to complete this requirement prior to defense of their dissertations and prior to leaving on internship for students in the clinical and counseling psychology programs. With the consent of the program committee, doctoral students may design a minor consisting of courses in departments other than psychology or courses in an area of psychology other than the major. Both the clinical and counseling psychology programs require completion of applied practica and a one-year predoctoral internship approved by the program committee. Research practica are required by all programs. Practicum credit hours will vary depending on the program. Internship will be one-half credit hour per semester. A dissertation requiring the planning, completion and oral defense of an original research project is an integral part of the doctoral program. At least 12 credit hours in PSYC 898 must be completed, and no more than 12 can be counted toward the Ph.D. degree. Completion of the entire program usually requires four to six years (including the internship year for students in the clinical and counseling programs). Candidates must complete all requirements for the Ph.D. degree within an eight-year period from the date of admission to the graduate program unless permission is granted for an extension. In some cases, specific programs and divisions may have requirements in addition to those stated here.

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**Curriculum requirements**

**Department core courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 619</td>
<td>Learning and Cognition ¹</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 629</td>
<td>Biological Basis of Behavior ¹</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 680</td>
<td>Statistics in Psychological Research I ¹</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 681</td>
<td>Statistics in Psychological Research II ¹</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required health courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 660</td>
<td>Health Psychology ¹</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 679</td>
<td>Culture, Ethnicity and Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 691</td>
<td>Special Topics (research methods in health psychology or approved equivalent) ¹</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Applied course**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 631</td>
<td>Evaluation Research: Psychological Perspectives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PSYC 655</td>
<td>Community Interventions: Development, Implementation and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Additional health-related courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPID 603</td>
<td>Public Health Policy and Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 615</td>
<td>Health Care Politics and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 548</td>
<td>Drug Dependence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 622</td>
<td>Physiological Correlates of Emotion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 635</td>
<td>Psychology of Health and Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>in the Elderly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 666</td>
<td>Crisis Intervention: Theory, Research and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 691</td>
<td>Special Topics (child health psychology, cancer prevention and control, occupational health psychology, tobacco control in 21st century)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 608</td>
<td>Health Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Independent readings and research ¹,²**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 671</td>
<td>Readings and Research</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 690</td>
<td>Research Practicum</td>
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**Additional course work**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 716</td>
<td>Grant Writing and Project Management in Health Related Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PSYC 700</td>
<td>Grant Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 603</td>
<td>Developmental Processes (or another course in developmental psychology approved by the program director)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 630</td>
<td>Social Psychology (or another course in social psychology approved by the program director)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 795</td>
<td>Practicum in the Teaching of College Psychology</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>
Methodology/statistics course
Select at least one of the following:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 531</td>
<td>Clinical Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 571</td>
<td>Clinical Trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 572</td>
<td>Analysis of Biomedical Data I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 647</td>
<td>Survival Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 651</td>
<td>Topics in Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 571</td>
<td>Principles of Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 606</td>
<td>Epidemiologic Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 762</td>
<td>Health Services Research Methods II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 691</td>
<td>Topics in Management (CARMA)</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 772</td>
<td>Qualitative Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 702</td>
<td>Causal Analysis for Organizational Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 610</td>
<td>Behavioral Measurement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 633</td>
<td>Structural Equation Modeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 643</td>
<td>Applied Multivariate Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCY/PADM 605</td>
<td>Survey Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWKD 704</td>
<td>Multiparadigmatic Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
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Recommended electives
Select nine to 10 credit hours of the following: 9-10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 701</td>
<td>Health Services Delivery Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 524</td>
<td>Endocrinology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 603</td>
<td>Public Health Policy and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 601</td>
<td>Biological and Physiological Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 627</td>
<td>Psychology of Health and Health Care for the Elderly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 615</td>
<td>Health Care Politics and Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 626</td>
<td>International Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 548</td>
<td>Drug Dependence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 614</td>
<td>Foundation in Psychoneuroimmunology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 622</td>
<td>Physiological Correlates of Emotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 635</td>
<td>Psychology of Health and Health Care in the Elderly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 666</td>
<td>Crisis Intervention: Theory, Research and Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 691</td>
<td>Special Topics (child health psychology, cancer prevention and control, occupational health psychology, tobacco control in 21st century)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 605</td>
<td>Introduction to Social and Behavioral Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 608</td>
<td>Health Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 630</td>
<td>Theoretical Foundations of Social and Behavioral Health</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thesis/dissertation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 798</td>
<td>M.S. Thesis 1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 898</td>
<td>Doctoral Dissertation</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Required course for M.S. degree (40 credit hours minimum)

2 At least three credit hours of either course required for M.S.; both required for Ph.D.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 80

Program director
Michael A. Southam-Gerow, Ph.D.
Associate professor and director of graduate studies
Email: masouthamger@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-0585

Additional contact
Eric Benotsch, Ph.D.
Director, health psychology program
Email: ebenotsch@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-0133

Program website: psychology.vcu.edu/health (http://www.psychology.vcu.edu/health/index.shtml)

Psychology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in biopsychology

Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

Program goal
The Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology offered by VCU prepares students for basic or applied research and includes three specialty areas: biopsychology, developmental psychology and social psychology. The concentration in developmental psychology trains students for work in either college or university academic departments or applied settings. Applied developmentalists work in a variety of settings and programs (violence prevention, community intervention, schools, family service agencies, nonprofit agencies, health care settings, disability agencies) with a variety of human populations (infants and young children, school-age children, adolescents, at-risk youth, incarcerated youth and adults, parents, older adults, persons with disabilities); they do not offer counseling/therapy services.

The Center for Psychological Services and Development, a campus-based community service agency operated by the department, provides training opportunities for graduate students in all departmental programs, including practicum and research training for graduate students in the clinical psychology program. A wide variety of other on- and off-campus practicum placements also are available.

The department maintains laboratory facilities for research in the areas of behavioral assessment, behavioral medicine, developmental, learning, behavioral pharmacology, psychophysiology, psychotherapy process, social perception, social influence and group dynamics. Opportunities for field research also are available in a variety of settings.

Student learning outcomes

1. Students will acquire an accurate, comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of biopsychological concepts, principles and findings in the key domains of the field, including physiology, learning and memory, and current neuroscience principles.

2. Students will develop the intellectual skills required to generate theories, do research, communicate ideas and information to others,
evaluate conclusions statistically, locate the information needed for these intellectual pursuits and prepare scientific reports.

3. Students will strive to expand the conceptual and empirical foundations of the field by conducting original research utilizing sound research methodologies. The results of these studies are presented at scientific conferences and published in scientific journals. This research is, in some cases, supported by extramural grants to biopsychology faculty or students.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.**

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 10</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission.

1. Applicants must have graduated with a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, but not necessarily with a major in psychology.

2. Applicants must present 18 semester hours of undergraduate coursework in psychology. This is the minimal, but not optimal, number of hours for an applicant to be considered for admission. Included must be each of the following courses: general psychology, statistics and experimental psychology. Exceptionally well-qualified applicants with less than a major in psychology, or applicants whose undergraduate work is considered outdated by the admissions committee, may be advised to complete some additional undergraduate courses at the beginning of their graduate study program.

3. Applicants must present an undergraduate record indicating superior academic potential.

4. Students must show proof of satisfactory performance on the GRE.

5. Three letters of recommendation from previous instructors are required.

6. A personal interview may be required at the discretion of the department.

The number of students who can be admitted is limited by the facilities and staff available. All applicants will be notified of the decision made. The screening process may begin as early as Jan. 1. First offers of admission are made by April 1. By June 1, after other offers to alternates have been made and final acceptances by students have been received, admissions may be closed.

Applicants to the psychology doctoral program should specify to which of the three divisions they are applying (i.e., biopsychology, developmental or social).

Transfer credit hours for graduate work at other institutions will be evaluated after the completion of nine semester hours in the department.

**Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.**

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research. All work toward the Ph.D. degree must be completed within eight years of the first enrollment.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the psychology Ph.D. program are required to earn a minimum of 72 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.

2. Grade requirement: Receipt of a grade of C or lower in two courses, or grades of C or lower in more than six credit hours of psychology
courses, constitutes automatic dismissal of a student from the program.

3. Master's-level candidacy and requirements: All students in the Department of Psychology are required to complete a department core curriculum (13-15 credit hours) or its equivalent for students entering with a master's degree. Students who receive grades of B or better in each of the department core courses are considered to have fulfilled the university requirements of a master's-level comprehensive examination and will then officially be considered candidates for the Master of Science degree. Students who receive grades of C or lower in two or more department core courses will have failed the comprehensive examination and will be dismissed automatically from the program. Students who receive a grade of C or lower in one of the department core courses must either (a) satisfactorily complete a re-examination of the material covered in the course within one semester following the receipt of the grade (this re-examination is to be arranged and evaluated by the course instructor) or (b) repeat the course the next time it is offered and receive a grade of B or better. Regardless of which of these approaches is chosen, the students will be given only one opportunity to demonstrate that they have mastered the course material. Students who either fail the re-examination or repeat the course and receive a grade of C or lower will have failed the comprehensive examination and will be dismissed from the program. Additional courses and training experiences will be determined in consultation with and subject to the approval of the student's faculty adviser and graduate program committee. All students are required to complete a master's thesis and to defend it successfully in an oral examination. Ideally, the thesis should be publishable as a piece of research and make a contribution to the field of psychology. Students who have previously completed a master's thesis in psychology at another university may have the thesis requirement waived if the thesis is accepted by their graduate program committee. The residence requirement for the master's degree is 18 hours, nine in each of two consecutive semesters. Completion of the degree usually requires four semesters. At least six credit hours in PSYC 798 must be completed, and no more than six can be counted toward the M.S. degree.

4. Doctoral candidacy and requirements: Students are obligated to request, in writing from their program committees, continuation of study beyond the master's degree and approval of their doctoral plan of study. Application from a student for continuation beyond the master's level will be evaluated by the appropriate program committee after completion of all requirements for the master's degree. The program committee reviews the student's request and approves or disapproves the request. The student must pass a written preliminary examination to become a doctoral candidate. Students are required to complete this requirement prior to defense of their dissertations and prior to leaving on internship for students in the clinical and counseling psychology programs. With the consent of the program committee, doctoral students may design a minor consisting of courses in departments other than psychology or courses in an area of psychology other than the major. Both the clinical and counseling psychology programs require completion of applied practica and a one-year predoctoral internship approved by the program committee. Research practica are required by all programs. Practicum credit hours will vary depending on the program. Internship will be one-half credit hour per semester. A dissertation requiring the planning, completion and oral defense of an original research project is an integral part of the doctoral program. At least 12 credit hours in PSYC 898 must be completed, and no more than 12 can be counted toward the Ph.D. degree. Completion of the entire program usually requires four to six years (including the internship year for students in the clinical and counseling programs). Candidates must complete all requirements for the Ph.D. degree within an eight-year period from the date of admission to the graduate program unless permission is granted for an extension. In some cases, specific programs and divisions may have requirements in addition to those stated here.

A more detailed description of the requirements for each of the graduate programs is included in the Department of Psychology's Graduate Student Handbook, which is provided to each incoming graduate student. Visit the website for more information: psychology.vcu.edu (http://www.psychology.vcu.edu).

### Curriculum requirements

#### Department core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 617</td>
<td>Sensation and Perception</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PSYC 629</td>
<td>Biological Basis of Behavior</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 619</td>
<td>Learning and Cognition</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 675</td>
<td>Ethical Principles of Psychology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 680</td>
<td>Statistics in Psychological Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 681</td>
<td>Statistics in Psychological Research II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Required psychology courses

Select one of the following: 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC/GRTY 602</td>
<td>Psychology of Aging</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 603</td>
<td>Developmental Processes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 605</td>
<td>Social Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 638</td>
<td>The Evolution of Psychological Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 671</td>
<td>Readings and Research (and/or)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PSYC 690</td>
<td>Research Practicum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Thesis/dissertation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 798</td>
<td>M.S. Thesis</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 898</td>
<td>Doctoral Dissertation</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Required courses for concentration in biopsychology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 617</td>
<td>Sensation and Perception</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PSYC 629</td>
<td>Biological Basis of Behavior</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 639</td>
<td>Research Methods in Biopsychology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select three of the following: 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 501</td>
<td>Mammalian Physiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 632</td>
<td>Neurochemical Pharmacology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 633</td>
<td>Behavioral Pharmacology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 612</td>
<td>Seminar in Motivation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 622</td>
<td>Physiological Correlates of Emotion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 691</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Recommended electives

Select 16 credit hours of the following: 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 501</td>
<td>Mammalian Physiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 632</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 633</td>
<td>Behavioral Pharmacology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 691</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Pharmacology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 612</td>
<td>Seminar in Motivation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 622</td>
<td>Physiological Correlates of Emotion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The department maintains laboratory facilities for research in the areas of behavioral assessment, behavioral medicine, developmental, learning, social perception, social influence and group dynamics. Opportunities for field research also are available in a variety of settings.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Students will demonstrate their understanding of the models, theories and processes of developmental psychology; the biological, cognitive, social and cultural underpinnings of human development; processes of normative developmental change across the lifespan; atypical development as found in psychopathology and disabilities; and community applications of developmental science.

2. Students will use scientifically sound research methodologies, univariate and multivariate statistics and ethical practices in their conduct of research.

3. Students will adhere to the highest standards of ethics in their research, teaching and applied practice. Students will follow standards set by the university, the American Psychological Association and the Society for Research in Child Development.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.** (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.** (p. 37)

**Graduation requirements**

As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must make formal application to

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PSYC 630</th>
<th>Social Psychology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 637</td>
<td>Operant Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 639</td>
<td>Research Methods in Biopsychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 671</td>
<td>Readings and Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 690</td>
<td>Research Practicum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 691</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 700</td>
<td>Grant Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 795</td>
<td>Practicum in the Teaching of College Psychology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**: 72

1. Required course for M.S. degree (40 credit hours minimum)
2. Complete the course not chosen for the departmental core above.

**Program website**: psychology.vcu.edu/biopsychology (http://www.psychology.vcu.edu/biopsychology)

**Psychology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in developmental psychology**

**Program goal**

The Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology offered by VCU prepares students for basic or applied research and includes three specialty areas: biopsychology, developmental psychology and social psychology. The concentration in developmental psychology trains students for work in either college or university academic departments or applied settings. Applied developmentalists work in a variety of settings and programs (violence prevention, community intervention, schools, family service agencies, nonprofit agencies, health care settings, disability agencies) with a variety of human populations (infants and young children, school-age children, adolescents, at-risk youth, incarcerated youth and adults, parents, older adults, persons with disabilities); they do not offer counseling/therapy services.

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The department maintains laboratory facilities for research in the areas of behavioral assessment, behavioral medicine, developmental, learning, behavioral pharmacology, psychophysiology, psychotherapy process,
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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

### Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree: Ph.D.</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry: Fall</th>
<th>Deadline dates: Dec 1</th>
<th>Test requirements: GRE-General</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission.

1. Applicants must have graduated with a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, but not necessarily with a major in psychology.
2. Applicants must present 18 semester hours of undergraduate course work in psychology. This is the minimal, but not optimal, number of hours for an applicant to be considered for admission. Included must be each of the following courses: general psychology, statistics and experimental psychology. Exceptionally well-qualified applicants with less than a major in psychology, or applicants whose undergraduate work is considered outdated by the admissions committee, may be advised to complete some additional undergraduate courses at the beginning of their graduate study program.
3. Applicants must present an undergraduate record indicating superior academic potential.
4. Students must show proof of satisfactory performance on the GRE.
5. Three letters of recommendation from previous instructors are required.
6. A personal interview may be required at the discretion of the department.

The number of students who can be admitted is limited by the facilities and staff available. All applicants will be notified of the decision made. The screening process may begin as early as Jan. 1. First offers of admission are made by April 1. By June 1, after other offers to alternates have been made and final acceptances by students have been received, admissions may be closed.

Applicants to the psychology doctoral program should specify to which of the three divisions they are applying (i.e., biopsychology, developmental or social).

Transfer credit hours for graduate work at other institutions will be evaluated after the completion of nine semester hours in the department.

### Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research. All work toward the Ph.D. degree must be completed within eight years of the first enrollment.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the psychology Ph.D. program are required to earn a minimum of 72 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Grade requirement: Receipt of a grade of C or lower in two courses, or grades of C or lower in more than six credit hours of psychology courses, constitutes automatic dismissal of a student from the program.
3. Master’s-level candidacy and requirements: All students in the Department of Psychology are required to complete a department core curriculum (13-15 credit hours) or its equivalent for students entering with a master’s degree. Students who receive a grade of C or lower in one of the department core courses must either (a) satisfactorily complete a re-examination of the material covered in the course within one semester following the receipt of the grade (this re-examination is to be arranged and evaluated by the course instructor) or (b) repeat the course for credit the next time it is offered and receive a grade of B or better. Regardless of which of these approaches is chosen, the students will be given only one opportunity to demonstrate that they have mastered the course material. Students who either fail the re-examination or repeat the course and receive a grade of C or lower will have failed the comprehensive examination and will be dismissed from the program. Additional courses and training experiences will be determined in consultation with and subject to the approval of the student’s faculty adviser and graduate program committee. All students are required to complete a master’s thesis and to defend it successfully in an oral examination. The successful proposal of the thesis will elevate the student to master’s degree candidacy status. Ideally, the thesis should be publishable as a piece of research and make a contribution to the field of psychology. Students who have previously completed a master’s thesis in psychology at another university may have the thesis requirement waived if the thesis is accepted by their graduate program committee. The residence requirement for the master’s degree is 18 hours, nine in each of two consecutive semesters. Completion of the degree usually requires four semesters. At least six credit hours in PSYC 798 must be completed, and no more than six can be counted toward the M.S. degree.
4. Doctoral candidacy and requirements: Students are obligated to request, in writing from their program committees, continuation of study beyond the master’s degree and approval of their doctoral plan of study. Application from a student for continuation beyond the master’s level will be evaluated by the appropriate program committee after completion of all requirements for the master’s degree. The program committee reviews the student’s request and approves or disapproves the request. The student must pass a written preliminary examination to become a doctoral candidate. Students are required to complete this requirement prior to defense of their dissertations and prior to leaving on internship for students in the clinical and counseling psychology programs. With the consent of the program committee, doctoral students may design a minor consisting of courses in departments other than psychology or courses in an area of psychology other than the major. Both the clinical and counseling psychology programs require completion of applied practica and a one-year predoctoral internship approved by the program committee. Research practica are required by all programs. Practicum credit hours will vary depending on the program. Internship will be one-half credit hour per semester. A dissertation requiring the planning, completion and oral defense of an original research project is an integral part of the doctoral program. At least 12 credit hours in PSYC 898 must be completed, and no
more than 12 can be counted toward the Ph.D. degree. Completion of the entire program usually requires four to six years (including the internship year for students in the clinical and counseling programs). Candidates must complete all requirements for the Ph.D. degree within an eight-year period from the date of admission to the graduate program unless permission is granted for an extension. In some cases, specific programs and divisions may have requirements in addition to those stated here.

A more detailed description of the requirements for each of the graduate programs is included in the Department of Psychology’s Graduate Student Handbook, which is provided to each incoming graduate student. Visit the website for more information: psychology.vcu.edu (http://www.psychology.vcu.edu).

**Curriculum requirements**

**Department core courses**
- PSYC 619 Learning and Cognition ³ 3
- PSYC 629 Biological Basis of Behavior ³ 3
- PSYC 680 Statistics in Psychological Research I ³ 3
- PSYC 681 Statistics in Psychological Research II ³ 3

**Responsible conduct or research course ³**
Select one of the following: 1-3
- OVPR 601 Scientific Integrity
- OVPR 602 Responsible Scientific Conduct
- OVPR 603 Responsible Conduct of Research
- PSYC 675 Ethical Principles of Psychology

**Developmental psychology concentration core courses**
- PSYC 603 Developmental Processes ¹ 3
- PSYC 605 Social Development ¹ 3
- PSYC 613 Cognitive Development ¹ 3
- PSYC 636 Research Methods in Developmental Psychology ¹ 3
- PSYC 643 Principles of Psychological Measurement ¹ 2
- PSYC 671 Readings and Research ¹ 1
- or PSYC 690 Research Practicum

**Cultural/individual diversity course**
Select three credit hours from the following: ¹, ² ³ 1
- PSYC 679 Culture, Ethnicity and Health
- PSYC 691 Special Topics (African-American family)

**Applied courses**
Select six credit hours (three credit hours for M.S.) from the following or other applied-related course approved by adviser: ¹
- PSYC 631 Evaluation Research: Psychological Perspectives
- PSYC 655 Community Interventions: Development, Implementation and Evaluation
- PSYC 700 Grant Writing
- PSYC 795 Practicum in the Teaching of College Psychology

**Methodology/statistics course**
Select three credit hours from the following or other relevant methodology/statistics-related course approved by adviser:
- NURS 772 Qualitative Research
- SBHD 638 Applications in Qualitative Research Methods

**Recommended electives**
Select from the following: 14
- GRTY 601 Biological and Physiological Aging
- GRTY 602 Psychology of Aging
- GRTY 605 Social Science Research Methods Applied to Gerontology
- GRTY 606 Aging and Human Values
- HGEN 620 Principles of Human Behavioral Genetics
- IDDS 600 Interdisciplinary Studies in Developmental Disabilities: Teamwork in Serving Persons with Developmental Disabilities
- IDDS 691 Special Topics in Developmental Disabilities
- IDDS 692 Directed Study in Developmental Disabilities
- PSYC 606 Development in Middle Childhood
- PSYC 614 Development in Infancy and Early Childhood
- PSYC 615 Aging and Mental Disorders
- PSYC 616 Psychopathology
- PSYC 628 Psychology of Adolescence
- PSYC 630 Social Psychology
- PSYC 635/GRTY 627 Psychology of Health and Health Care in the Elderly
- PSYC 640 Parenting
- PSYC/GRTY 641 Survey of Psychological Assessment and Treatment of the Older Adult
- PSYC 644 Individual Tests of Intelligence
- PSYC 645 Assessment of Personality
- PSYC 650 Advanced Child Psychopathology
- PSYC 655 Community Interventions: Development, Implementation and Evaluation
- PSYC 659 Seminar in Consultation Psychology
- PSYC 660 Health Psychology
- PSYC 671 Readings and Research
- PSYC 690 Research Practicum
- PSYC 691 Special Topics (child health, African-American family, school mental health)
- SEDP 705 Seminar on Disability Policy

**Thesis/dissertation**
- PSYC 798 M.S. Thesis ¹ 6
- PSYC 898 Doctoral Dissertation ¹ 12

¹ Required course for M.S. degree (40 credit hours minimum)
Other portfolio, diversity-related or independent study courses demonstrating in-depth knowledge about diversity in human development areas may be approved by the developmental psychology faculty.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 72**

Note: Students specializing in lifespan development and gerontology must take the following set of gerontology courses in addition to other developmental and core requirements. These courses will result in a Certificate in Aging Studies from the Department of Gerontology.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 601</td>
<td>Biological and Physiological Aging</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY/PSYC 602</td>
<td>Psychology of Aging</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 605</td>
<td>Social Science Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 692</td>
<td>Independent Studies</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Six additional hours of gerontology electives, chosen with adviser</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate program director
Michael A. Southam-Gerow, Ph.D.
Professor, associate chair and director of graduate studies
Email: masouthamger@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-0585

Additional contact
Terri N. Sullivan, Ph.D.
Professor and director, developmental psychology concentration
Email: tnsulliv@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-9304

Program website: psychology.vcu.edu/developmental (http://www.psychology.vcu.edu/developmental)

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**Psychology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in social psychology**

**Program goal**

The Doctor of Philosophy in Psychology offered by VCU prepares students for basic or applied research and includes three specialty areas: biopsychology, developmental psychology and social psychology. The concentration in developmental psychology trains students for work in either college or university academic departments or applied settings. Applied developmentalists work in a variety of settings and programs (violence prevention, community intervention, schools, family service agencies, nonprofit agencies, health care settings, disability agencies) with a variety of human populations (infants and young children, school-age children, adolescents, at-risk youth, incarcerated youth and adults, parents, older adults, persons with disabilities); they do not offer counseling/therapy services.

The Center for Psychological Services and Development, a campus-based community service agency operated by the department, provides training opportunities for graduate students in all departmental programs, including practicum and research training for graduate students in the clinical psychology program. A wide variety of other on- and off-campus practicum placements also are available.

The department maintains laboratory facilities for research in the areas of behavioral assessment, behavioral medicine, developmental, learning, behavioral pharmacology, psychophysiology, psychotherapy process, social perception, social influence and group dynamics. Opportunities for field research also are available in a variety of settings.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Students will achieve competency in their knowledge of all basic areas of the field, including social psychology, psychobiology, learning/cognition and statistics/research.
2. Students will have learned all the basic principles, theories and findings of the field of social psychology, including social thought and cognition, group processes, and personality and individual differences.
3. Students will have the intellectual skills required to generate theories, do research, communicate ideas and information to others, evaluate conclusions statistically, locate the information needed for these intellectual pursuits and prepare scientific reports.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://wwwgraduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission.

1. Applicants must have graduated with a bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university, but not necessarily with a major in psychology.
2. Applicants must present 18 semester hours of undergraduate course work in psychology. This is the minimal, but not optimal, number of hours for an applicant to be considered for admission. Included must be each of the following courses: general psychology, statistics and experimental psychology. Exceptionally well-qualified applicants with less than a major in psychology, or applicants whose undergraduate work is considered outdated by the admissions committee, may be advised to complete some additional undergraduate courses at the beginning of their graduate study program.
3. Applicants must present an undergraduate record indicating superior academic potential.
4. Students must show proof of satisfactory performance on the GRE.
5. Three letters of recommendation from previous instructors are required.
6. A personal interview may be required at the discretion of the department.

The number of students who can be admitted is limited by the facilities and staff available. All applicants will be notified of the decision made. The screening process may begin as early as Jan. 1. First offers of admission are made by April 1. By June 1, after other offers to alternates have been made and final acceptances by students have been received, admissions may be closed.

Applicants to the psychology doctoral program should specify to which of the three divisions they are applying (i.e., biopsychology, developmental or social).

Transfer credit hours for graduate work at other institutions will be evaluated after the completion of nine semester hours in the department.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research. All work toward the Ph.D. degree must be completed within eight years of the first enrollment.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the psychology Ph.D. program are required to earn a minimum of 72 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Grade requirement: Receipt of a grade of C or lower in two courses, or grades of C or lower in more than six credit hours of psychology courses, constitutes automatic dismissal of a student from the program.
3. Master’s-level candidacy and requirements: All students in the Department of Psychology are required to complete a department core curriculum (13-15 credit hours) or its equivalent for students entering with a master’s degree. Students who receive a grade of C or lower in one of the department core courses must either (a) satisfactorily complete a re-examination of the material covered in the course within one semester following the receipt of the grade (this re-examination is to be arranged and evaluated by the course instructor) or (b) repeat the course for credit the next time it is offered and receive a grade of B or better. Regardless of which of these approaches is chosen, the students will be given only one opportunity to demonstrate that they have mastered the course material. Students who either fail the re-examination or repeat the course and receive a grade of C or lower will have failed the comprehensive examination and will be dismissed from the program. Additional courses and training experiences will be determined in consultation with and subject to the approval of the student’s faculty adviser and graduate program committee. All students are required to complete a master’s thesis and to defend it successfully in an oral examination. The successful proposal of the thesis will elevate the student to master’s degree candidacy status. Ideally, the thesis should be publishable as a piece of research and make a contribution to the field of psychology. Students who have previously completed a master’s thesis in psychology at another university may have the thesis requirement waived if the thesis is accepted by their graduate program committee. The residence requirement for the master’s degree is 18 hours, nine in each of two consecutive semesters. Completion of the degree usually requires four semesters. At least six credit hours in PSYC 798 must be completed, and no more than six can be counted toward the M.S. degree.
4. Doctoral candidacy and requirements: Students are obligated to request, in writing from their program committees, continuation of study beyond the master’s degree and approval of their doctoral plan of study. Application from a student for continuation beyond the master’s level will be evaluated by the appropriate program committee after completion of all requirements for the master’s degree. The program committee reviews the student’s request and approves or disapproves the request. The student must pass a written preliminary examination to become a doctoral candidate. Students are required to complete this requirement prior to defense of their dissertations and prior to leaving on internship for students in the clinical and counseling psychology programs. With the consent of the program committee, doctoral students may design a minor consisting of courses in departments other than psychology or courses in an area of psychology other than the major. Both the clinical and counseling psychology programs require completion of applied practica and a one-year predoctoral internship approved by the program committee. Research practica are required by all programs. Practicum credit hours will vary depending on the program. Internship will be one-half credit hour per semester. A dissertation requiring the planning, completion and oral defense of an original research project is an integral part of the doctoral program. At least 12 credit hours in PSYC 898 must be completed, and no more than 12 can be counted toward the Ph.D. degree. Completion of the entire program usually requires four to six years (including
the internship year for students in the clinical and counseling programs). Candidates must complete all requirements for the Ph.D. degree within an eight-year period from the date of admission to the graduate program unless permission is granted for an extension. In some cases, specific programs and divisions may have requirements in addition to those stated here.

A more detailed description of the requirements for each of the graduate programs is included in the Department of Psychology’s Graduate Student Handbook, which is provided to each incoming graduate student. Visit the website for more information: psychology.vcu.edu (http://www.psychology.vcu.edu).

**Curriculum requirements**

**Department core courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 619</td>
<td>Learning and Cognition</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 629</td>
<td>Biological Basis of Behavior</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 680</td>
<td>Statistics in Psychological Research I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 681</td>
<td>Statistics in Psychological Research II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Responsible conduct of research course:** 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
<td>1-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 675</td>
<td>Ethical Principles of Psychology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Social psychology concentration core courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 610</td>
<td>Attitude Theory and Research</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 630</td>
<td>Social Psychology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 632</td>
<td>Research Methods in Social Psychology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 634</td>
<td>Attribution and Social Cognition</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 671</td>
<td>Readings and Research</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 690</td>
<td>Research Practicum</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One advanced, three-credit course in statistics (e.g., structural equation modeling, meta-analysis), with approval of the program director: 3

**Social seminars**

Select nine credit hours from the following or other social psychology relevant courses approved by adviser: 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 631</td>
<td>Evaluation Research: Psychological Perspectives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 688</td>
<td>The Self and Identity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 691</td>
<td>Special Topics (interpersonal processes, social influence, social and developmental practicum, positive psychology)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thesis/dissertation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 798</td>
<td>M.S. Thesis</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 898</td>
<td>Doctoral Dissertation</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Required course for M.S. degree (40 credit hours minimum)

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 72**

**Graduate program director**

Michael A. Southam-Gerow, Ph.D.
Professor, associate chair and director of graduate studies
Email: masouthamger@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-0585

**Additional contact**

Jeffrey D. Green, Ph.D.
Associate professor and director, social psychology concentration
Email: jdgreen@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-0336

**Program website:** psychology.vcu.edu/social (http://www.psychology.vcu.edu/social)

### Department of Sociology

Jennifer Johnson, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair

sociology.vcu.edu (http://www.sociology.vcu.edu)

The sociology department at VCU provides an engaged, learner-centered experience for our undergraduate and graduate students through active involvement in faculty research and community development. Through cutting-edge research, excellent undergraduate and graduate teaching focused on critical thinking, exciting applied opportunities, vital service and community outreach both nationally and internationally, and preparation of students for a wide range of jobs, sociology plays a central role in quality liberal arts education. Sociology is a “social science”; it is a discipline grounded in using sociological theory and the scientific method to create the knowledge necessary for understanding and improving social life. Using theory as a foundation for analysis, sociologists collect and analyze empirical data useful in making decisions related to public
life, such as social and economic policy, and private life, such as family and interpersonal health. It is this relationship between sociological theory, as the foundation of critical thinking, and the scientific method, as the guiding principles of analysis, which makes sociology a rapidly expanding field with expertise increasingly sought after by those who craft policies and create programs.

The Department of Sociology offers a Bachelor of Science in Sociology at the undergraduate level, as well as a Master of Science at the graduate level.

Department of Statistical Sciences and Operations Research

D’Arcy P. Mays III, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair

stat.vcu.edu (http://www.stat.vcu.edu)

The Department of Statistical Sciences and Operations Research offers programs leading to a Bachelor of Science in Mathematical Sciences, a Master of Science in Mathematical Sciences with a concentration in either operations research or statistics and a Doctor of Philosophy in Systems Modeling and Analysis. The curriculum of the programs is run jointly with the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/college-humanities-sciences/departmentofmathematicsandappliedmathematics).

The department also offers a post-baccalaureate undergraduate certificate in statistics.

- Mathematical Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in operations research (p. 149)
- Mathematical Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in statistics
- Systems Modeling and Analysis, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 124)

Mathematical Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in operations research

Program goal
The Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics and the Department of Statistical Sciences and Operations Research jointly offer the M.S. in Mathematical Sciences.

The mission of the Department of Statistical Sciences and Operations Research is to offer a strong undergraduate and graduate education, with an increasing focus on the development of cross-disciplinary efforts that will prepare students for real-world applications and stimulating employment and career opportunities.

The program offers maximum flexibility by allowing students, in consultation with their graduate committees, to design a course of study that will best develop competence in those areas most relevant to their scholarly and professional objectives. Students may obtain a designation on their transcripts indicating that their graduate study has emphasized the mathematics concentration by completing the requirements that are listed here. A student who has not satisfied the requirements for one of the program concentrations offered, but who has otherwise fulfilled all the requirements for a master’s degree, will be awarded a degree of Master of Science in Mathematical Sciences without any specialization.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of basic mathematical programming methods, stochastic models and decision analysis.
2. Student will be able to obtain, analyze and interpret the data necessary to perform operations research projects.
3. Students will be able to solve a wide variety of operations research problems using the software commonly used in industry.
4. Students will know how to clearly and concisely present technical information in writing and through oral presentations.

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.granduate.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>TOEFL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Thirty credit hours in undergraduate mathematical sciences, computer science or related areas of which at least 18 credit hours must represent upper-level courses
2. Three letters of recommendation pertaining to the student’s potential ability as a graduate student in mathematical sciences

Provisional admission may be granted when deficiencies exist. These deficiencies must be removed by the end of the first year of residence, or its part-time equivalent, when the student’s application will be re-examined. Courses that are remedial or designed to remove deficiencies will not be accepted for credit hours toward the fulfillment of the course requirements for the master’s degree.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to meet the following requirements.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the M.S. in Mathematical Sciences program are required to earn a minimum of 30 graduate-level credit hours. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Other requirements: All students must pass two comprehensive examinations: foundations of operations research, covering OPER 527 and OPER 528 and methods of operations research, covering OPER 639, OPER 643 and STAT 613. All students will be given two attempts to pass each exam. Students who receive a minimum grade of B on both OPER 527 and OPER 528 and a grade of A on at least one of the two courses will not need to take the foundations of operations research exam. Students who receive a minimum grade of B on each of OPER 639, OPER 643 and STAT 613 and a grade of A on at least one of the three courses will not need to take the methods of operations research exam.

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration core courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPER 527 Optimization I (^1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 528 Stochastic Simulation (^1)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 639 Practical Optimization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OPER 639: Decision and Risk Analysis 3
OPER 690: Research and Communications Seminar 3
STAT 613: Stochastic Processes 3

**Additional courses**

Operations research electives (Choose courses from list one below) 6
Operations research and allied field electives (Choose courses from list two below) 6

Total Hours 30

\(^1\) If a student previously received credit hours for OPER 527 and/or OPER 528 or their equivalents, then one or two other operations research courses must be taken in their place.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30**

**List one: Recommended electives in operations research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPER 627</td>
<td>Optimization II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 635</td>
<td>Network Models and Graph Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER/STAT 636</td>
<td>Machine Learning Algorithms</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 641</td>
<td>Stochastic Simulation and Monte Carlo Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 645</td>
<td>Queuing Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 647</td>
<td>Multiobjective Decision Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 648</td>
<td>Systems Reliability Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 649</td>
<td>Statistical Quality Control</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Operations Research</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 696</td>
<td>Applied Project</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 697</td>
<td>Directed Research</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 698</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 731</td>
<td>Discrete Optimization</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 732</td>
<td>Optimization Under Uncertainty</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER/STAT 736</td>
<td>Mathematics of Knowledge and Search Engines</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 741</td>
<td>Advanced Stochastic Simulation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 743</td>
<td>Decision Analysis II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 791</td>
<td>Special Topics in Operations Research</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**List two: Recommended electives in operations research and allied fields**

Any 500-, 600- or 700-level MATH, OPER or STAT course except the following

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 505</td>
<td>Modern Geometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 593</td>
<td>Internship in Mathematical Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 661</td>
<td>Number and Operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 662</td>
<td>Geometry and Measurement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 663</td>
<td>Functions and Algebra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 664</td>
<td>Statistics and Probability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 665</td>
<td>Rational Numbers and Proportional Reasoning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 667</td>
<td>Functions and Algebra II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 698</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 508</td>
<td>Introduction to Social Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 608</td>
<td>Statistics for Social Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 696</td>
<td>Applied Project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mathematical Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in statistics

Program goal
The Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics and the Department of Statistical Sciences and Operations Research jointly offer the M.S. in Mathematical Sciences.

The mission of the Department of Statistical Sciences and Operations Research is to offer a strong undergraduate and graduate education, with an increasing focus on the development of cross-disciplinary efforts that will prepare students for real-world applications and stimulating employment and career opportunities.

The program offers maximum flexibility by allowing students, in consultation with their graduate committees, to design a course of study that will best develop competence in those areas most relevant to their scholarly and professional objectives. Students may obtain a designation on their transcripts indicating that their graduate study has emphasized the mathematics concentration by completing the requirements that are listed here. A student who has not satisfied the requirements for one of the program concentrations offered, but who has otherwise fulfilled all the requirements for a master’s degree, will be awarded a degree of Master of Science in Mathematical Sciences without any specialization.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of basic statistical concepts, probability and inference, general linear modeling, calculus, and linear algebra.
2. Students will know how to select appropriate samples and conduct appropriate experimental data collection methods.
3. Students will be able to perform appropriate analysis of data, including knowledge of the assumptions associated with the procedures and how to determine the appropriate procedure to use.
4. Students will be able to use statistical software packages to solve various problems.
5. Students will know how to clearly and concisely present technical information in writing and through oral presentations.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

| Degree: M.S. | Semester(s) of entry: Fall | Deadline dates: Mar 1 | Test requirements: GRE-General |
In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Thirty credit hours in undergraduate mathematical sciences, computer science or related areas of which at least 18 credit hours must represent upper-level courses.
2. Three letters of recommendation pertaining to the student’s potential ability as a graduate student in mathematical sciences.

Provisional admission may be granted when deficiencies exist. These deficiencies must be removed by the end of the first year of residence, or its part-time equivalent, when the student’s application will be re-examined. Courses that are remedial or designed to remove deficiencies will not be accepted for credit hours toward the fulfillment of the course requirements for the master’s degree.

### Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to meet the following requirements.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the M.S. in Mathematical Sciences program are required to earn a minimum of 30 graduate-level credit hours. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Other requirements: All students must pass two comprehensive examinations: statistical theory (covering STAT 513 and STAT 514) and statistical application (covering STAT 546, STAT 642 and STAT 643). All students will be given two attempts to pass each exam.

### Curriculum requirements

#### Concentration core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SSOR 690</td>
<td>Research and Communications Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT/BIOS 513</td>
<td>Mathematical Statistics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT/BIOS 514</td>
<td>Mathematical Statistics II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 546</td>
<td>Linear Models</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 642</td>
<td>Design and Analysis of Experiments I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 643</td>
<td>Applied Linear Regression</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Additional courses

- Statistics electives (Choose courses from list one below.) 6
- Statistics and allied fields electives (Choose courses from list two below.) 6

Total Hours 30

1 If student previously received credit for STAT 513/BIOS 513 and/or STAT 514/BIOS 514 or their equivalents, then one or two other statistics courses must be taken in their place.

### Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

#### List one: recommended electives in statistics

500-, 600- or 700-level STAT courses, except the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAT 508</td>
<td>Introduction to Social Statistics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Jul 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Assistantships are only available starting in the fall semester. Spring and summer semester admission deadlines are only for students not seeking an assistantship.

In addition to general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission: have completed an undergraduate degree with at least 30 credit hours of undergraduate-level mathematics, including calculus I and II, multivariate calculus, linear algebra, probability and statistics. Applicants also must have completed at least one upper-level mathematics class that includes mathematical reasoning, such as abstract algebra, combinatorics, graph theory, real analysis or topology.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the systems modeling and analysis Ph.D. program are required to earn a minimum of 57 graduate-level credit hours beyond the baccalaureate. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.

2. Qualifying exam: Students must pass a qualifying exam covering material from each of the first three core courses they take after admission to the program. Two attempts are allowed for each exam. This requirement must be fulfilled by the end of the semester following completion of 18 graduate credit hours. Students are exempt from a qualifying exam if they earned an A in the corresponding core course or if they took an equivalent course at another university, as determined by the Ph.D. steering committee.

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**Student learning outcomes**

1. Gain a solid foundation in the theory and application of optimization, stochastic processes, simulation, decision analysis and biomathematics, and demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of these concepts
2. Learn to perform appropriate collection, modeling and analysis of data using statistical methods
3. Demonstrate the ability to identify situations in which mathematics, operations research or statistics can be applied and model the situation
4. Demonstrate the ability to solve a wide variety of mathematics, operations research or statistics problems using the software commonly used in industry
5. Demonstrate the ability to write code using appropriate research programming environments to implement research ideas
6. Learn how to interpret the analysis from mathematics, operations research or statistics models to draw meaningful conclusions about the systems being studied
7. Gain the ability to successfully communicate research ideas through writing and presentations
8. Gain the skills needed to successfully participate in research under the guidance of faculty

**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.admissions.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

**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.
3. Doctoral candidacy: Admission to candidacy is made by evaluation of a qualifying portfolio, including exams and project work from courses; writing samples from the research seminars (SYSM 681, SYSM 682 and SYSM 683); research products from systems research projects (SYSM 697); and statements from faculty advisers and instructors. The portfolio can be submitted after all course work has been completed, as well as any additional preparatory course work required at admission. The candidacy committee will evaluate the student’s readiness to begin their dissertation work. Supplementary examination may be required by the committee.

4. Dissertation proposal: After admission to candidacy and the completion of all course work, the student will prepare a written and oral proposal of the intended dissertation research area, including a complete literature review. A successful proposal must be completed at least nine months prior to the dissertation defense.

5. Dissertation defense: The student must complete 18 credit hours in SYSM 798 resulting in a publishable dissertation and a successful oral defense. The student also must have submitted at least one paper to a refereed academic journal and prepared a second manuscript or given a conference presentation on the research prior to the defense.

### Curriculum requirements

Choose three from the following foundation courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 535</td>
<td>Introduction to Dynamical Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 556</td>
<td>Graph Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 527</td>
<td>Optimization I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 513</td>
<td>Mathematical Statistics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYSM 681</td>
<td>Systems Seminar I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYSM 682</td>
<td>Systems Seminar II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYSM 683</td>
<td>Systems Seminar III</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYSM 697</td>
<td>Systems Research 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYSM 798</td>
<td>Dissertation Research</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives (Choose courses from lists below.)</td>
<td>2, 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Hours | 57 |

1. Students are required to take SYSM 697 with a faculty adviser before admission to candidacy.

2. Students must complete at least nine credit hours at the 700-level and must complete courses in at least two of the following subject areas: discrete mathematics, mathematical biology, operations research and statistics from the lists below. Electives will be determined based on a student’s research interests and in consultation with their advisers and the graduate program director.

### Elective courses in discrete mathematics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 750</td>
<td>Topics in Combinatorics: _____</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 756</td>
<td>Topics in Graph Theory: _____</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Elective courses in mathematical biology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 715</td>
<td>Numerical Solutions for Differential Equations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 732</td>
<td>Ordinary Differential Equations II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 769</td>
<td>Topics in Applied Mathematics: _____</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Elective courses in operations research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPER 731</td>
<td>Discrete Optimization</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 732</td>
<td>Optimization Under Uncertainty</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER/STAT 736</td>
<td>Mathematics of Knowledge and Search Engines</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 741</td>
<td>Advanced Stochastic Simulation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 743</td>
<td>Decision Analysis II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 791</td>
<td>Special Topics in Operations Research 1-3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Elective courses in statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>STAT 725</td>
<td>Advanced Multivariate Statistical Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT/OPER 736</td>
<td>Mathematics of Knowledge and Search Engines</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 742</td>
<td>Design and Analysis of Experiments II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 744</td>
<td>Regression II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 745</td>
<td>Advanced Bayesian Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 746</td>
<td>Spatial Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 791</td>
<td>Special Topics in Statistics 1-3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SYSM 780</td>
<td>Stochastic Methods in Mathematical Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Other electives

500-, 600- or 700-level MATH, OPER, STAT or SYSM courses except the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 505</td>
<td>Modern Geometry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 593</td>
<td>Internship in Mathematical Sciences</td>
<td>3,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 661</td>
<td>Number and Operations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 662</td>
<td>Geometry and Measurement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 663</td>
<td>Functions and Algebra</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 664</td>
<td>Statistics and Probability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 665</td>
<td>Rational Numbers and Proportional Reasoning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 667</td>
<td>Functions and Algebra II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 690</td>
<td>Research Seminar</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 696</td>
<td>Applied Project</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 698</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 698</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 508</td>
<td>Introduction to Social Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 608</td>
<td>Statistics for Social Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 696</td>
<td>Applied Project</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 698</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Graduate program director

J. Paul Brooks, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Statistical Sciences and Operations Research
Email: jpbrooks@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4637

### Additional contact

J. Alex McWhorter
Administrative assistant
Email: mcwhorterja@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-6820

Program website: sysm.vcu.edu (http://sysm.vcu.edu)
THE SCHOOL OF ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONS

The School of Allied Health Professions was established on Jan. 1, 1969, to provide an administrative structure for existing educational programs in allied health disciplines and to direct the development of new programs in response to the growing need for allied health manpower. At the outset, the school incorporated existing educational programs for hospital administration, medical technology, physical therapy, and radiologic technology and X-ray technicians.

In the years since its establishment, the school has grown significantly — developing unique, cutting-edge curricula and degree offerings in both traditional and nontraditional formats — to meet the increasing demand for allied health teachers, researchers and practitioners. Considered a leader in distance education, VCU’s School of Allied Health Professions offers the only interdisciplinary, Internet-based doctoral program in allied health in the country: the Ph.D. in Health Related Sciences. The school currently incorporates nine departments and offers programs at the baccalaureate, certificate, master’s and doctoral levels.

Administration
1200 East Broad Street
P.O. Box 980233
Richmond, Virginia 23298-0233
(804) 828-7247
Fax: (804) 828-8656
sahp.vcu.edu (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu)

Cecil B. Drain, Ph.D., CRNA, FAAN, FASAHP
Dean
Alexander F. Tartaglia, D.Min.
Senior associate dean
Angela Duncan, Ph.D.
Assistant dean for student affairs and community engagement
Brian T. McMahon, Ph.D., CRC, NCC, CCM
Associate dean for research
Debra A. Ropelewski
Associate dean for fiscal affairs
Jessica F. Gurganus
Assistant dean for development
Jeffrey R. Lodge
Director of information technology
Monica White
Coordinator of student affairs and Ph.D. program

Philosophy
The faculty of the school is committed to offering, through the establishment and maintenance of rigorous standards of excellence, educational programs that will prepare students for professional careers in the allied health disciplines. Development of professional attitudes, emotional maturity and ethical behavior of students is a vital component of the educational process. It is essential that students gain a deep respect for the dignity of human beings and the inherent rights of patients and others who receive services. The programs are designed to include not only the development of skills to assure excellence in quality of health care, but also factual knowledge and experiences that will provide the basis for continuing intellectual and professional growth.

Community services of the school and faculty include continuing education, consultative resources and participation in all pertinent areas of health care. An integral part of these efforts is to stimulate and sponsor research activities in the allied health disciplines represented within the school and to encourage interdisciplinary research.

Accreditation
The School of Allied Health Professions is an institutional member of the American Society of Allied Health Professions and the Virginia Association of Allied Health Professions. All of its programs are approved or accredited by the appropriate national professional or educational organizations.

Clinical laboratory sciences (bachelor’s degree)
National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences
5600 N. River Road, Suite 720, Rosemont, IL 60018-5519; (847) 939-3597, (773) 714-8880, fax: (773) 714-8886; infor@naacls.org; naacls.org (http://naacls.org). Upon graduation the student is eligible to take the national examination for MLS given by the Board of Certification of the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

Health administration (master’s and executive master’s degrees)
Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education

Nuclear medicine technology (bachelor’s degree in Clinical Radiation Sciences)
Joint Review Committee on Educational Programs in Nuclear Medicine Technology

Nurse anesthesia (master’s, doctorate)
Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs
COA, 222 South Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, Illinois, 847-692-7050). The COA is recognized by the U.S. Department of Education and the Council on Higher Education Accreditation to accredit programs of nurse anesthesia at the master’s, post-master’s and doctoral levels. Graduates of the master’s program are eligible to take the examination for certification conducted by the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists.

Occupational therapy (master’s degree)
Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education

Patient counseling (certificate)
Association for Clinical Pastoral Education

Physical therapy (D.P.T.)
Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education, American Physical Therapy Association
Radiation therapy technology and radiography (bachelor's degree in Clinical Radiation Sciences)
Joint Review Committee on Education in Radiologic Technology

Rehabilitation counseling (master's degree)
Council on Rehabilitation Education

Programs

Both entry- and advanced-level undergraduate, graduate, professional and certificate programs are offered by the School of Allied Health Professions. University and accreditation requirements for the individual programs guide the establishment of general admission prerequisites and course and degree requirements. Regulations and procedures for each program are outlined in these bulletins and are intended to ensure the selection of applicants whose motivation, ability, character and health status qualify them to pursue their program of study successfully.

Programs currently offered by this school and the degrees conferred on their graduates are:

School of Allied Health Professions – Dean’s Office
- Ph.D. in Health Related Sciences

Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences
- Bachelor of Science
- Master of Science

Department of Gerontology
- Post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Aging Studies
- Post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Aging Studies and Master of Social Work (offered jointly with the VCU School of Social Work)
- Master of Science

Department of Health Administration
- Master of Health Administration
- Master of Health Administration and Doctor of Medicine (offered jointly with the VCU School of Medicine)
- Master of Health Administration and Juris Doctor (offered jointly by the T. C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond and the Washington and Lee University School of Law)
- Master of Health Administration and Master of Science in Information Systems (offered jointly with the VCU School of Business)
- Master of Science in Health Administration (Professional M.S.H.A. Program – Online)
- Ph.D. in Health Services Organization and Research

Department of Nurse Anesthesia
- Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice
  - Entry-to-practice
  - Post-professional
- Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia

Department of Occupational Therapy
- Master of Science in Occupational Therapy
- Master of Science in Occupational Therapy and post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Aging Studies
- Occupational Therapy Doctorate
  - Entry-to-practice
  - Post-professional

Department of Patient Counseling
- Post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Patient Counseling
- Master of Science
- Master of Science and Master of Divinity (offered jointly by the School of Theology at Virginia Union University and the Baptist Theological Seminary)

Department of Physical Therapy
- Doctor of Physical Therapy
- Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science

Department of Radiation Sciences
- Bachelor of Science

Department of Rehabilitation Counseling
- Master of Science
- Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling and post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Aging Studies
- Post-master's Certificate in Professional Counseling

Licensure/certification

Graduates of most of the programs offered in the School of Allied Health Professions are required or eligible to take national and/or state certification or licensure examinations. Requirements of licensing and certifying agencies vary. Some licensure and certification agencies consider individuals convicted of a felony ineligible for licensure or certification. For information, prospective students should contact the licensure or certification agency for the specific allied health discipline.

Attendance regulations

The faculty considers attendance at lectures, laboratories and other functions a requisite to the successful acquisition of the knowledge and skills required of the professional. Hence, the faculty cannot condone absence without good reason from any regularly scheduled educational experience. At the beginning of each course, instructors relate to their classes the policy of the department concerning the attendance regulations for that semester. The nature of make-up work in the event of absence will be the prerogative of the instructor.

Student performance and behavior

The goals and objectives of the School of Allied Health Professions and its component departments and programs relate to the education of persons preparing for professional careers in the allied health disciplines. An integral requisite of students and practitioners is an undeviating acceptance of a professional attitude and pride that will motivate them to adhere to a code of professional ethics and to develop fully their competencies for practice.

The suitability of student performance and behavior relating to these professions and to the consumers of health care is a paramount concern of the administration and faculty of this school. To assure a quality
Financial aid

Financial aid is available for all students meeting the criteria for financial assistance. For details of the programs available contact the Financial Aid Office, P.O. Box 980244, Richmond, VA 23298-0244 or telephone (804) 828-9800.

The school and departments also offer financial awards, honors and scholarships. Details may be found on the school’s and individual departments’ websites at sahp.vcu.edu (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu).

Health Related Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in clinical laboratory sciences

Program mission/purpose

The program will provide experienced health professionals with advanced knowledge and skills so that they may assume positions in teaching, research and administration upon graduation. It offers a curriculum with an interdisciplinary core of courses with concentrations in clinical laboratory sciences, gerontology, health care outcomes research, nurse anesthesia, occupational therapy, patient counseling, physical therapy, radiation sciences and rehabilitation leadership. The program emphasizes use of distance-learning technologies combined with traditional didactic methods. The curriculum is relevant, timely and meaningful to a multidisciplinary cohort of students.

Program goals

1. The program will provide students with the ability to understand and conduct research in health-related sciences.
2. The program will provide the student with the ability to analyze alternatives and develop responses in their disciplines to address the current and future challenges in health care.
3. The program will provide students with the skills to educate health professionals in their discipline using current principles of teaching and curriculum development.

Student learning outcomes

Students completing this doctoral program will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to conduct research, understand issues, design and execute research plans, analyze research results, and present conclusions in the area of interdisciplinary health care using the appropriate methods
2. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge in the area of specialization
3. Exhibit competency in translating research knowledge and principles into applied practice perspectives and skills
4. Display educational expertise in current principles and content of the allied health sciences and teach in the area of interdisciplinary health care practice
5. Display the ability to examine current issues and future changes in the health care environment from an interdisciplinary perspective
6. Exhibit knowledge and understanding of professional and ethical responsibility and conduct in the allied health professions
7. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the importance of cultural diversity in the delivery of health care and the formulation of health policy

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 Graduate study section for** additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

### 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 Graduate study section for** additional information on degree candidacy requirements (p. 37). (p. 37)

### Admission to candidacy

Students are eligible to begin their dissertations upon written certification by the program director and associate dean of the Graduate School that all predissertation/research requirements, including the comprehensive examinations, have been satisfied and that the student is prepared to proceed with the dissertation/research project. Copies of the certification will be forwarded to the student, the student’s formal program adviser and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions. After admission to candidacy, students will proceed to propose, complete and defend their dissertations or three journal articles research requirement.

### Enrollment requirement

Students are required to maintain continuous enrollment in ALHP 899 until completion of the requirements, including the defense process.

### Dissertation and published research requirements

**Dissertation/research committee**

After successful completion of the comprehensive exam, the student nominates a dissertation/research committee, and the dissertation/research director submits the nominations in writing to the program director. Such committees will consist of a minimum of four graduate faculty members, one of whom will be outside the student’s concentration area. The program director will provide written approval of the dissertation/research committee and clear such appointments with the appropriate administrative officials.

**Dissertation/research standards**

The dissertation or publishable research articles must represent independent research and should be based on an original research question or hypothesis. Generally, dissertations or publishable research articles will demonstrate the student’s ability with empirical research, adhering to canons of (1) logic in conceptualization and design, (2) valid and reliable measurement, (3) appropriate analytic technique and (4) appropriate interpretation of results. Studies should be based on a formal theoretical or conceptually explicit framework for investigating a question or testing a hypothesis relevant to the allied health field.

### 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 Graduate study section for** additional information on graduation requirements (p. 40). (p. 40)

### Program completion requirements

The doctor of philosophy degree is awarded after (1) the minimum 51 credit hours of course work are completed, (2) comprehensive exams are passed, and (3) either a dissertation is written and defended orally or three first-author articles of publishable quality (on research undertaken by the doctoral candidate once enrolled in the program) are written and defended orally. The journal articles will be scrutinized for quality of scholarship by an internal research committee headed by the student’s research adviser. All three articles must be approved by the internal research committee prior to submission.

### Other information

**Student handbook**

A student handbook will be made available to all admitted students in their cohort organizations in Blackboard.

### Facilities

The administrative offices for the program are located on the MCV Campus, at 1200 E. Broad St. (West Hospital, First Floor, East Wing).

### Advising

Upon admission to the program, students will be assigned an interim adviser to guide them through the core courses and assist them as they consider their areas of research. All program advisers will have an earned doctorate and be members of the university’s graduate faculty.

Students may change their interim advisers as their programs of study and interests evolve, if approved by the program director. Although discouraged, some students may wish to switch their area of concentration (changing from the department through which they were initially admitted to the program). Students who want to change concentration area must petition the doctoral program director. The petition must be approved by the program director, the DPAC and the appropriate department chair. There is no guarantee that the applicant will be accepted into the new concentration.

After successful completion of the comprehensive examinations, students will choose a dissertation chair that will serve as adviser and guide them through the research/dissertation process.
Computer requirements

All students admitted to the program must have a personal computer manufactured within the past two years and access to a high-speed Internet connection.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
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<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall (begins end of Jun)</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>GRE or MAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- When applicable, applicants must have a minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language score of 600. The Ph.D. program in health related sciences utilizes two six-month semesters per year (January through June and July through December), which include both on- and off-campus components.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Have an earned master’s degree in an academic or allied health-related field from an accredited college or university; preference will be given to applicants who have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 on master’s-level work (The master’s degree should be in one of the departmental areas of choice of concentration.)

2. Have GRE (verbal, quantitative and analytic writing) or MAT scores from within the past five years

3. Have completed a graduate course in statistics (including topics such as random variables, probability, distributions, descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing and inferential statistics) with a minimum grade of B

4. Demonstrate a record of professional competency and success

5. Articulate clear professional and educational goals and written communication skills through the submission of a written essay

6. Have any additional qualifications/certifications of the individual concentration

Prior to reviewing an application for admission, the program must receive:

1. A completed application form from the applicant, including:
   a. Three letters of recommendation, two of which preferably are from sources qualified to assess the candidate’s academic potential
   b. A written essay that discusses career goals and the manner in which this doctoral program will enhance those goals and what the applicant expects to contribute to this program
   c. A curriculum vitae

2. Official transcripts indicating completion of baccalaureate and master’s degrees (or equivalent) from an accredited college or university

3. GRE or MAT scores

Incomplete packages may not be reviewed. Materials are sent to the Graduate Admissions office for processing and then forwarded to the School of Allied Health Professions. Once received in the school, the application is reviewed for completeness. Applicants with incomplete files will be contacted regarding the missing materials. Incomplete files will be held in the director’s office until all materials are received.

Completed folders will be sent to the respective departmental representative of the School of Allied Health Professions doctoral program advisory committee. Departments will then rank qualified applicants and, based on a review of the file, a personal interview will be scheduled at the department’s discretion for the top candidates. Following the departmental ranking, all files will be returned to the director’s office.

The DPAC will meet to select and recommend the incoming class. The director and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions are responsible for the final decision.

Applicants will be notified by the Graduate Admissions office regarding the admission decision and of the deadline for their acceptance of the offer and holding fee.

1 Applicants must be certified clinical laboratory scientists or a candidates with equivalent certification.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must successfully complete a total of 51 credit hours (18 credit hours of common interdisciplinary core courses, 12 credit hours of research methods core courses, nine credit hours of concentration courses and 12 credit hours of dissertation research), two comprehensive examinations, a research proposal defense and the final dissertation defense.

Curriculum structure

The proposed curriculum is designed to take four years to complete. Students spend the first two and one-half years (six-month-long semesters) completing course work. The final year and one-half is spent developing the doctoral dissertation. Research components are present in each year of the program, and a research emphasis is present throughout the entire curriculum. Students are required to designate the area of intended research in their concentration areas in the first year.

Each of the five course-work semesters is composed of both on- and off-campus components. On-campus sessions, scheduled during the end of June and beginning of July and at the beginning of January, will employ a rather traditional mix of educational technologies (e.g., lectures, seminars and assigned reading). During the off-campus component of each semester, students pursue their studies employing a wide variety of innovative educational technologies (e.g., computer conferencing, computer-aided instruction, videotape packages and programmed instructional material), in addition to assigned readings and the completion of various assignments and projects. Upon completion of the five semesters of course work, students are required to return to campus each semester until a research proposal has been developed and successfully defended.
Continuation requirements

After admission to the Ph.D. program, the student must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all of the course work completed at VCU. A student who falls below that minimum will have one semester to remedy the deficiency. Even with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0, a student may earn no more than two (six credit hours) grades of C. Students who receive a grade of D or F will be reviewed for continuation in the program by the department of their concentrations.

Students are expected to maintain continuous enrollment while in the program. Following the completion of the core course work, students must register for at least one credit hour each fall and spring semester for continuation in the program. A student who fails to register must have advance approval to do so or will be dropped automatically from the program and must reapply for reinstatement. The maximum time to complete all of the requirements for the degree is eight calendar years from the date of entry into the program.

Course transfer or waiver

A maximum of 25 percent of the course work other than research may be transferred from another VCU program or outside institution and applied toward the Ph.D. course requirements. Transfer and waiver credit is given at the discretion of the program director after consultation with appropriate faculty members, subject to university approval. Courses taken as requirements for other degrees are not transferable. A waiver may be warranted if an equivalent course was taken. However, another course must be substituted for the waived course in order to fulfill the requisite 51 credit hours needed for degree completion.

Comprehensive examination

The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to provide a vehicle through which students can demonstrate the ability to integrate their educational experiences by adequately addressing complex questions pertinent to the current and developing knowledge of the allied health fields. Students are eligible to take each of the two comprehensive examinations upon successful completion of the appropriate core course work. The core exam must be taken within six months of completing the methods exam.

Two written examinations will be administered, one for the common interdisciplinary core and one for the research methods core. A three-member graduate faculty committee will develop and administer each exam. This committee will be made up of two members of the core faculty and one member appointed by the program director. Each exam will be offered once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester. Prior to completion of the semester in which students become eligible to take each exam, they must submit a formal statement of intent to the program coordinator.

Students who receive a failing grade on the initial attempt will have one opportunity to repeat each comprehensive examination. Failure to pass an exam on the second attempt will result in dismissal from the program.

Curriculum requirements

The program curriculum consists of a total of 51 credit hours (18 credit hours of common interdisciplinary core courses, 12 credit hours of research methods core courses, nine hours of specialty concentration courses and 12 hours of dissertation research).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 701 Health Services Delivery Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 712 Curriculum and Communication Design for Health Care Professionals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 760 Biostatistical Methods for Health Related Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 2</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>ALHP 702 Finance and Economic Theory for Health Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALHP 761 Health Related Sciences Research Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>ALHP 762 Multivariate Statistical Methods for Health Related Sciences Research</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
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<td>ALHP 718 Health Informatics</td>
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<td>ALHP 763 Clinical Outcomes Evaluation for Health Related Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALHP 781 Doctoral Seminar in Health Related Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Methods comprehensive exam</strong></td>
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<th>Semester 4</th>
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<td>ALHP 708 Ethics and Health Care</td>
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<td>ALHP 716 Grant Writing and Project Management in Health Related Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALHP 890 Dissertation Seminar</td>
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Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 51
### Core comprehensive exam
| Term Hours: | 9 |

### Semester 5
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<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 792</td>
<td>Independent Study (three hours required)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALHP 793</td>
<td>Research Practicum</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALHP 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (nine hours required)</td>
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### Semester 6
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<td>Dissertation Research (hours variable)</td>
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### Semester 8
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<td>ALHP 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (hours variable)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total Hours: 51

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**Graduate program director**
Paula K. Kupstas, Ph.D.
Associate professor
Email: pkupstas@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1914

**Additional contact**
Monica L. White
Program coordinator
Email: mlwhite1@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-3273

**Program website:** sahp.vcu.edu/phd (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/phd)

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## Health Related Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in gerontology

**Program mission/purpose**
The program will provide experienced health professionals with advanced knowledge and skills so that they may assume positions in teaching, research and administration upon graduation. It offers a curriculum with an interdisciplinary core of courses with concentrations in clinical laboratory sciences, gerontology, health care outcomes research, nurse anesthesia, occupational therapy, patient counseling, physical therapy, radiation sciences and rehabilitation leadership. The program emphasizes use of distance-learning technologies combined with traditional didactic methods. The curriculum is relevant, timely and meaningful to a multidisciplinary cohort of students.

**Program goals**
1. The program will provide students with the ability to understand and conduct research in health-related sciences.
2. The program will provide the student with the ability to analyze alternatives and develop responses in their disciplines to address the current and future challenges in health care.
3. The program will provide students with the skills to educate health professionals in their discipline using current principles of teaching and curriculum development.

## Student learning outcomes
Students completing this doctoral program will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to conduct research, understand issues, design and execute research plans, analyze research results, and present conclusions in the area of interdisciplinary health care using the appropriate methods
2. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge in the area of specialization
3. Exhibit competency in translating research knowledge and principles into applied practice perspectives and skills
4. Display educational expertise in current principles and content of the allied health sciences and teach in the area of interdisciplinary health care practice
5. Display the ability to examine current issues and future changes in the health care environment from an interdisciplinary perspective
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7. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the importance of cultural diversity in the delivery of health care and the formulation of health policy

## 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.

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## 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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements (p. 37). (p. 37)

Admission to candidacy
Students are eligible to begin their dissertations upon written certification by the program director and associate dean of the Graduate School that all predissertation/research requirements, including the comprehensive examinations, have been satisfied and that the student is prepared to proceed with the dissertation/research project. Copies of the certification will be forwarded to the student, the student’s formal program adviser and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions. After admission to candidacy, students will proceed to propose, complete and defend their dissertations or three journal articles research requirement.

Enrollment requirement
Students are required to maintain continuous enrollment in ALHP 899 until completion of the requirements, including the defense process.

Dissertation and published research requirements
Dissertation/research committee
After successful completion of the comprehensive exam, the student nominates a dissertation/research committee, and the dissertation/research director submits the nominations in writing to the program director. Such committees will consist of a minimum of four graduate faculty members, one of whom will be outside the student’s concentration area. The program director will provide written approval of the dissertation/research committee and clear such appointments with the appropriate administrative officials.

Dissertation/research standards
The dissertation or publishable research articles must represent independent research and should be based on an original research question or hypothesis. Generally, dissertations or publishable research articles will demonstrate the student’s ability with empirical research, adhering to canons of (1) logic in conceptualization and design, (2) valid and reliable measurement, (3) appropriate analytic technique and (4) appropriate interpretation of results. Studies should be based on a formal theoretical or conceptually explicit framework for investigating a question or testing a hypothesis relevant to the allied health field.

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.

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Program completion requirements
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Other information
Student handbook
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Facilities
The administrative offices for the program are located on the MCV Campus, at 1200 E. Broad St. (West Hospital, First Floor, East Wing).

Advising
Upon admission to the program, students will be assigned an interim adviser to guide them through the core courses and assist them as they consider their areas of research. All program advisers will have an earned doctorate and be members of the university’s graduate faculty.

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After successful completion of the comprehensive examinations, students will choose a dissertation chair that will serve as adviser and guide them through the research/dissertation process.

Computer requirements
All students admitted to the program must have a personal computer manufactured within the past two years and access to a high-speed Internet connection.

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Tests must have been taken within the past five years.

Special requirements
- When applicable, applicants must have a minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language score of 600. The Ph.D. program in health related sciences utilizes two six-month semesters per year (January through June and July through December), which include both on- and off-campus components.
In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Have an earned master’s degree in an academic or allied health-related field from an accredited college or university; preference will be given to applicants who have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 on master’s-level work (The master’s degree should be in one of the departmental areas of choice of concentration.)
2. Have GRE (verbal, quantitative and analytic writing) or MAT scores from within the past five years
3. Have completed a graduate course in statistics (including topics such as random variables, probability, distributions, descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing and inferential statistics) with a minimum grade of B
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Prior to reviewing an application for admission, the program must receive:

1. A completed application form from the applicant, including:
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The DPAC will meet to select and recommend the incoming class. The director and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions are responsible for the final decision.

Applicants will be notified by the Graduate Admissions office regarding the admission decision and of the deadline for their acceptance of the offer and holding fee.

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1 An M.S. in Gerontology or other formal academic training in gerontology is preferred.

### Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must successfully complete a total of 51 credit hours (18 credit hours of common interdisciplinary core courses, 12 credit hours of research methods core courses, nine credit hours of concentration courses and 12 credit hours of dissertation research), two comprehensive examinations, a research proposal defense and the final dissertation defense.

### Curriculum structure

The proposed curriculum is designed to take four years to complete. Students spend the first two and one-half years (six-month-long semesters) completing course work. The final year and one-half is spent developing the doctoral dissertation. Research components are present in each year of the program, and a research emphasis is present throughout the entire curriculum. Students are required to designate the area of intended research in their concentration areas in the first year.

Each of the five course-work semesters is composed of both on- and off-campus components. On-campus sessions, scheduled during the end of June and beginning of July and at the beginning of January, will employ a rather traditional mix of educational technologies (e.g., lectures, seminars and assigned reading). During the off-campus component of each semester, students pursue their studies employing a wide variety of innovative educational technologies (e.g., computer conferencing, computer-aided instruction, videotape packages and programmed instructional material), in addition to assigned readings and the completion of various assignments and projects. Upon completion of the five semesters of course work, students are required to return to campus each semester until a research proposal has been developed and successfully defended.

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After admission to the Ph.D. program, the student must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all of the course work completed at VCU. A student who falls below that minimum will have one semester to remedy the deficiency. Even with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0, a student may earn no more than two (six credit hours) grades of C. Students who receive a grade of D or F will be reviewed for continuation in the program by the department of their concentrations.

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course must be substituted for the waived course in order to fulfill the requisite 51 credit hours needed for degree completion.

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The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to provide a vehicle through which students can demonstrate the ability to integrate their educational experiences by adequately addressing complex questions pertinent to the current and developing knowledge of the allied health fields. Students are eligible to take each of the two comprehensive examinations upon successful completion of the appropriate core course work. The core exam must be taken within six months of completing the methods exam.

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<td>ALHP 899</td>
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**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 51**

**Sample plan of study**

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<tr>
<th>Semester 2</th>
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<tr>
<td>ALHP 718  Health Informatics</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>ALHP 781  Doctoral Seminar in Health Related Sciences</td>
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<td>ALHP 890  Dissertation Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALHP 793  Research Practicum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Hours:</td>
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**Graduate program director**
Paula K. Kupstas, Ph.D.
Associate professor
Email: pkupstas@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1914

**Additional contact**
Monica L. White  
Program coordinator  
Email: mlwhite1@vcu.edu  
Phone: (804) 828-3273

Program website: sahp.vcu.edu/phd (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/phd)

Health Related Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in health care outcomes research

Program mission/purpose
The program will provide experienced health professionals with advanced knowledge and skills so that they may assume positions in teaching, research and administration upon graduation. It offers a curriculum with an interdisciplinary core of courses with concentrations in clinical laboratory sciences, gerontology, health care outcomes research, nurse anesthesia, occupational therapy, patient counseling, physical therapy, radiation sciences and rehabilitation leadership. The program emphasizes use of distance-learning technologies combined with traditional didactic methods. The curriculum is relevant, timely and meaningful to a multidisciplinary cohort of students.

Program goals
1. The program will provide students with the ability to understand and conduct research in health-related sciences.
2. The program will provide the student with the ability to analyze alternatives and develop responses in their disciplines to address the current and future challenges in health care.
3. The program will provide students with the skills to educate health professionals in their discipline using current principles of teaching and curriculum development.

Student learning outcomes
Students completing this doctoral program will:
1. Demonstrate the ability to conduct research, understand issues, design and execute research plans, analyze research results, and present conclusions in the area of interdisciplinary health care using the appropriate methods
2. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge in the area of specialization
3. Exhibit competency in translating research knowledge and principles into applied practice perspectives and skills
4. Display educational expertise in current principles and content of the allied health sciences and teach in the area of interdisciplinary health care practice
5. Display the ability to examine current issues and future changes in the health care environment from an interdisciplinary perspective
6. Exhibit knowledge and understanding of professional and ethical responsibility and conduct in the allied health professions
7. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the importance of cultural diversity in the delivery of health care and the formulation of health policy

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements (p. 37). (p. 37)

Admission to candidacy
Students are eligible to begin their dissertations upon written certification by the program director and associate dean of the Graduate School that all predissertation/research requirements, including the comprehensive examinations, have been satisfied and that the student is prepared to proceed with the dissertation/research project. Copies of the certification will be forwarded to the student, the student's formal program adviser and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions. After admission to candidacy, students will proceed to propose, complete and defend their dissertations or three journal articles research requirement.

Enrollment requirement
Students are required to maintain continuous enrollment in ALHP 899 until completion of the requirements, including the defense process.

Dissertation and published research requirements
Dissertation/research committee
After successful completion of the comprehensive exam, the student nominates a dissertation/research committee, and the dissertation/research director submits the nominations in writing to the program director. Such committees will consist of a minimum of four
graduate faculty members, one of whom will be outside the student’s concentration area. The program director will provide written approval of the dissertation/research committee and clear such appointments with the appropriate administrative officials.

**Dissertation/research standards**
The dissertation or publishable research articles must represent independent research and should be based on original research question or hypothesis. Generally, dissertations or publishable research articles will demonstrate the student's ability with empirical research, adhering to canons of (1) logic in conceptualization and design, (2) valid and reliable measurement, (3) appropriate analytic technique and (4) appropriate interpretation of results. Studies should be based on a formal theoretical or conceptually explicit framework for investigating a question or testing a hypothesis relevant to the allied health field.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements (p. 40). (p. 40)

**Program completion requirements**
The doctor of philosophy degree is awarded after (1) the minimum 51 credit hours of course work are completed, (2) comprehensive exams are passed, and (3) either a dissertation is written and defended orally or three first-author articles of publishable quality (on research undertaken by the doctoral candidate once enrolled in the program) are written and defended orally. The journal articles will be scrutinized for quality of scholarship by an internal research committee headed by the student’s research adviser. All three articles must be approved by the internal research committee prior to submission.

**Other information**
**Student handbook**
A student handbook will be made available to all admitted students in their cohort organizations in Blackboard.

**Facilities**
The administrative offices for the program are located on the MCV Campus, at 1200 E. Broad St. (West Hospital, First Floor, East Wing).

**Advising**
Upon admission to the program, students will be assigned an interim adviser to guide them through the core courses and assist them as they consider their areas of research. All program advisers will have an earned doctorate and be members of the university’s graduate faculty.

Students may change their interim advisers as their programs of study and interests evolve, if approved by the program director. Although discouraged, some students may wish to switch their area of concentration (changing from the department through which they were initially admitted to the program). Students who want to change concentration area must petition the doctoral program director. The petition must be approved by the program director, the DPAC and the appropriate department chair. There is no guarantee that the applicant will be accepted into the new concentration.

After successful completion of the comprehensive examinations, students will choose a dissertation chair that will serve as adviser and guide them through the research/dissertation process.

**Computer requirements**
All students admitted to the program must have a personal computer manufactured within the past two years and access to a high-speed Internet connection.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall (begins end of Jun)</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>GRE or MAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tests must have been taken within the past five years.

**Special requirements**
* When applicable, applicants must have a minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language score of 600. The Ph.D. program in health related sciences utilizes two six-month semesters per year (January through June and July through December), which include both on- and off-campus components.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Have an earned master’s degree in an academic or allied health-related field from an accredited college or university; preference will be given to applicants who have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 on master’s-level work (The master’s degree should be in one of the departmental areas of choice of concentration.)
2. Have GRE (verbal, quantitative and analytic writing) or MAT scores from within the past five years
3. Have completed a graduate course in statistics (including topics such as random variables, probability, distributions, descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing and inferential statistics) with a minimum grade of B
4. Demonstrate a record of professional competency and success
5. Articulate clear professional and educational goals and written communication skills through the submission of a written essay
6. Have any additional qualifications/certifications of the individual concentration

Prior to reviewing an application for admission, the program must receive:

1. A completed application form from the applicant, including:
a. Three letters of recommendation, two of which preferably are from sources qualified to assess the candidate's academic potential.

b. A written essay that discusses career goals and the manner in which this doctoral program will enhance those goals and what the applicant expects to contribute to this program.

c. A curriculum vitae.

2. Official transcripts indicating completion of baccalaureate and master's degrees (or equivalent) from an accredited college or university.

3. GRE or MAT scores.

Incomplete packages may not be reviewed. Materials are sent to the Graduate Admissions office for processing and then forwarded to the School of Allied Health Professions. Once received in the school, the application is reviewed for completeness. Applicants with incomplete files will be contacted regarding the missing materials. Incomplete files will be held in the director’s office until all materials are received.

Completed folders will be sent to the respective departmental representative of the School of Allied Health Professions doctoral program advisory committee. Departments will then rank qualified applicants and, based on a review of the file, a personal interview will be scheduled at the department’s discretion for the top candidates. Following the departmental ranking, all files will be returned to the director’s office.

The DPAC will meet to select and recommend the incoming class. The director and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions are responsible for the final decision.

Applicants will be notified by the Graduate Admissions office regarding the admission decision and of the deadline for their acceptance of the offer and holding fee.

* Applicants should have one to two years of experience in the health care industry before applying to the program.

### Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must successfully complete a total of 51 credit hours (18 credit hours of common interdisciplinary core courses, 12 credit hours of research methods core courses, nine credit hours of concentration courses and 12 credit hours of dissertation research), two comprehensive examinations, a research proposal defense and the final dissertation defense.

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Total Hours: 51

Methods comprehensive exam

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Semester 4

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Core comprehensive exam

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Semester 5

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Semester 6

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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Semester 7

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Semester 8

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<tr>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 51

Graduate program director

Paula K. Kupstas, Ph.D.
Associate professor
Email: pkupstas@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1914

Additional contact

Monica L. White
Program coordinator
Email: mlwhite1@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-3273

Program website: sahp.vcu.edu/phd (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/phd)

Health Related Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in nurse anesthesia

Program mission/purpose

The program will provide experienced health professionals with advanced knowledge and skills so that they may assume positions in teaching, research and administration upon graduation. It offers a curriculum with an interdisciplinary core of courses with concentrations in clinical laboratory sciences, gerontology, health care outcomes research, nurse anesthesia, occupational therapy, patient counseling, physical therapy, radiation sciences and rehabilitation leadership. The program emphasizes use of distance-learning technologies combined with traditional didactic methods. The curriculum is relevant, timely and meaningful to a multidisciplinary cohort of students.
Program goals
1. The program will provide students with the ability to understand and conduct research in health-related sciences.
2. The program will provide the student with the ability to analyze alternatives and develop responses in their disciplines to address the current and future challenges in health care.
3. The program will provide students with the skills to educate health professionals in their discipline using current principles of teaching and curriculum development.

Student learning outcomes
Students completing this doctoral program will:
1. Demonstrate the ability to conduct research, understand issues, design and execute research plans, analyze research results, and present conclusions in the area of interdisciplinary health care using the appropriate methods
2. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge in the area of specialization
3. Exhibit competency in translating research knowledge and principles into applied practice perspectives and skills
4. Display educational expertise in current principles and content of the allied health sciences and teach in the area of interdisciplinary health care practice
5. Display the ability to examine current issues and future changes in the health care environment from an interdisciplinary perspective
6. Exhibit knowledge and understanding of professional and ethical responsibility and conduct in the allied health professions
7. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the importance of cultural diversity in the delivery of health care and the formulation of health policy

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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.

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Admission to candidacy
Students are eligible to begin their dissertations upon written certification by the program director and associate dean of the Graduate School that all predissertation/research requirements, including the comprehensive examinations, have been satisfied and that the student is prepared to proceed with the dissertation/research project. Copies of the certification will be forwarded to the student, the student’s formal program adviser and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions. After admission to candidacy, students will proceed to propose, complete and defend their dissertations or three journal articles research requirement.

Enrollment requirement
Students are required to maintain continuous enrollment in ALHP 899 until completion of the requirements, including the defense process.

Dissertation and published research requirements
Dissertation/research committee
After successful completion of the comprehensive exam, the student nominates a dissertation/research committee, and the dissertation/research director submits the nominations in writing to the program director. Such committees will consist of a minimum of four graduate faculty members, one of whom will be outside the student’s concentration area. The program director will provide written approval of the dissertation/research committee and clear such appointments with the appropriate administrative officials.

Dissertation/research standards
The dissertation or publishable research articles must represent independent research and should be based on an original research question or hypothesis. Generally, dissertations or publishable research articles will demonstrate the student’s ability with empirical research, adhering to canons of (1) logic in conceptualization and design, (2) valid and reliable measurement, (3) appropriate analytic technique and (4) appropriate interpretation of results. Studies should be based on a formal theoretical or conceptually explicit framework for investigating a question or testing a hypothesis relevant to the allied health field.

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.

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Program completion requirements

The doctor of philosophy degree is awarded after (1) the minimum 51 credit hours of course work are completed, (2) comprehensive exams are passed, and (3) either a dissertation is written and defended orally or three first-author articles of publishable quality (on research undertaken by the doctoral candidate once enrolled in the program) are written and defended orally. The journal articles will be scrutinized for quality of scholarship by an internal research committee headed by the student’s research adviser. All three articles must be approved by the internal research committee prior to submission.

Other information

Student handbook

A student handbook will be made available to all admitted students in their cohort organizations in Blackboard.

Facilities

The administrative offices for the program are located on the MCV Campus, at 1200 E. Broad St. (West Hospital, First Floor, East Wing).

Advising

Upon admission to the program, students will be assigned an interim adviser to guide them through the core courses and assist them as they consider their areas of research. All program advisers will have an earned doctorate and be members of the university’s graduate faculty.

Students may change their interim advisers as their programs of study and interests evolve, if approved by the program director. Although discouraged, some students may wish to switch their area of concentration (changing from the department through which they were initially admitted to the program). Students who want to change concentration area must petition the doctoral program director. The petition must be approved by the program director, the DPAC and the appropriate department chair. There is no guarantee that the applicant will be accepted into the new concentration.

After successful completion of the comprehensive examinations, students will choose a dissertation chair that will serve as adviser and guide them through the research/dissertation process.

Computer requirements

All students admitted to the program must have a personal computer manufactured within the past two years and access to a high-speed Internet connection.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduatereadmissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall (begins end of Jun)</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>GRE or MAT</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Tests must have been taken within the past five years.

Special requirements

- When applicable, applicants must have a minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language score of 600. The Ph.D. program in health related sciences utilizes two six-month semesters per year (January through June and July through December), which include both on- and off-campus components.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Have an earned master’s degree in an academic or allied health-related field from an accredited college or university; preference will be given to applicants who have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 on master's-level work (The master’s degree should be in one of the departmental areas of choice of concentration.)
2. Have GRE (verbal, quantitative and analytic writing) or MAT scores from within the past five years
3. Have completed a graduate course in statistics (including topics such as random variables, probability, distributions, descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing and inferential statistics) with a minimum grade of B
4. Demonstrate a record of professional competency and success
5. Articulate clear professional and educational goals and written communication skills through the submission of a written essay
6. Have any additional qualifications/certifications of the individual concentration

Prior to reviewing an application for admission, the program must receive:

1. A completed application form from the applicant, including:
   a. Three letters of recommendation, two of which preferably are from sources qualified to assess the candidate's academic potential
   b. A written essay that discusses career goals and the manner in which this doctoral program will enhance those goals and what the applicant expects to contribute to this program
   c. A curriculum vitae
2. Official transcripts indicating completion of baccalaureate and master's degrees (or equivalent) from an accredited college or university
3. GRE or MAT scores

Incomplete packages may not be reviewed. Materials are sent to the Graduate Admissions office for processing and then forwarded to the School of Allied Health Professions. Once received in the school, the application is reviewed for completeness. Applicants with incomplete files will be contacted regarding the missing materials. Incomplete files will be held in the director’s office until all materials are received.

Completed folders will be sent to the respective departmental representative of the School of Allied Health Professions doctoral program advisory committee. Departments will then rank qualified applicants and, based on a review of the file, a personal interview will be scheduled at the department’s discretion for the top candidates. Following the departmental ranking, all files will be returned to the director’s office.
The DPAC will meet to select and recommend the incoming class. The director and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions are responsible for the final decision.

Applicants will be notified by the Graduate Admissions office regarding the admission decision and of the deadline for their acceptance of the offer and holding fee.

1 CRNA certification is required.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must successfully complete a total of 51 credit hours (18 credit hours of common interdisciplinary core courses, 12 credit hours of research methods core courses, nine credit hours of concentration courses and 12 credit hours of dissertation research), two comprehensive examinations, a research proposal defense and the final dissertation defense.

Curriculum structure

The proposed curriculum is designed to take four years to complete. Students spend the first two and one-half years (six-month-long semesters) completing course work. The final year and one-half is spent developing the doctoral dissertation. Research components are present in each year of the program, and a research emphasis is present throughout the entire curriculum. Students are required to designate the area of intended research in their concentration areas in the first year.

Each of the five course-work semesters is composed of both on- and off-campus components. On-campus sessions, scheduled during the end of June and beginning of July and at the beginning of January, will employ a rather traditional mix of educational technologies (e.g., lectures, seminars and assigned reading). During the off-campus component of each semester, students pursue their studies employing a wide variety of innovative educational technologies (e.g., computer conferencing, computer-aided instruction, videotape packages and programmed instructional material), in addition to assigned readings and the completion of various assignments and projects. Upon completion of the five semesters of course work, students are required to return to campus each semester until a research proposal has been developed and successfully defended.

Continuation requirements

After admission to the Ph.D. program, the student must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all of the course work completed at VCU. A student who falls below that minimum will have one semester to remedy the deficiency. Even with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0, a student may earn no more than two (six credit hours) grades of C. Students who receive a grade of D or F will be reviewed for continuation in the program by the department of their concentrations.

Students are expected to maintain continuous enrollment while in the program. Following the completion of the core course work, students must register for at least one credit hour each fall and spring semester for continuation in the program. A student who fails to register must have advance approval to do so or will be dropped automatically from the program and must reapply for reinstatement. The maximum time to complete all of the requirements for the degree is eight calendar years from the date of entry into the program.

Course transfer or waiver

A maximum of 25 percent of the course work other than research may be transferred from another VCU program or outside institution and applied toward the Ph.D. course requirements. Transfer and waiver credit is given at the discretion of the program director after consultation with appropriate faculty members, subject to university approval. Courses taken as requirements for other degrees are not transferable. A waiver may be warranted if an equivalent course was taken. However, another course must be substituted for the waived course in order to fulfill the requisite 51 credit hours needed for degree completion.

Comprehensive examination

The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to provide a vehicle through which students can demonstrate the ability to integrate their educational experiences by adequately addressing complex questions pertinent to the current and developing knowledge of the allied health fields. Students are eligible to take each of the two comprehensive examinations upon successful completion of the appropriate core course work. The core exam must be taken within six months of completing the methods exam.

Two written examinations will be administered, one for the common interdisciplinary core and one for the research methods core. A three-member graduate faculty committee will develop and administer each exam. This committee will be made up of two members of the core faculty and one member appointed by the program director. Each exam will be offered once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester. Prior to completion of the semester in which students become eligible to take each exam, they must submit a formal statement of intent to the program coordinator.

Students who receive a failing grade on the initial attempt will have one opportunity to repeat each comprehensive examination. Failure to pass an exam on the second attempt will result in dismissal from the program.

Curriculum requirements

The program curriculum consists of a total of 51 credit hours (18 credit hours of common interdisciplinary core courses, 12 credit hours of research methods core courses, nine hours of specialty concentration courses and 12 hours of dissertation research).

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<td>ALHP 702</td>
<td>Finance and Economic Theory for Health Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALHP 708</td>
<td>Ethics and Health Care</td>
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<td>ALHP 712</td>
<td>Curriculum and Communication Design for Health Care Professionals</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>ALHP 716</td>
<td>Grant Writing and Project Management in Health Related Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>ALHP 718</td>
<td>Health Informatics</td>
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<td>ALHP 760</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods for Health Related Sciences</td>
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<td>ALHP 761</td>
<td>Health Related Sciences Research Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALHP 762</td>
<td>Multivariate Statistical Methods for Health Related Sciences Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALHP 763</td>
<td>Clinical Outcomes Evaluation for Health Related Sciences</td>
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ALHP 701 Health Services Delivery Systems 3
ALHP 712 Curriculum and Communication Design for Health Care Professionals 3
ALHP 760 Biostatistical Methods for Health Related Sciences 3

Term Hours: 9

Semester 2
ALHP 702 Finance and Economic Theory for Health Care 3
ALHP 761 Health Related Sciences Research Design 3
ALHP 762 Multivariate Statistical Methods for Health Related Sciences Research 3

Term Hours: 9

Semester 3
ALHP 718 Health Informatics 3
ALHP 763 Clinical Outcomes Evaluation for Health Related Sciences 3
ALHP 781 Doctoral Seminar in Health Related Sciences 3

Methods comprehensive exam

Term Hours: 9

Semester 4
ALHP 708 Ethics and Health Care 3
ALHP 716 Grant Writing and Project Management in Health Related Sciences 3
ALHP 890 Dissertation Seminar 3

Core comprehensive exam

Term Hours: 9

Semester 5
ALHP 792 Independent Study (three hours required) 3
ALHP 793 Research Practicum 3
ALHP 899 Dissertation Research (nine hours required) 3

Term Hours: 9

Semester 6
ALHP 899 Dissertation Research (hours variable) 2

Term Hours: 2

Semester 7
ALHP 899 Dissertation Research (hours variable) 2

Term Hours: 2

Semester 8

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 51

Sample plan of study
5. Display the ability to examine current issues and future changes in the health care environment from an interdisciplinary perspective
6. Exhibit knowledge and understanding of professional and ethical responsibility and conduct in the allied health professions
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Applicants will be notified by the Graduate Admissions office regarding the admission decision and of the deadline for their acceptance of the offer and holding fee.

1 If a U.S. resident, applicant must be board-certified by NBCOT. International applicants must show certification by the agency that provides certification in the therapist's home country or certification by the World Federation of Occupational Therapists if therapists do not have a certification agency in their home countries.

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must successfully complete a total of 51 credit hours (18 credit hours of common interdisciplinary core courses), 12 credit hours of research methods core courses, nine credit hours of concentration courses and 12 credit hours of dissertation research), two comprehensive examinations, a research proposal defense and the final dissertation defense.

Curriculum structure

The proposed curriculum is designed to take four years to complete. Students spend the first two and one-half years (six-month-long
seminars) completing course work. The final year and one-half is spent developing the doctoral dissertation. Research components are present in each year of the program, and a research emphasis is present throughout the entire curriculum. Students are required to designate the area of intended research in their concentration areas in the first year.

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<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>51</strong></td>
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Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 51

Sample plan of study

<table>
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<th>Hours</th>
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| Term Hours: | 9 |

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<tr>
<th>Semester 2</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<td>ALHP 702</td>
<td>Finance and Economic Theory for Health Care</td>
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</table>
Health Related Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in patient counseling

Program mission/purpose
The program will provide experienced health professionals with advanced knowledge and skills so that they may assume positions in teaching, research and administration upon graduation. It offers a curriculum with an interdisciplinary core of courses with concentrations in clinical laboratory sciences, gerontology, health care outcomes research, nurse anesthesia, occupational therapy, patient counseling, physical therapy, radiation sciences and rehabilitation leadership. The program emphasizes use of distance-learning technologies combined with traditional didactic methods. The curriculum is relevant, timely and meaningful to a multidisciplinary cohort of students.

Program goals
1. The program will provide students with the ability to understand and conduct research in health-related sciences.
2. The program will provide the student with the ability to analyze alternatives and develop responses in their disciplines to address the current and future challenges in health care.
3. The program will provide students with the skills to educate health professionals in their discipline using current principles of teaching and curriculum development.

Student learning outcomes
Students completing this doctoral program will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to conduct research, understand issues, design and execute research plans, analyze research results, and present conclusions in the area of interdisciplinary health care using the appropriate methods
2. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge in the area of specialization
3. Exhibit competency in translating research knowledge and principles into applied practice perspectives and skills
4. Display educational expertise in current principles and content of the allied health sciences and teach in the area of interdisciplinary health care practice
5. Display the ability to examine current issues and future changes in the health care environment from an interdisciplinary perspective
6. Exhibit knowledge and understanding of professional and ethical responsibility and conduct in the allied health professions
7. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the importance of cultural diversity in the delivery of health care and the formulation of health policy

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements (p. 37). (p. 37)

Admission to candidacy
Students are eligible to begin their dissertations upon written certification by the program director and associate dean of the Graduate School that all predissertation/research requirements, including the comprehensive examinations, have been satisfied and that the student is prepared to proceed with the dissertation/research project. Copies of the certification will be forwarded to the student, the student’s formal program adviser and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions. After admission to candidacy, students will proceed to propose, complete and defend their dissertations or three journal articles research requirement.

Enrollment requirement
Students are required to maintain continuous enrollment in ALHP 899 until completion of the requirements, including the defense process.

Dissertation and published research requirements
Dissertation/research committee
After successful completion of the comprehensive exam, the student nominates a dissertation/research committee, and the dissertation/research director submits the nominations in writing to the program director. Such committees will consist of a minimum of four graduate faculty members, one of whom will be outside the student’s concentration area. The program director will provide written approval of the dissertation/research committee and clear such appointments with the appropriate administrative officials.

Dissertation/research standards
The dissertation or publishable research articles must represent independent research and should be based on an original research question or hypothesis. Generally, dissertations or publishable research articles will demonstrate the student’s ability with empirical research, adhering to canons of (1) logic in conceptualization and design, (2) valid and reliable measurement, (3) appropriate analytic technique and (4) appropriate interpretation of results. Studies should be based on a formal theoretical or conceptually explicit framework for investigating a question or testing a hypothesis relevant to the allied health field.

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.

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Program completion requirements
The doctor of philosophy degree is awarded after (1) the minimum 51 credit hours of course work are completed, (2) comprehensive exams are passed, and (3) either a dissertation is written and defended orally or three first-author articles of publishable quality (on research undertaken by the doctoral candidate once enrolled in the program) are written and defended orally. The journal articles will be scrutinized for quality of scholarship by an internal research committee headed by the student’s research adviser. All three articles must be approved by the internal research committee prior to submission.

Other information
Student handbook
A student handbook will be made available to all admitted students in their cohort organizations in Blackboard.

Facilities
The administrative offices for the program are located on the MCV Campus, at 1200 E. Broad St. (West Hospital, First Floor, East Wing).

Advising
Upon admission to the program, students will be assigned an interim adviser to guide them through the core courses and assist them as they consider their areas of research. All program advisers will have an earned doctorate and be members of the university’s graduate faculty.

Students may change their interim advisers as their programs of study and interests evolve, if approved by the program director. Although discouraged, some students may wish to switch their area of concentration (changing from the department through which they were initially admitted to the program). Students who want to change concentration area must petition the doctoral program director. The petition must be approved by the program director, the DPAC and the appropriate department chair. There is no guarantee that the applicant will be accepted into the new concentration.

After successful completion of the comprehensive examinations, students will choose a dissertation chair that will serve as adviser and guide them through the research/dissertation process.
Computer requirements

All students admitted to the program must have a personal computer manufactured within the past two years and access to a high-speed Internet connection.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall (begins end of Jun)</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>GRE or MAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tests must have been taken within the past five years.

Special requirements

- When applicable, applicants must have a minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language score of 600. The Ph.D. program in health related sciences utilizes two six-month semesters per year (January through June and July through December), which include both on- and off-campus components.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Have an earned master’s degree in an academic or allied health-related field from an accredited college or university; preference will be given to applicants who have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 on master’s-level work (The master’s degree should be in one of the departmental areas of choice of concentration.)
2. Have GRE (verbal, quantitative and analytic writing) or MAT scores from within the past five years
3. Have completed a graduate course in statistics (including topics such as random variables, probability, distributions, descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing and inferential statistics) with a minimum grade of B
4. Demonstrate a record of professional competency and success
5. Articulate clear professional and educational goals and written communication skills through the submission of a written essay
6. Have any additional qualifications/certifications of the individual concentration

Prior to reviewing an application for admission, the program must receive:

1. A completed application form from the applicant, including:
   a. Three letters of recommendation, two of which preferably are from sources qualified to assess the candidate’s academic potential
   b. A written essay that discusses career goals and the manner in which this doctoral program will enhance those goals and what the applicant expects to contribute to this program
   c. A curriculum vitae
2. Official transcripts indicating completion of baccalaureate and master’s degrees (or equivalent) from an accredited college or university
3. GRE or MAT scores

Incomplete packages may not be reviewed. Materials are sent to the Graduate Admissions office for processing and then forwarded to the School of Allied Health Professions. Once received in the school, the application is reviewed for completeness. Applicants with incomplete files will be contacted regarding the missing materials. Incomplete files will be held in the director’s office until all materials are received.

Completed folders will be sent to the respective departmental representative of the School of Allied Health Professions doctoral program advisory committee. Departments will then rank qualified applicants and, based on a review of the file, a personal interview will be scheduled at the department’s discretion for the top candidates. Following the departmental ranking, all files will be returned to the director’s office.

The DPAC will meet to select and recommend the incoming class. The director and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions are responsible for the final decision.

Applicants will be notified by the Graduate Admissions office regarding the admission decision and of the deadline for their acceptance of the offer and holding fee.

1. Applicants must be certified as a professional chaplain or certification-eligible.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must successfully complete a total of 51 credit hours (18 credit hours of common interdisciplinary core courses, 12 credit hours of research methods core courses, nine credit hours of concentration courses and 12 credit hours of dissertation research), two comprehensive examinations, a research proposal defense and the final dissertation defense.

Curriculum structure

The proposed curriculum is designed to take four years to complete. Students spend the first two and one-half years (six-month-long semesters) completing course work. The final year and one-half is spent developing the doctoral dissertation. Research components are present in each year of the program, and a research emphasis is present throughout the entire curriculum. Students are required to designate the area of intended research in their concentration areas in the first year.

Each of the five course-work semesters is composed of both on- and off-campus components. On-campus sessions, scheduled during the end of June and beginning of July and at the beginning of January, will employ a rather traditional mix of educational technologies (e.g., lectures, seminars and assigned reading). During the off-campus component of each semester, students pursue their studies employing a wide variety of innovative educational technologies (e.g., computer conferencing, computer-aided instruction, videotape packages and programmed instructional material), in addition to assigned readings and the completion of various assignments and projects. Upon completion of the five semesters of course work, students are required to return to campus each semester until a research proposal has been developed and successfully defended.
Continuation requirements

After admission to the Ph.D. program, the student must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all of the course work completed at VCU. A student who falls below that minimum will have one semester to remedy the deficiency. Even with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0, a student may earn no more than two (six credit hours) grades of C. Students who receive a grade of D or F will be reviewed for continuation in the program by the department of their concentrations.

Students are expected to maintain continuous enrollment while in the program. Following the completion of the core course work, students must register for at least one credit hour each fall and spring semester for continuation in the program. A student who fails to register must have advance approval to do so or will be dropped automatically from the program and must reapply for reinstatement. The maximum time to complete all of the requirements for the degree is eight calendar years from the date of entry into the program.

Course transfer or waiver

A maximum of 25 percent of the course work other than research may be transferred from another VCU program or outside institution and applied toward the Ph.D. course requirements. Transfer and waiver credit is given at the discretion of the program director after consultation with appropriate faculty members, subject to university approval. Courses taken as requirements for other degrees are not transferable. A waiver may be warranted if an equivalent course was taken. However, another course must be substituted for the waived course in order to fulfill the requisite 51 credit hours needed for degree completion.

Comprehensive examination

The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to provide a vehicle through which students can demonstrate the ability to integrate their educational experiences by adequately addressing complex questions pertinent to the current and developing knowledge of the allied health fields. Students are eligible to take each of the two comprehensive examinations upon successful completion of the appropriate core course work. The core exam must be taken within six months of completing the methods exam.

Two written examinations will be administered, one for the common interdisciplinary core and one for the research methods core. A three-member graduate faculty committee will develop and administer each exam. This committee will be made up of two members of the core faculty and one member appointed by the program director. Each exam will be offered once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester. Prior to completion of the semester in which students become eligible to take each exam, they must submit a formal statement of intent to the program coordinator.

Students who receive a failing grade on the initial attempt will have one opportunity to repeat each comprehensive examination. Failure to pass an exam on the second attempt will result in dismissal from the program.

Curriculum requirements

The program curriculum consists of a total of 51 credit hours (18 credit hours of common interdisciplinary core courses, 12 credit hours of research methods core courses, nine hours of specialty concentration courses and 12 hours of dissertation research).

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<td>ALHP 899</td>
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Total Hours: 51

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 51

Sample plan of study

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Term Hours: 9

Semester 2

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Term Hours: 9

Semester 3

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Methods comprehensive exam

Term Hours: 9

Semester 4

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<td>ALHP 890</td>
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### Core comprehensive exam

| Term Hours: | 9 |

#### Semester 5

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#### Semester 6

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#### Semester 7

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#### Semester 8

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<tr>
<td>ALHP 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (hours variable)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
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| Total Hours: | 51 |

### Graduate program director

Paula K. Kupstas, Ph.D.
Associate professor
Email: pkupstas@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1914

### Additional contact

Monica L. White
Program coordinator
Email: mlwhite1@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-3273

### Program website

sahp.vcu.edu/phd (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/phd)

### Health Related Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in physical therapy

#### Program mission/purpose

The program will provide experienced health professionals with advanced knowledge and skills so that they may assume positions in teaching, research and administration upon graduation. It offers a curriculum with an interdisciplinary core of courses with concentrations in clinical laboratory sciences, gerontology, health care outcomes research, nurse anesthesia, occupational therapy, patient counseling, physical therapy, radiation sciences and rehabilitation leadership. The program emphasizes use of distance-learning technologies combined with traditional didactic methods. The curriculum is relevant, timely and meaningful to a multidisciplinary cohort of students.

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Students completing this doctoral program will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to conduct research, understand issues, design and execute research plans, analyze research results, and present conclusions in the area of interdisciplinary health care using the appropriate methods
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The doctor of philosophy degree is awarded after (1) the minimum 51 credit hours of course work are completed, (2) comprehensive exams are passed, and (3) either a dissertation is written and defended orally or three first-author articles of publishable quality (on research undertaken by the doctoral candidate once enrolled in the program) are written and defended orally. The journal articles will be scrutinized for quality of scholarship by an internal research committee headed by the student’s research adviser. All three articles must be approved by the internal research committee prior to submission.

Other information
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A student handbook will be made available to all admitted students in their cohort organizations in Blackboard.

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The administrative offices for the program are located on the MCV Campus, at 1200 E. Broad St. (West Hospital, First Floor, East Wing).

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After successful completion of the comprehensive examinations, students will choose a dissertation chair that will serve as adviser and guide them through the research/dissertation process.

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Admission requirements

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Tests must have been taken within the past five years.

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- When applicable, applicants must have a minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language score of 600. The Ph.D. program in health related sciences utilizes two six-month semesters per year (January through June and July through December), which include both on- and off-campus components.
In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Have an earned master’s degree in an academic or allied health-related field from an accredited college or university; preference will be given to applicants who have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 on master’s-level work (The master’s degree should be in one of the departmental areas of choice of concentration.)
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3. Have completed a graduate course in statistics (including topics such as random variables, probability, distributions, descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing and inferential statistics) with a minimum grade of B
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1. A completed application form from the applicant, including:
   a. Three letters of recommendation, two of which preferably are from sources qualified to assess the candidate’s academic potential
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The DPAC will meet to select and recommend the incoming class. The director and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions are responsible for the final decision.

Applicants will be notified by the Graduate Admissions office regarding the admission decision and of the deadline for their acceptance of the offer and holding fee.

1. If a U.S. resident, the applicant must have a current U.S. physical therapy license. International applicants must show certification by the agency that provides certification in the therapist’s home country.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must successfully complete a total of 51 credit hours (18 credit hours of common interdisciplinary core courses, 12 credit hours of research methods core courses, nine credit hours of concentration courses and 12 credit hours of dissertation research), two comprehensive examinations, a research proposal defense and the final dissertation defense.

Curriculum structure

The proposed curriculum is designed to take four years to complete. Students spend the first two and one-half years (six-month-long semesters) completing course work. The final year and one-half is spent developing the doctoral dissertation. Research components are present in each year of the program, and a research emphasis is present throughout the entire curriculum. Students are required to designate the area of intended research in their concentration areas in the first year.

Each of the five course-work semesters is composed of both on- and off-campus components. On-campus sessions, scheduled during the end of June and beginning of July and at the beginning of January, will employ a rather traditional mix of educational technologies (e.g., lectures, seminars and assigned reading). During the off-campus component of each semester, students pursue their studies employing a wide variety of innovative educational technologies (e.g., computer conferencing, computer-aided instruction, videotape packages and programmed instructional material), in addition to assigned readings and the completion of various assignments and projects. Upon completion of the five semesters of course work, students are required to return to campus each semester until a research proposal has been developed and successfully defended.

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A maximum of 25 percent of the course work other than research may be transferred from another VCU program or outside institution and applied toward the Ph.D. course requirements. Transfer and waiver credit is given at the discretion of the program director after consultation with appropriate faculty members, subject to university approval. Courses
taken as requirements for other degrees are not transferable. A waiver may be warranted if an equivalent course was taken. However, another course must be substituted for the waived course in order to fulfill the requisite 51 credit hours needed for degree completion.

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The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to provide a vehicle through which students can demonstrate the ability to integrate their educational experiences by adequately addressing complex questions pertinent to the current and developing knowledge of the allied health fields. Students are eligible to take each of the two comprehensive examinations upon successful completion of the appropriate core course work. The core exam must be taken within six months of completing the methods exam.

Two written examinations will be administered, one for the common interdisciplinary core and one for the research methods core. A three-member graduate faculty committee will develop and administer each exam. This committee will be made up of two members of the core faculty and one member appointed by the program director. Each exam will be offered once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester. Prior to completion of the semester in which students become eligible to take each exam, they must submit a formal statement of intent to the program coordinator.

Students who receive a failing grade on the initial attempt will have one opportunity to repeat each comprehensive examination. Failure to pass an exam on the second attempt will result in dismissal from the program.

**Curriculum requirements**
The program curriculum consists of a total of 51 credit hours (18 credit hours of common interdisciplinary core courses, 12 credit hours of research methods core courses, nine hours of specialty concentration courses and 12 hours of dissertation research).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 701</td>
<td>Health Services Delivery Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 702</td>
<td>Finance and Economic Theory for Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 708</td>
<td>Ethics and Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 712</td>
<td>Curriculum and Communication Design for Health Care Professionals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 716</td>
<td>Grant Writing and Project Management in Health Related Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 718</td>
<td>Health Informatics</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 760</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods for Health Related Sciences</td>
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<td>ALHP 761</td>
<td>Health Related Sciences Research Design</td>
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<td>ALHP 762</td>
<td>Multivariate Statistical Methods for Health Related Sciences Research</td>
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<td>ALHP 763</td>
<td>Clinical Outcomes Evaluation for Health Related Sciences</td>
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<td>ALHP 781</td>
<td>Doctoral Seminar in Health Related Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALHP 792</td>
<td>Independent Study (three credit hours required)</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALHP 793</td>
<td>Research Practicum</td>
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<td>ALHP 890</td>
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**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 51**

**Sample plan of study**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
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<td>Health Related Sciences Research Design</td>
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<td>ALHP 716</td>
<td>Grant Writing and Project Management in Health Related Sciences</td>
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<td>ALHP 890</td>
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<td>Core comprehensive exam</td>
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<td>ALHP 792</td>
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<td>ALHP 793</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALHP 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (nine hours required)</td>
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<td>Term Hours:</td>
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<th>Semester 6</th>
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<th>Semester 7</th>
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<th>Semester 8</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Term Hours:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours:</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
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**Graduate program director**
Paula K. Kupstas, Ph.D.
Associate professor
Students completing this doctoral program will:

Student learning outcomes
Students completing this doctoral program will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to conduct research, understand issues, design and execute research plans, analyze research results, and present conclusions in the area of interdisciplinary health care using the appropriate methods
2. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge in the area of specialization
3. Exhibit competency in translating research knowledge and principles into applied practice perspectives and skills
4. Display educational expertise in current principles and content of the allied health sciences and teach in the area of interdisciplinary health care practice
5. Display the ability to examine current issues and future changes in the health care environment from an interdisciplinary perspective
6. Exhibit knowledge and understanding of professional and ethical responsibility and conduct in the allied health professions
7. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the importance of cultural diversity in the delivery of health care and the formulation of health policy

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.sahp.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements (p. 37). (p. 37)

Admission to candidacy

Students are eligible to begin their dissertations upon written certification by the program director and associate dean of the Graduate School that all predissertation/research requirements, including the comprehensive examinations, have been satisfied and that the student is prepared to proceed with the dissertation/research project. Copies of the certification will be forwarded to the student, the student’s formal program adviser and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions. After admission to candidacy, students will proceed to propose, complete and defend their dissertations or three journal articles research requirement.

Enrollment requirement

Students are required to maintain continuous enrollment in ALHP 899 until completion of the requirements, including the defense process.

Dissertation and published research requirements

Dissertation/research committee

After successful completion of the comprehensive exam, the student nominates a dissertation/research committee, and the dissertation/research director submits the nominations in writing to the program director. Such committees will consist of a minimum of four
graduate faculty members, one of whom will be outside the student’s concentration area. The program director will provide written approval of the dissertation/research committee and clear such appointments with the appropriate administrative officials.

**Dissertation/research standards**
The dissertation or publishable research articles must represent independent research and should be based on an original research question or hypothesis. Generally, dissertations or publishable research articles will demonstrate the student’s ability with empirical research, adhering to canons of (1) logic in conceptualization and design, (2) valid and reliable measurement, (3) appropriate analytic technique and (4) appropriate interpretation of results. Studies should be based on a formal theoretical or conceptually explicit framework for investigating a question or testing a hypothesis relevant to the allied health field.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements (p. 40), (p. 40)

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b. A written essay that discusses career goals and the manner in which this doctoral program will enhance those goals and what the applicant expects to contribute to this program

c. A curriculum vitae

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The DPAC will meet to select and recommend the incoming class. The director and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions are responsible for the final decision.

Applicants will be notified by the Graduate Admissions office regarding the admission decision and of the deadline for their acceptance of the offer and holding fee.

1 Applicants must be certified by one of the following: ARRT, NMTB or ARDMS.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must successfully complete a total of 51 credit hours (18 credit hours of common interdisciplinary core courses, 12 credit hours of research methods core courses, nine credit hours of concentration courses and 12 credit hours of dissertation research), two comprehensive examinations, a research proposal defense and the final dissertation defense.

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Students who receive a failing grade on the initial attempt will have one opportunity to repeat each comprehensive examination. Failure to pass an exam on the second attempt will result in dismissal from the program.

Curriculum requirements

The program curriculum consists of a total of 51 credit hours (18 credit hours of common interdisciplinary core courses, 12 credit hours of
Health Related Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in rehabilitation leadership

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 51

Sample plan of study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>ALHP 701</td>
<td>Health Services Delivery Systems 3</td>
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<td>ALHP 712</td>
<td>Curriculum and Communication Design for Health Care Professionals 3</td>
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<td>ALHP 760</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods for Health Related Sciences 3</td>
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<td>ALHP 792</td>
<td>Independent Study (three credit hours required) 1-4</td>
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<td>ALHP 890</td>
<td>Dissertation Seminar 3</td>
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<td>ALHP 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (nine hours required) 3</td>
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Semester 5
ALHP 792 Independent Study (three hours required) 3
ALHP 793 Research Practicum 3
ALHP 899 Dissertation Research 3

| Term Hours: 9 |

Semester 6
ALHP 899 Dissertation Research (hours variable) 2

| Term Hours: 2 |

Semester 7
ALHP 899 Dissertation Research (hours variable) 2

| Term Hours: 2 |

Semester 8
ALHP 899 Dissertation Research (hours variable) 2

| Term Hours: 2 |

| Total Hours: 9 |

Graduate program director
Paula K. Kupstas, Ph.D.
Associate professor
Email: pkupstas@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1914

Additional contact
Monica L. White
Program coordinator
Email: mlwhite1@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-3273

Program website: sahp.vcu.edu/phd (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/phd)

Health Related Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in rehabilitation leadership

Program mission/purpose
The program will provide experienced health professionals with advanced knowledge and skills so that they may assume positions in teaching, research and administration upon graduation. It offers a curriculum with an interdisciplinary core of courses with concentrations in clinical laboratory sciences, gerontology, health care outcomes research, nurse anesthesia, occupational therapy, patient counseling, physical therapy, radiation sciences and rehabilitation leadership. The program emphasizes use of distance-learning technologies combined with traditional didactic methods. The curriculum is relevant, timely and meaningful to a multidisciplinary cohort of students.

Program goals
1. The program will provide students with the ability to understand and conduct research in health-related sciences.
2. The program will provide the student with the ability to analyze alternatives and develop responses in their disciplines to address the current and future challenges in health care.

3. The program will provide students with the skills to educate health professionals in their discipline using current principles of teaching and curriculum development.

Student learning outcomes
Students completing this doctoral program will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to conduct research, understand issues, design and execute research plans, analyze research results, and present conclusions in the area of interdisciplinary health care using the appropriate methods
2. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge in the area of specialization
3. Exhibit competency in translating research knowledge and principles into applied practice perspectives and skills
4. Display educational expertise in current principles and content of the allied health sciences and teach in the area of interdisciplinary health care practice
5. Display the ability to examine current issues and future changes in the health care environment from an interdisciplinary perspective
6. Exhibit knowledge and understanding of professional and ethical responsibility and conduct in the allied health professions
7. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the importance of cultural diversity in the delivery of health care and the formulation of health policy

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements (p. 37). (p. 37)

Admission to candidacy
Students are eligible to begin their dissertations upon written certification by the program director and associate dean of the Graduate School that all predissertation/research requirements, including the comprehensive examinations, have been satisfied and that the student is prepared to proceed with the dissertation/research project. Copies of the certification will be forwarded to the student, the student’s formal program adviser and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions. After admission to candidacy, students will proceed to propose, complete and defend their dissertations or three journal articles research requirement.

Enrollment requirement
Students are required to maintain continuous enrollment in ALHP 899 until completion of the requirements, including the defense process.

Dissertation and published research requirements
Dissertation/research committee
After successful completion of the comprehensive exam, the student nominates a dissertation/research committee, and the dissertation/research director submits the nominations in writing to the program director. Such committees will consist of a minimum of four graduate faculty members, one of whom will be outside the student’s concentration area. The program director will provide written approval of the dissertation/research committee and clear such appointments with the appropriate administrative officials.

Dissertation/research standards
The dissertation or publishable research articles must represent independent research and should be based on an original research question or hypothesis. Generally, dissertations or publishable research articles will demonstrate the student’s ability with empirical research, adhering to canons of (1) logic in conceptualization and design, (2) valid and reliable measurement, (3) appropriate analytic technique and (4) appropriate interpretation of results. Studies should be based on a formal theoretical or conceptually explicit framework for investigating a question or testing a hypothesis relevant to the allied health field.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements (p. 40). (p. 40)

Program completion requirements
The doctor of philosophy degree is awarded after (1) the minimum 51 credit hours of course work are completed, (2) comprehensive exams are passed, and (3) either a dissertation is written and defended orally or
three first-author articles of publishable quality (on research undertaken by the doctoral candidate once enrolled in the program) are written and defended orally. The journal articles will be scrutinized for quality of scholarship by an internal research committee headed by the student's research adviser. All three articles must be approved by the internal research committee prior to submission.

**Other information**

**Student handbook**
A student handbook will be made available to all admitted students in their cohort organizations in Blackboard.

**Facilities**
The administrative offices for the program are located on the MCV Campus, at 1200 E. Broad St. (West Hospital, First Floor, East Wing).

**Advising**
Upon admission to the program, students will be assigned an interim adviser to guide them through the core courses and assist them as they consider their areas of research. All program advisers will have an earned doctorate and be members of the university’s graduate faculty.

Students may change their interim advisers as their programs of study and interests evolve, if approved by the program director. Although discouraged, some students may wish to switch their area of concentration (changing from the department through which they were initially admitted to the program). Students who want to change concentration area must petition the doctoral program director. The petition must be approved by the program director, the DPAC and the appropriate department chair. There is no guarantee that the applicant will be accepted into the new concentration.

After successful completion of the comprehensive examinations, students will choose a dissertation chair that will serve as adviser and guide them through the research/dissertation process.

**Computer requirements**
All students admitted to the program must have a personal computer manufactured within the past two years and access to a high-speed Internet connection.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.grandue.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall (begins end of Jun)</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>GRE or MAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tests must have been taken within the past five years.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Have an earned master's degree in an academic or allied health-related field from an accredited college or university; preference will be given to applicants who have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 on master's-level work (The master's degree should be in one of the departmental areas of choice of concentration.)
2. Have GRE (verbal, quantitative and analytic writing) or MAT scores from within the past five years
3. Have completed a graduate course in statistics (including topics such as random variables, probability, distributions, descriptive statistics, hypothesis testing and inferential statistics) with a minimum grade of B
4. Demonstrate a record of professional competency and success
5. Articulate clear professional and educational goals and written communication skills through the submission of a written essay
6. Have any additional qualifications/certifications of the individual concentration

Prior to reviewing an application for admission, the program must receive:

1. A completed application form from the applicant, including:
   a. Three letters of recommendation, two of which preferably are from sources qualified to assess the candidate's academic potential
   b. A written essay that discusses career goals and the manner in which this doctoral program will enhance those goals and what the applicant expects to contribute to this program
   c. A curriculum vitae
2. Official transcripts indicating completion of baccalaureate and master's degrees (or equivalent) from an accredited college or university
3. GRE or MAT scores

Incomplete packages may not be reviewed. Materials are sent to the Graduate Admissions office for processing and then forwarded to the School of Allied Health Professions. Once received in the school, the application is reviewed for completeness. Applicants with incomplete files will be contacted regarding the missing materials. Incomplete files will be held in the director's office until all materials are received.

Completed folders will be sent to the respective departmental representative of the School of Allied Health Professions doctoral program advisory committee. Departments will then rank qualified applicants and, based on a review of the file, a personal interview will be scheduled at the department's discretion for the top candidates. Following the departmental ranking, all files will be returned to the director's office.

The DPAC will meet to select and recommend the incoming class. The director and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions are responsible for the final decision.

Applicants will be notified by the Graduate Admissions office regarding the admission decision and of the deadline for their acceptance of the offer and holding fee.
The ideal candidate will have a master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling or eligibility to become a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, as well as two years of postgraduate professional experience.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must successfully complete a total of 51 credit hours (18 credit hours of common interdisciplinary core courses, 12 credit hours of research methods core courses, nine credit hours of concentration courses and 12 credit hours of dissertation research), two comprehensive examinations, a research proposal defense and the final dissertation defense.

**Curriculum structure**

The proposed curriculum is designed to take four years to complete. Students spend the first two and one-half years (six-month-long semesters) completing course work. The final year and one-half is spent developing the doctoral dissertation. Research components are present in each year of the program, and a research emphasis is present throughout the entire curriculum. Students are required to designate the area of intended research in their concentration areas in the first year.

Each of the five course-work semesters is composed of both on- and off-campus components. On-campus sessions, scheduled during the end of June and beginning of July and at the beginning of January, will employ a rather traditional mix of educational technologies (e.g., lectures, seminars and assigned reading). During the off-campus component of each semester, students pursue their studies employing a wide variety of innovative educational technologies (e.g., computer conferencing, computer-aided instruction, videotape packages and programmed instructional material), in addition to assigned readings and the completion of various assignments and projects. Upon completion of the five semesters of course work, students are required to return to campus each semester until a research proposal has been developed and successfully defended.

**Continuation requirements**

After admission to the Ph.D. program, the student must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all of the course work completed at VCU. A student who falls below that minimum will have one semester to remedy the deficiency. Even with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0, a student may earn no more than two (six credit hours) grades of C. Students who receive a grade of D or F will be reviewed for continuation in the program by the department of their concentrations.

Students are expected to maintain continuous enrollment while in the program. Following the completion of the core course work, students must register for at least one credit hour each fall and spring semester for continuation in the program. A student who fails to register must have advance approval to do so or will be dropped automatically from the program and must reapply for reinstatement. The maximum time to complete all of the requirements for the degree is eight calendar years from the date of entry into the program.

**Course transfer or waiver**

A maximum of 25 percent of the course work other than research may be transferred from another VCU program or outside institution and applied toward the Ph.D. course requirements. Transfer and waiver credit is given at the discretion of the program director after consultation with appropriate faculty members, subject to university approval. Courses taken as requirements for other degrees are not transferable. A waiver may be warranted if an equivalent course was taken. However, another course must be substituted for the waived course in order to fulfill the requisite 51 credit hours needed for degree completion.

**Comprehensive examination**

The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to provide a vehicle through which students can demonstrate their ability to integrate their educational experiences by adequately addressing complex questions pertinent to the current and developing knowledge of the allied health fields. Students are eligible to take each of the two comprehensive examinations upon successful completion of the appropriate core course work. The core exam must be taken within six months of completing the methods exam.

Two written examinations will be administered, one for the common interdisciplinary core and one for the research methods core. A three-member graduate faculty committee will develop and administer each exam. This committee will be made up of two members of the core faculty and one member appointed by the program director. Each exam will be offered once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester. Prior to completion of the semester in which students become eligible to take each exam, they must submit a formal statement of intent to the program coordinator.

Students who receive a failing grade on the initial attempt will have one opportunity to repeat each comprehensive examination. Failure to pass an exam on the second attempt will result in dismissal from the program.

**Curriculum requirements**

The program curriculum consists of a total of 51 credit hours (18 credit hours of common interdisciplinary core courses, 12 credit hours of research methods core courses, nine hours of specialty concentration courses and 12 hours of dissertation research).

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<td>Health Services Delivery Systems</td>
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</tr>
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<td>ALHP 702</td>
<td>Finance and Economic Theory for Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>ALHP 708</td>
<td>Ethics and Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>ALHP 712</td>
<td>Curriculum and Communication Design for Health Care Professionals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>ALHP 716</td>
<td>Grant Writing and Project Management in Health Related Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>ALHP 718</td>
<td>Health Informatics</td>
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<td>ALHP 761</td>
<td>Health Related Sciences Research Design</td>
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<td>ALHP 762</td>
<td>Multivariate Statistical Methods for Health Related Sciences Research</td>
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<td>ALHP 763</td>
<td>Clinical Outcomes Evaluation for Health Related Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALHP 793</td>
<td>Research Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Dissertation Seminar</td>
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Sample plan of study

**Semester 1**

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**Term Hours:** 9

**Semester 2**

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<td>Health Related Sciences Research Design</td>
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<td>ALHP 762</td>
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**Term Hours:** 9

**Semester 3**

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<td>ALHP 781</td>
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**Methods comprehensive exam**

**Term Hours:** 9

**Semester 4**

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<td>ALHP 716</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 890</td>
<td>Dissertation Seminar</td>
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**Core comprehensive exam**

**Term Hours:** 9

**Semester 5**

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<td>Independent Study (three hours required)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 793</td>
<td>Research Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (nine hours required)</td>
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**Term Hours:** 9

**Semester 6**

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**Term Hours:** 2

**Semester 7**

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<td>ALHP 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (hours variable)</td>
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**Term Hours:** 2

**Semester 8**

<table>
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<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>ALHP 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (hours variable)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:** 2

**Total Hours:** 51
6. Exhibit knowledge and understanding of professional and ethical responsibility and conduct in the allied health professions
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Admission requirements

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<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall (begins end of Jun)</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>GRE or MAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Test must have been taken within the past five years

Special requirements

• When applicable, applicants must have a minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language score of 600. The Ph.D. program in health related sciences utilizes two six-month semesters per year (January through June and July through December), which include both on- and off-campus components.
• Students interested in the sequential Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice to Ph.D. in Health Related Sciences concentration must first be admitted to the D.N.A.P. program. Matriculated D.N.A.P. students who wish to enter the combined concentration may apply to the Ph.D. program during the semester preceding graduation from the D.N.A.P. program. Applicants must meet the admission requirements and prerequisites of both programs, be enrolled in the D.N.A.P. program and have demonstrated satisfactory academic performance and professionalism.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the Ph.D. program must meet the following criteria:

1. Have an earned master’s degree in an academic or allied health-related field from an accredited college or university; preference will be given to applicants who have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 on master’s-level work (The master’s degree should be in one of the departmental areas of choice of concentration.)
2. Have GRE (verbal, quantitative and analytic writing) or MAT scores from within the past five years
3. Have completed a graduate course in statistics with a minimum grade of B
4. Demonstrate a record of professional competency and success
5. Articulate clear professional and educational goals and written communication skills through the submission of a written essay
6. Have any additional qualifications/certifications of the individual concentrations

Prior to reviewing an application for admission, the program must receive:

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2. Official transcripts indicating completion of baccalaureate and master’s degrees (or equivalent) from an accredited college or university
3. GRE or MAT scores

Incomplete packages may not be reviewed. Materials are sent to the Graduate Admissions office for processing and then forwarded to the School of Allied Health Professions. Once received in the school, the application is reviewed for completeness. Applicants with incomplete files will be contacted regarding the missing materials. Incomplete files will be held in the director’s office until all materials are received.

Completed folders will be sent to the respective departmental representative of the School of Allied Health Professions Doctoral Program Advisory Committee. Departments will then rank qualified applicants and, based on a review of the file, a personal interview will be scheduled at the department’s discretion for the top candidates. Following the departmental ranking, all files will be returned to the director’s office.

The DPAC will meet to select and recommend the incoming class. The director and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions are responsible for the final decision.

Applicants will be notified by the Graduate Admissions office regarding the admission decision and of the deadline for their acceptance of the offer and holding fee.

**Degree requirements**

Students in the D.N.A.P. program apply to the Ph.D. in Health Related Sciences program during the last semester in the D.N.A.P. program. Once accepted into the Ph.D. program, students continue with the curriculum as described.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must successfully complete a total of 75 credit hours (33 credit hours from the D.N.A.P. program and 51 credit hours from the Ph.D. program minus nine credit hours for three shared courses). The Ph.D. curriculum includes 18 credit hours of common interdisciplinary core courses, 12 credit hours of research methods core courses, nine credit hours of specialty track (courses shared with the D.N.A.P. program), 12 credit hours of dissertation research, two comprehensive examinations, a research proposal defense and the final dissertation defense.

**Continuation requirements**

After admission to the Ph.D. program, the student must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all of the course work completed at VCU. A student who falls below that minimum will have one semester to remedy the deficiency. Even with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0, a student may earn no more than two (six credit hours) grades of C. Students who receive a grade of D or F will be reviewed for continuation in the program by the department of their concentrations.

Students are expected to maintain continuous enrollment while in the program. Following the completion of the core course work, students must register for at least one credit hour each fall and spring semester for continuation in the program. A student who fails to register must have advance approval to do so or will be dropped automatically from the program and must reapply for reinstatement. The maximum time to complete all of the requirements for the degree is eight calendar years from the date of entry into the program.

**Course transfer or waiver**

A maximum of 25 percent of the course work other than research may be transferred from another VCU program or outside institution and applied toward the degree requirements. Transfer and waiver credit is given at the discretion of the program director after consultation with appropriate faculty members, subject to university approval. Courses taken as requirements for other degrees are not transferable, unless approved as part of a combined degree program. A waiver may be warranted if an equivalent course was taken. However, another course must be substituted for the waived course in order to fulfill the requisite credit hours needed for degree completion.

**Comprehensive examination**

The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to provide a vehicle through which students can demonstrate the ability to integrate their educational experiences by adequately addressing complex questions pertinent to the current and developing knowledge of the allied health fields. Students are eligible to take each of the two comprehensive examinations upon successful completion of the appropriate core course work. The core exam must be taken within six months of completing the methods exam.

Two written examinations will be administered, one for the common interdisciplinary core and one for the research methods core. A three-member graduate faculty committee will develop and administer each exam. This committee will be made up of two members of the core faculty and one member appointed by the program director. Each exam will be offered once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester. Prior to completion of the semester in which students become eligible to take each exam, they must submit a formal statement of intent to the program coordinator.

Students who receive a failing grade on the initial attempt will have one opportunity to repeat each comprehensive examination. Failure to pass an exam on the second attempt will result in dismissal from the program.

**Curriculum structure**

The Ph.D. program curriculum is designed to take four years to complete. Students spend the first two and one-half years (six-month-long semesters) completing course work. The final year and one-half is spent developing the doctoral dissertation. Research components are present in each year of the program, and a research emphasis is present.
throughout the entire curriculum. Students are required to designate the area of intended research in their concentration areas in the first year.

Each of the five course-work semesters is composed of both on- and off-campus components. On-campus sessions, scheduled during the end of June and beginning of July and at the beginning of January, will employ a rather traditional mix of educational technologies (e.g., lectures, seminars and assigned reading). During the off-campus component of each semester, students pursue their studies employing a wide variety of innovative educational technologies (e.g., computer conferencing, computer-aided instruction, videotape packages and programmed instructional material), in addition to assigned readings and the completion of various assignments and projects. Upon completion of the five semesters of course work, students are required to return to campus each semester until a research proposal has been developed and successfully defended.

**Advising**

Upon admission to the program, students will be assigned an interim adviser to guide them through the core courses and assist them as they consider their areas of research. All program advisers will have an earned doctorate and be members of the university’s graduate faculty.

Students may change their interim advisers as their programs of study and interests evolve, if approved by the program director. Although discouraged, some students may wish to switch their area of concentration (changing from the department through which they were initially admitted to the program). Students who want to change concentration areas must petition the doctoral program director. The petition must be approved by the program director, the DPAC and the appropriate department chair. There is no guarantee that the applicant will be accepted into the new concentration.

After successful completion of the comprehensive examinations, students will choose a dissertation chair that will serve as adviser and guide them through the research/dissertation process.

**Computer requirements**

All students admitted to the program must have access to a personal computer and a DSL or cable modem. Once admitted to the program, it is recommended that students who do not feel proficient in computer skills enroll in a basic computer course to become comfortable with use of the Internet and with the basics of document processing software.

**Admission to candidacy**

Students are eligible to begin their dissertations upon written certification by the program director and associate dean of the Graduate School that all predissertation/research requirements, including the comprehensive examinations, have been satisfied and that the student is prepared to proceed with the dissertation/research project. Copies of the certification will be forwarded to the student, the student’s formal program adviser and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions. After admission to candidacy, students will proceed to propose, complete and defend their dissertations or three journal articles research requirement.

**Enrollment requirement**

Students are required to maintain continuous enrollment in ALHP 899 until completion of the requirements, including the defense process.

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**Dissertation/research committee**

After successful completion of the comprehensive exam, the student nominates a dissertation/research committee, and the dissertation/research director submits the nominations in writing to the program director. Such committees will consist of a minimum of four graduate faculty members, one of whom will be outside the student’s concentration area. The program director will provide written approval of the dissertation/research committee and clear such appointments with the appropriate administrative officials.

**Dissertation/research standards**

The dissertation or publishable research articles must represent independent research and should be based on an original research question or hypothesis. Generally, dissertations or publishable research articles will demonstrate the student’s ability with empirical research, adhering to canons of (1) logic in conceptualization and design, (2) valid and reliable measurement, (3) appropriate analytic technique and (4) appropriate interpretation of results. Studies should be based on a formal theoretical or conceptually explicit framework for investigating a question or testing a hypothesis relevant to the allied health field.

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 702 Finance and Economic Theory for Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 708 Ethics and Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 712 Curriculum and Communication Design for Health Care Professionals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 716 Grant Writing and Project Management in Health Related Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 718 Health Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 760 Biostatistical Methods for Health Related Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 761 Health Related Sciences Research Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 762 Multivariate Statistical Methods for Health Related Sciences Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 763 Clinical Outcomes Evaluation for Health Related Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 781 Doctoral Seminar in Health Related Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 792 Independent Study (three required)</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 793 Research Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 890 Dissertation Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 899 Dissertation Research</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 703 Health Services Delivery Systems for the Nurse Anesthetist</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**: 51

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum)** 51

**Sample plan of study**

**D.N.A.P. program requirements**

**Fall semester 2**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 708 Ethics and Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spring semester 2**

...
## Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences

**Ph.D. in Health Related Sciences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>ALHP 712</td>
<td>Curriculum and Communication Design for Health Care Professionals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>ALHP 702</td>
<td>Finance and Economic Theory for Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ALHP 761</td>
<td>Health Related Sciences Research Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ALHP 762</td>
<td>Multivariate Statistical Methods for Health Related Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ALHP 718</td>
<td>Health Informatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ALHP 763</td>
<td>Clinical Outcomes Evaluation for Health Related Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ALHP 781</td>
<td>Doctoral Seminar in Health Related Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Methods comprehensive exam</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>ALHP 716</td>
<td>Grant Writing and Project Management in Health Related Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ALHP 890</td>
<td>Dissertation Seminar</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Core comprehensive exam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ALHP 792</td>
<td>Independent Study (hours variable; three hours required)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ALHP 793</td>
<td>Research Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ALHP 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (nine hours required)</td>
<td>1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ALHP 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (hours variable)</td>
<td>1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>ALHP 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (hours variable)</td>
<td>1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>ALHP 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (hours variable)</td>
<td>1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Dissertation and published research requirements</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total Hours:</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Graduate program director**

Paula K. Kupstas, Ph.D.
Associate professor
Email: pkupstas@vcu.edu

Phone: (804) 828-1914

**Additional contact**

Monica L. White
Program coordinator
Email: mlwhite1@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-3273

**Program website:** sahp.vcu.edu/phd (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/phd)

The objectives of the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences are:

- To provide an educational program that prepares students to accurately perform and evaluate analytical tests on body fluids, cells and products
- To foster the development of professional conduct, interpersonal communication skills and ethical principles
• To develop and promote strategies for lifelong learning and to encourage continued professional growth through research, continued education and active participation in professional societies

History
Clinical laboratory scientists have been trained on the MCV Campus since 1927. However, the Department (formerly school) of Medical Technology was not formally established until 1952, at which time the curriculum included six months of didactic experience with lectures and laboratory sessions held in the department, followed by a six-month rotation through the clinical laboratories. The school offered a certificate and/or bachelor’s degree program; the certificate program was discontinued during the 1961-62 school year.

In 1974 the curriculum was expanded to the current two-plus-two year program in which students complete 60 semester hours of prerequisites followed by two years of professional course work. The graduate program in clinical laboratory sciences was started in 1967 to provide advanced education for certified medical technologists/clinical laboratory scientists. In 1985 the program was modified to allow candidates holding a degree in another area of science to obtain graduate education in clinical laboratory sciences.

In 1994, the department name was changed to the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences. In 2003, an accelerated track was initiated to integrate the undergraduate and graduate programs, which requires completion of two years of prerequisites and three years of full-time professional course work, and leads to the simultaneous awarding of both the bachelor’s and master’s degrees.

Facilities
The Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences is located in the Randolph Minor Hall on the MCV Campus. All faculty and clerical offices are located in this facility, as well as student classrooms, general teaching laboratory, computer facilities and a student lounge/reading room.

• Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.), advanced master’s concentration (p. 197)
• Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.), categorical concentration (p. 199)
• Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.), accelerated Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Sciences (B.S.) to master’s (p. 202)

Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.), advanced master’s concentration

Program goals
The Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences provides students with advanced theoretical and technical education and prepares them to assume roles as laboratory supervisors, educators and researchers.

Student learning outcomes
1. Demonstrated professional and leadership conduct
2. Demonstrated ability to research and evaluate laboratory issues

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
All students will be given a handbook on policies and regulations at orientation.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).
Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jun 1</td>
<td>Minimum TOEFL of 600 (paper), 250 (computer) or 100 (IBT); or minimum IELTS score of 7.0 for international students whose native language is not exclusively English.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>Satisfactory scores on the GRE.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- Applicants holding baccalaureate degrees in clinical laboratory sciences/medical technology and generalist certification by the Board of Certification of the American Society for Clinical Pathology are eligible for the advanced master’s concentration.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the general entrance requirements for the Master of Science (M.S.) in Clinical Laboratory Sciences for the advanced master’s concentration are:

1. Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a major in clinical laboratory sciences (medical technology)
2. National certification as a medical laboratory scientist or equivalent level
3. Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for at least the last two years of undergraduate work
4. Three letters of recommendation from employers or recent instructors addressing academic potential
5. Satisfactory interview

Degree requirements

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the advanced master’s concentration are required to complete:

1. A minimum of 34 graduate credit hours
2. A research study in the form of a thesis or project related to clinical laboratory sciences
   a. Students selecting the thesis option must complete a minimum of 15 graduate credit hours of discipline-specific sciences and six hours of research.
   b. Students selecting the project option must complete 18 graduate credit hours of discipline-specific sciences and four hours of research.
3. In addition to the basic science requirement, each student may choose an area of secondary emphasis in biomedical research, education, management or business.
   a. In lieu of 14 credit hours of discipline-specific courses, students with a secondary emphasis in education, management or business may elect to focus on courses in those areas.
   b. No more than 14 graduate credit hours in the area of the secondary emphasis may be applied toward the required curriculum minimum.

Full-time candidates require a minimum of two academic years to complete the program. Part-time students must complete all work requirements within six years. An interruption in registration in excess of one semester requires prior approval of the department.

Curriculum requirements

Core

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543 or STAT 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 690</td>
<td>Clinical Laboratory Sciences Seminar (one-credit course taken three times)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 761</td>
<td>Research Methodology in Clinical Laboratory Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 790</td>
<td>Research in Clinical Laboratory Sciences</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Discipline-specific courses

Select 18 credit hours of the following:¹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL/BNFO 540</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Molecular Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 633</td>
<td>Mass Spectrometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 601</td>
<td>Theoretical Blood Banking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 602</td>
<td>Molecular Diagnostics in Clinical Laboratory Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 605</td>
<td>Advanced Hematology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 608</td>
<td>Laboratory Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRSC/PHTX 644</td>
<td>Forensic Toxicology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 501/BIOL 530</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 502</td>
<td>Advanced Human Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 505</td>
<td>Immunobiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 515</td>
<td>Principles of Molecular Microbiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 616</td>
<td>Mechanisms of Viral and Parasite Pathogenesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 618</td>
<td>Molecular Mechanisms of Bacterial Pathogenesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATH 601</td>
<td>General Pathology (Dentistry)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ If a student elects to pursue a secondary emphasis in education, management or business, no more than 14 of these credits may be applied toward the required curriculum minimum.
Electives in business, education, management, marketing, health administration

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 507</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADLT 601</td>
<td>Adult Learning and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 500</td>
<td>Concepts in Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 602</td>
<td>Health System Organization, Financing and Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM/ECON 624</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 661</td>
<td>Information Systems for Managers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 540</td>
<td>Management Theory and Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 641</td>
<td>Leading People and Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 570</td>
<td>Concepts and Issues in Marketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 530</td>
<td>Fundamentals of the Legal Environment of Business</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 34

1. Specific courses will depend on the individual student’s choice of specialty. The basic science requirement may be distributed among approved courses listed in the VCU Graduate Bulletin. Other courses may be approved.

2. Other courses may be approved.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 34

Graduate program director
Teresa S. Nadder, Ph.D., MLS(ASCP)CM
Associate professor and chair, Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences
Email: tsnadder@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-9469

Program website: sahp.vcu.edu/departments/cls (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/departments/cls)

Clinical Laboratory Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.), categorical concentration

Program goals
The Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences provides students with advanced theoretical and technical education and prepares them to assume roles as laboratory supervisors, educators and researchers.

Student learning outcomes
1. Demonstrated knowledge and proficiency of laboratory tests in specialized area of study
2. Demonstrated professional and leadership conduct
3. Demonstrated ability to research and evaluate laboratory issues

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

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Other information

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Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).
Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jun 1</td>
<td>Minimum TOEFL of 600 (paper), 250 (computer) or 100 (IBT); or minimum IELTS score of 7.0 for international students whose native language is not exclusively English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>Satisfactory scores on the GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Test requirements:

i. Mobility: Ability to maneuver in the laboratory and around instruments and in patient-care settings
ii. Fine motor: Ability to manipulate small objects with fingertips or adaptive devices
iii. Vision: Ability to distinguish red, yellow and blue colors; to distinguish clear from cloudy; and to distinguish objects through a microscope
iv. Hearing: Ability to hear with assistive devices (i.e., phone receivers, hearing aid, etc.)
v. Speech: Ability to verbally communicate in English
vi. Writing: Ability to communicate effectively in written form in English
vii. Reading: Ability to read, understand and follow directions printed in English
viii. Emotional and physical stability: Ability to work accurately and safely under stress, adapt to changing environments and prioritize tasks
ix. Personal attributes: Must demonstrate integrity, responsibility, tolerance and respect

Special requirements

- Applicants must possess the essential technical abilities and skills described below.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the general entrance requirements for the Master of Science in Clinical Laboratory Sciences for the categorical concentration are:

1. Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with a major in biology or chemistry (Other majors may be approved with 12 credits of biology and 12 credits of chemistry completed.)
2. Minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for at least the last two years of undergraduate work
3. Three letters of recommendation from recent instructors or professional references from the applicant’s intended field of study addressing the applicant’s academic and professional abilities and preparation for graduate study
4. Satisfactory interview
5. Essential functions in clinical laboratory sciences
   - The VCU Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences is responsible for providing education without regard to disability while assuring that academic and technical standards are met.
   - Academic standards are met by successfully completing the curriculum for the M.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences degree.
   - Technical standards represent the essential nonacademic requirements that a student must demonstrate to successfully participate in the M.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences degree program. The technical standards for each category identified below are consistent with the expectations of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008. Applicants must possess the following essential technical abilities and skills for admission consideration:
     i. Manual dexterity: Ability to use hand(s) or prosthetic devices with coordination
     ii. Fine motor: Ability to manipulate small objects with fingertips or adaptive devices

Degree requirements

The categorical concentration of the Master of Science program provides specialized study, including a clinical practicum, in one of the following areas: clinical chemistry, hematology, microbiology or immunohematology.

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the categorical concentration are required to complete:

1. A minimum of 34 credit hours of graduate course work while completing undergraduate courses specific to their specializations
2. A six-week clinical practicum in their specialty area
3. A research study in the form of a thesis or project related to clinical laboratory sciences
4. Students selecting the thesis option must complete a minimum of 15 semester hours of discipline-specific sciences and six hours of research.
5. Students selecting the project option must complete 18 semester hours of discipline-specific sciences and four hours of research.
6. In addition to the basic science requirement, each student may choose an area of secondary emphasis in biomedical research, education, management or business.
7. In lieu of 14 credit hours of discipline-specific courses, students with a secondary emphasis in education, management or business may elect to focus on courses in those areas.
8. No more than 14 credit hours in the area of the secondary emphasis may be applied toward the required curriculum minimum.

Upon completion of the curriculum, students are eligible to take a national certification examination in the area in which they performed their concentrated study.

Full-time candidates require a minimum of two academic years to complete the program. Part-time students must complete all work
requirements within six years. An interruption in registration in excess of one semester requires prior approval of the department.

Curriculum requirements

Undergraduate

**Discipline-specific courses**

Select eight to 10 credit hours of the following specialties ¹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical chemistry specialty</td>
<td>CLLS 311 Clinical Chemistry and Instrumentation I, CLLS 312 Clinical Chemistry and Instrumentation II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hematology specialty</td>
<td>CLLS 301 Hematology, CLLS 302 Hematology, CLLS 304 Urine and Body Fluid Analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Immunohematology specialty</td>
<td>CLLS 306 Immunohematology, CLLS 310 Clinical Immunology (other immunology courses may be approved)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Microbiology specialty</td>
<td>CLLS 307 Introduction to Pathogenic Microbiology, CLLS 308 Pathogenic Bacteriology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 8-10

¹ Specific courses will depend on the individual student’s choice of specialty. Other courses may be approved.

Graduate curriculum

**Core**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 580</td>
<td>Principles of Education/Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 690</td>
<td>Clinical Laboratory Sciences Seminar (one-credit course completed at least three times; four recommended)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 761</td>
<td>Research Methodology in Clinical Laboratory Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLLS 790</td>
<td>Research in Clinical Laboratory Sciences</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Discipline-specific courses**

Select 18 credit hours of the following specialties: ¹

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All specialties</td>
<td>CLLS 500 Concepts and Techniques in Clinical Laboratory Science, CLLS 595 Clinical Practicum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clinical chemistry specialty</td>
<td>CHEM 633 Mass Spectrometry, CLLS 630 Advanced Concepts in Clinical Chemistry and Instrumentation, PHTX/FRSC 644 Forensic Toxicology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Specialty</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hematology specialty</td>
<td>CLLS 605 Advanced Hematology, CLLS 629 Advanced Concepts in Hematology, HGEN 501/BIOL 530 Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immunohematology specialty</td>
<td>CLLS 601 Theoretical Blood Banking, CLLS 627 Advanced Concepts in Immunology and Immunohematology, HGEN 501/BIOL 530 Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
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<td>Microbiology specialty</td>
<td>CLLS 608 Laboratory Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases, CLLS 628 Advanced Concepts in Microbiology, MICR 515 Principles of Molecular Microbiology, MICR 616 Mechanisms of Viral and Parasite Pathogenesis, MICR 618 Molecular Mechanisms of Bacterial Pathogenesis</td>
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<th>Specialty</th>
<th>Courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electives for all specialties</td>
<td>Select of the following (other courses may be approved): BIOC 503 Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology, BIOC 504 Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology, BIOL/BNFO 540 Fundamentals of Molecular Genetics, CLLS 602 Molecular Diagnostics in Clinical Laboratory Sciences, HGEN 502 Advanced Human Genetics, MICR 505 Immunobiology, PATH 601 General Pathology (Dentistry)</td>
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<td>Electives in business, education, management, marketing, health administration</td>
<td>Select of the following (other courses may be approved): ACCT 507 Fundamentals of Accounting, ADLT 601 Adult Learning and Development, ECON 500 Concepts in Economics, HADM 602 Health System Organization, Financing and Performance, HADM/ECON 624 Health Economics, INFO 661 Information Systems for Managers, MGMT 540 Management Theory and Practice, MGMT 641 Leading People and Organizations, MKTG 570 Concepts and Issues in Marketing, SCMA 530 Fundamentals of the Legal Environment of Business</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 34

¹ Specific courses will depend on the individual student’s choice of specialty. Other courses may be approved.

Graduate program director

Teresa S. Nadder, Ph.D., MLS(ASCP)™
Program goals
The Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences provides the student with advanced theoretical and technical education and prepares students to assume roles as laboratory supervisors, educators and researchers.

Student learning outcomes
1. Demonstrated professional and leadership conduct
2. Demonstrated ability to research and evaluate laboratory issues

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
All students will be given a handbook on policies and regulations at orientation.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

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Satisfactory scores on the GRE

Special requirements
• Applicants pursuing the accelerated B.S. to M.S. degree program must initially qualify for admission to the B.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences degree program.

The accelerated bachelor's-to-master's-degree program integrates graduate and undergraduate course work and leads to the simultaneous awarding of the Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in clinical laboratory sciences.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must:
1. Initially qualify for admission to the Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Sciences program
2. Complete a minimum of 112.5 undergraduate credit hours, including 60 prerequisite undergraduate credit hours (see admission requirements for the baccalaureate degree program in clinical laboratory sciences in the Undergraduate Bulletin for a list of the
specific courses) and 52.5 credit hours of undergraduate professional course work in clinical laboratory sciences
3. Have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in undergraduate clinical laboratory course work
4. Receive a positive recommendation from the Department of Clinical Laboratory Sciences faculty
5. Have a satisfactory interview

Degree requirements
In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the accelerated B.S.-to-M.S.-degree program are required to complete:

1. A minimum 40 hours of graduate credit hours
2. A research study in the form of a thesis or project related to clinical laboratory sciences
3. In addition to the basic science requirement, each student may choose an area of secondary emphasis in biomedical research, education, management or business.
   a. In lieu of 14 credit hours of discipline-specific courses, students with a secondary emphasis in education, management or business may elect to focus on courses in those areas.
   b. No more than 14 graduate credit hours in the area of the secondary emphasis may be applied toward the required curriculum minimum.

Beginning with the first semester of the Bachelor of Science in Clinical Laboratory Sciences program, candidates for the accelerated curriculum are expected to be full-time students and complete both the B.S. and M.S. requirements in three years.

Upon completion of the curriculum, students are eligible to take the ASCP BOC national certification examination for a Medical Laboratory Scientist generalist.

Curriculum requirements
Undergraduate
Prerequisite requirement
60 credit hours of course work prior to entrance into the Bachelor of Science program in clinical laboratory sciences (Refer to the VCU Undergraduate Bulletin for details of the required courses.)

Professional studies requirement
CLLS 301 & CLLS 302 Hematology 7.5
CLLS 304 Urine and Body Fluid Analysis 2
CLLS 306 Immunohematology 4.5
CLLS 307 Introduction to Pathogenic Microbiology 3
CLLS 308 Pathogenic Bacteriology 5
CLLS 310 Clinical Immunology 4.5
CLLS 311 & CLLS 312 Clinical Chemistry and Instrumentation I 10

CLLS 337 Clinical Education 1
CLLS 483 Biochemistry Practicum 3
CLLS 485 Hematology Practicum 3
CLLS 493 Clinical Microbiology Practicum 3
CLLS 494 Miscellaneous Clinical Practicum 3
CLLS 496 Blood Bank Practicum 3

Total Hours 112.5

Total undergraduate credit hours required (minimum) 112.5

Graduate studies
Core
ACCT 507 Fundamentals of Accounting 3
BIOS/STAT 543 Graduate Research Methods I 3
CLLS 580 Principles of Education/Management 3
CLLS 690 Clinical Laboratory Sciences Seminar 1
CLLS 761 Research Methodology in Clinical Laboratory Sciences 3

Electives in business, education, management, marketing, health administration (other courses may be approved)
Select one of the following: 3
ADLT 601 Adult Learning and Development
ECON 500 Concepts in Economics
HADM 602 Health System Organization, Financing and Performance
HADM/ECON 624 Health Economics
INFO 661 Information Systems for Managers
MGMT 540 Management Theory and Practice
MGMT 641 Organizational Leadership and Project Team Management
MKTG 570 Concepts and Issues in Marketing
SCMA 530 Fundamentals of the Legal Environment of Business

CLLS discipline-specific sciences
CLLS 627 Advanced Concepts in Immunology and Immunohematology 3
CLLS 628 Advanced Concepts in Microbiology 2
CLLS 629 Advanced Concepts in Hematology 2
CLLS 630 Advanced Concepts in Clinical Chemistry and Instrumentation 2

Electives in discipline-specific courses (other courses may be approved)
Select 12 credits of the following: 12
BIOC 503 Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology
BIOC 504 Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology
BIOL/BNFO 540 Fundamentals of Molecular Genetics
CHEM 633 Mass Spectrometry
CLLS 601 Theoretical Blood Banking
CLLS 602 Molecular Diagnostics in Clinical Laboratory Sciences
The Department of Gerontology was founded in 1976 and offers the only Master of Science in Gerontology in the commonwealth of Virginia. The Department of Gerontology became a part of the School of Allied Health Professions in January 1985.

**Objectives**

The mission to promote optimal aging for individuals and communities is evident through the department’s innovative graduate and continuing education, scholarship and university-community partnerships. Graduates further the person-centered, transdisciplinary mission largely in the areas of administration, education, advocacy and entrepreneurship. The purpose of this program is threefold: (1) to train qualified professionals to work in administrative, planning, service delivery and instructional and staff development positions in programs and services for elders at the national, state and local levels, (2) to provide an opportunity for those studying in other disciplines, and whose work will encompass service to the aged, to integrate their own training with a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the aging process and (3) to stimulate the design and execution of gerontological research across the multiple disciplines.

**Facilities**

Offices of the Department of Gerontology are located in the Theater Row building at 730 E. Broad St.

**Diversity statement**

As faculty, staff and students in the VCU Department of Gerontology in the School of Allied Health Professions:

- We seek to support personhood by honoring the safety, dignity and well-being of all of our constituents.
- We believe that diverse backgrounds and philosophies are crucial to academic excellence.
- We seek to support an academic community whose members have diverse visions, cultures, backgrounds and life experiences.
- We honor freedom of expression and civility of discourse as fundamental educational cornerstones.
- We endeavor to foster a just and inclusive campus culture that promotes both cultural competence and cultural humility.
- We aim to engage members of our community as active citizens in a multicultural world.
- We recognize the need to identify and evaluate the ways in which social, cultural and economic inequities affect power and privilege in the larger society.
- We consider equity and autonomy central to our mission to promote optimal aging for individuals and communities.

**Statement of values**

As faculty, staff and students in the VCU Department of Gerontology in the School of Allied Health Professions, we will be guided by this departmental statement of values in the pursuit of our professional and academic endeavors and as we participate in the department’s mission to promote optimal aging for individuals and communities. We recognize that this departmental statement of values is informed by the broader VCU Code of Ethics, and that we need to be mindful of our responsibility to adhere to both, as well as to any others which may be applicable to us by virtue of our professional affiliations or other obligations.

**Professional competence**

We will maintain the highest levels of competence in our work and will undertake only those tasks for which we are qualified by education, training or experience. We will embrace opportunities to work in interdisciplinary settings with colleagues from a wide range of disciplines, openly acknowledging the boundaries of our gerontological expertise and seeking opportunities to collaborate with other disciplines in our mission to support optimal aging. We recognize the need for continuing education in order to remain professionally competent and we will use the appropriate scientific, professional, technical and administrative resources needed to ensure competence in our professional activities. We will be open to asking for and receiving constructive feedback from others.

**Integrity**

We will conduct our affairs in ways that inspire trust, confidence and mutual respect and we will communicate candidly within the boundaries of our professional, academic and personal affiliations or other obligations.
of confidentiality. We will strive always to provide an ethical and caring response to ourselves and others. We will use ethical decision-making frameworks and other tools in order to manage ethical dilemmas and other complex problems, working both individually and collaboratively with others. We will not knowingly act in ways that jeopardize either our own or others’ welfare and we will appropriately report any concerns about the welfare of older adults. We will always disclose and resolve possible, perceived and actual conflicts of interest in the performance of our professional responsibilities.

Professional and scientific responsibility
We will adhere to the highest scientific, professional and personal standards in pursuing and promoting evidence-based practices and behaviors that support optimal aging across the life span and in a bio-psycho-social-spiritual context. We will show respect for other gerontologists and colleagues of all disciplines even when we disagree on theoretical, methodological or personal approaches to professional activities. We value the continuing establishment of the public trust in the emerging and evolving profession of gerontology and will pursue ethical behavior in order to support that trust. In research and teaching we will adhere to accepted principles for the protection of human participants in research.

Respect for personhood, rights, dignity and diversity
We will respect the personhood, rights, dignity and diversity of all people and will use person-centered, nondiscriminatory language and approaches when engaging with others. We will strive to eliminate bias in our professional activities, through self-reflection, self-awareness and the practice of cultural humility, and we will encourage those with whom we partner to do the same. We will not tolerate any forms of discrimination based on age, gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, health conditions or marital, domestic, parental or socioeconomic status. In all of our work-related activities, we will acknowledge the rights of others to hold values, attitudes and opinions that differ from our own.

Social and advocacy responsibilities
We will maintain awareness of our personal, professional and scientific responsibilities to the communities and societies in which we live and work, making public and applying our evidence-based knowledge in order to contribute to the public good. We will seek to educate ourselves and others about the damaging nature of ageism and through our role-model leadership we will support ourselves and others to promote optimal aging across the lifespan through positive language, behaviors and practices. In undertaking these responsibilities, we will be courageous and compassionate, remaining open to new opportunities, idea, and experiences in all aspects of the field of aging.

• Gerontology, Master of Science (M.S.) (p. 205)
• Aging Studies, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) (p. 208)

Opportunities for combined study
The Department of Gerontology, in cooperation with other programs at the university, provides students interested in working with elders or in gerontological settings with the opportunity to complete the Certificate in Aging Studies while also completing requirements for other degree programs, including the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling, Master of Social Work and Doctor of Pharmacy.

• A combination of the Certificate in Aging Studies and the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy (M.S.O.T.) (p. 249), offered jointly with the Department of Occupational Therapy
• A combination of the Certificate in Aging Studies program and a Master of Social Work (M.S.W.) (p. 838), offered jointly with the School of Social Work
• A combination of the Certificate in Aging Studies with the Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.) (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/professional-studies/pharmacy/pharmacy-pharmd-aging-studies-postbaccalaureate-graduate-certificate-combined), offered with the School of Pharmacy
• A combination of the Certificate in Aging Studies and a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling (M.S.) (p. 272), offered jointly with the Department of Rehabilitation Counseling

Students must apply separately to the participating programs and must meet all admission and degree requirements for both programs. In some cases, and with the approval of the advisers of both programs, coursework in one program may be approved to satisfy a course requirement in another program.

Gerontology, Master of Science (M.S.)
Program goal
The Department of Gerontology serves the people of the commonwealth of Virginia and the nation by providing educational programs related to the understanding of aging and promoting optimal aging. The department encourages education through discovery of new knowledge, interdisciplinary interaction, professional behavior and service to the aging network. The department’s primary focus is to prepare individuals for positions in the network of aging services. These gerontologists are educated to serve as supporters of optimal aging for older persons and families and caregivers. The master’s program provides quality education leading to careers as services providers, educators and researchers. The department also provides assistance and services to the community and engages in research and scholarly activities related to gerontology.

The goal of the program is to ensure that students in the program will:

1. Understand the biological, psychological and sociological underpinnings of aging in U.S. society as established by Association for Gerontology in Higher Education core competencies.
2. Gain understanding and respect for the interdisciplinary team process in effective gerontological practice.
3. Through a lifespan biopsychosocialspiritual approach, gain understanding of empirically and theoretically based components contributing to optimal quality of life and performance in late life as well as knowledge and skills in best practices to promote optimal aging across the life span.
4. Gain understanding of the existing aging network across federal, state and local levels. Thorough understanding will enable students to successfully identify their niche in the aging network, contribute to a growing field and deliver effective eldercare services.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will demonstrate understanding and application of the biological, psychological, sociological and spiritual theories of aging to gerontology practice.
2. Students will demonstrate understanding and respect for the interdisciplinary team process in effective gerontological practice and essential role of various disciplines on the care team.
Students develop a clearer understanding of eldercare through the biopsychosocial approach, lifespan perspective and the theories within the field (as implicit in AGHE’s core competencies).

3. Students will demonstrate a thorough understanding of the multiple paths, methods and techniques of optimal aging in order to assist older persons, their families, program providers and policymakers toward the goal of optimal aging. A comprehensive understanding of gerontology core concepts is essential to this goal.

4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the aging network and will be able to make contributions to community-identified needs through the successful delivery of services in the aging network. Community engagement will take the form of field work, research, grant writing, service-learning opportunities, education and training.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>All semesters</td>
<td></td>
<td>GRE or MAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following requirements:

The program is open to qualified students who have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university or the equivalent, maintained a minimum GPA of 3.0 and have satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT. A successful work experience may strengthen the admission credentials of applicants with marginal records.

Because of the diversity of undergraduate majors, candidates for the gerontology program must present evidence of successful completion of undergraduate courses in the following areas:

1. Biological science – minimum of six credit hours
2. Psychology – minimum of three credit hours
3. Sociology, anthropology or social work – minimum of three credit hours
4. Statistics, research methods or equivalent – minimum of three credit hours (Topics covered in this undergraduate course should be equivalent to those outlined for STAT 212 in the VCU courses database.)

Candidates for admission who do not meet these requirements will be expected to complete the required undergraduate course work or to pass challenge examinations by the end of the first year.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a 30-credit hour curriculum based on the core curriculum to include either a generalist area of study or one of the following optional specialty areas of study:

Assisted living administration: This specialty area will provide students with a foundation of knowledge in the long-term care continuum. Students electing this option will learn about assisted living, home and community-based services and nursing home care. Educational content is provided that informs students about the different types of services that exist. Students completing this area of study will gain the necessary skills and knowledge required to complete the assisted living administrator licensing exam.

Education: This specialty area is designed for students interested in teaching or training careers in gerontology. Students electing this specialty area will be prepared to provide instruction to university or community college students, the lay public, professional service providers and older people.
Health care organization and planning: (in conjunction with the Department of Health Administration) Upon completing this area of study, students will have a foundation of knowledge in health care organization, health planning, health policy and a macro perspective on the financing of health care. In addition, students will have developed skills in policy analysis and the use of economic tools. Finally, students will broaden their understanding of the political, legal and ethical issues involved in health care organization and planning.

Psychogeriatrics: This specialty area, developed jointly with the Department of Psychology, is designed for students interested in working with those older adults and their families who are experiencing psychological difficulty. Students electing this option will be prepared to provide assistance directly to the elderly and their families as well as to consult and train professionals and paraprofessionals to provide more effective mental health services. Training is provided through a combination of specialized didactic instruction and structured field experience in providing direct services, consultation and education.

Public administration: Students who elect to pursue courses in the public administration area, developed jointly with the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, will, after completion of course work, be able to plan, organize, report and budget for public programs in aging. Grant writing and program evaluation skills will be developed as well. Students choosing the public administration option may wish to complete the Certificate in Public Management program or the Certificate in Nonprofit Management program.

Research: This specialty area is designed for students who would ultimately like to pursue a doctoral degree in the social or behavioral sciences or in one of the health-related sciences in the School of Allied Health Professions. Students who elect the research option must complete a thesis or a paper of publishable quality. Students will obtain a strong background in experimental psychology research design and methodology and a broad background in life-span developmental theory.

Social services: This option concentrates on developing specialized knowledge and skills in the provision of services to the elderly, basic understanding and skills in at least one method of social work practice, commitment and ability to participate in the development of strategies and policies relevant to amelioration of social problems of the elderly, and the ability to integrate and use in practice knowledge of individual behavior and social structure with particular reference to the needs of the elderly.

Students should consult with their advisers for guidance with scheduling. It is required that students seek advising to determine how they will complete their five practice elective credit hours.

### Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 601</td>
<td>Biological and Physiological Aging</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Psychology of Aging</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 603</td>
<td>Social Gerontology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 604</td>
<td>Problems, Issues and Trends in Gerontology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 605</td>
<td>Social Science Research Methods Applied to Gerontology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 606</td>
<td>Aging and Human Values</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 607</td>
<td>Field Study in Gerontology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 608</td>
<td>Grant Writing</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective requirement. Select five credit hours from one of the lists below

| Total Hours | 30 |

### Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

#### Electives

**Assisted living administration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 638</td>
<td>Long-term Care Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 639</td>
<td>Human Resource Management and Leadership for Gerontologists</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 640</td>
<td>Financial Management for Gerontological Leaders</td>
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**Education**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Course Title</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 501</td>
<td>Physiological Aging</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 510</td>
<td>Aging</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 609</td>
<td>Career Planning</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 620</td>
<td>Geriatric Interdisciplinary Team Training</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 691</td>
<td>Topical Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 692</td>
<td>Independent Studies</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 792</td>
<td>Independent Studies for Master’s/Ph.D-level Students</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 798</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

or GRTY 799 Thesis

**Health care organization and planning**

<table>
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<td>1</td>
</tr>
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<td>GRTY 638</td>
<td>Long-term Care Administration</td>
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or GRTY 799 Thesis

**Psychogeriatrics**

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 609</td>
<td>Career Planning</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 610</td>
<td>Gero-pharmacology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 611</td>
<td>Death and Dying</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 613</td>
<td>GLBT in Aging</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 615</td>
<td>Aging and Mental Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 616</td>
<td>Geriatric Rehabilitation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 624</td>
<td>Community and Community Services for the Elderly</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 629</td>
<td>Spirituality and Aging</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 641</td>
<td>Survey of Psychological Assessment and Treatment of the Older Adult</td>
<td>3</td>
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### Public administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Career Planning</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
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<td>or GRTY 799</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional courses of interest may be available through the Certificate in Public Management.

### Research

<table>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 609</td>
<td>Career Planning</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 618</td>
<td>The Business of Geriatric Care Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 619</td>
<td>Geriatric Care Management Practicum</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 620</td>
<td>Geriatric Interdisciplinary Team Training</td>
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### Social services

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Additional electives, based on areas of interest, may be chosen in consultation with the student’s adviser.

### Program goal

The Department of Gerontology serves the people of the commonwealth of Virginia and the nation by providing educational programs related to understanding of aging and promoting successful aging. The department encourages education through discovery of new knowledge, interdisciplinary interaction, professional behavior and service to the aging network. The department’s primary focus is to prepare individuals for positions in the network of aging services. These gerontologists are educated to serve as supporters of optimal aging for older persons and families and caregivers. The certificate program provides quality education to those who are already working with older adults and wish to enhance their services with formal academic training in gerontology or individuals with training in other professions.

The program’s goal is to ensure that graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to apply core gerontological concepts according to Association for Gerontology in Higher Education Core Concepts.

### Student learning outcomes

1. Students will understand the biological, psychological and sociological underpinnings of aging in U.S. society.
2. Students will demonstrate understanding of methods and techniques to assist older persons and their families to achieve a successful response to aging.
3. Students will demonstrate an ability to combine their knowledge of gerontology with experience in the aging network and with knowledge of their core professional discipline so as to contribute to the successful delivery of services in the aging network.
4. Students will develop understanding of and will engage in interdisciplinary approaches to issues and problems of aging.
5. Students enrolled in a dual program will engage in interdisciplinary practice in their core disciplines with special emphasis on gerontology.

### 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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Opportunities for combined study
The Department of Gerontology, in cooperation with other programs at the university, provides students interested in working with elders or in gerontological settings with the opportunity to complete the Certificate in Aging Studies while also completing requirements for other degree programs, including the Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling, Master of Social Work and Doctor of Pharmacy. Students must apply separately to the participating programs and must meet all admission and degree requirements for both programs. In some cases, and with the approval of the advisers of both programs, course work in one program may be approved to satisfy a course requirement in another program.

Other information
The program’s student handbook is available on the student Blackboard site.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>All semesters</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Certificate in Aging Studies program is open to qualified students who have earned a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university or the equivalent and who have met all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School.

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the Certificate in Aging Studies program must complete 21 credit hours of work, including 15 credit hours of core courses and six elective credit hours.

1. Students will complete courses in the biology of aging, psychology of aging, social gerontology and research methods form the basic core of the certificate program.

2. Following the completion of these gerontology courses, students may choose two elective gerontology courses after consultation with their faculty advisers. Advisers counsel students as to the courses that would best suit their educational training needs. Students may choose from aging and human values; topical seminars; independent studies; problems, issues and trends in gerontology; recreation, leisure and aging; and other elective courses.

3. In addition to the completion of these prescribed courses, each candidate for a Certificate of Aging Studies is required to satisfactorily complete a project in gerontology on a subject approved by the faculty. This project may be a comprehensive literature review, a research project or a training or demonstration project. Students register for a three-credit hour course in independent studies (GRTY 692) for this project.

Curriculum requirements

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 601</td>
<td>Biological and Physiological Aging</td>
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<td>GRTY 605</td>
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</tr>
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<td>GRTY 692</td>
<td>Independent Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Elective courses

Select two of the following:

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<td>Independent Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 691</td>
<td>Topical Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other electives approved by adviser</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 21

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 21

Graduate program director
E. Ayn Welleford, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Gerontology
Email: ewellefo@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1565

Program website: sahp.vcu.edu/gerontology (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/gerontology)
Department of Health Administration
Carolyn A. Watts, Ph.D.
Richard M. Bracken Chair

The overall purpose of the Department of Health Administration is to provide top quality education, research and service related to the organization and administration of health care services. Education in health administration at the university began in 1949 with the establishment of a graduate curriculum in hospital administration. Early graduates received a certificate; the master’s degree was awarded beginning in 1955.

These early efforts grew and developed into the Department of Health Administration, established in 1972. The department now includes three major programs: Master of Health Administration, Doctor of Philosophy in Health Services Organization and Research; and Master of Science in Health Administration. The latter program, aimed at mid-career professionals, was among the first to offer a health administration degree in a hybrid format (periodic on-campus sessions complemented by online learning in between). The department also cooperates with the schools of law at the University of Richmond and at Washington and Lee University to offer dual-degree programs in health administration and law (M.H.A./J.D.). In 2001, a dual-degree program was established with the VCU School of Medicine (M.H.A./M.D.). Both master’s programs are fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education. The Department of Health Administration also has a major research program and is involved in a wide range of public service activities, including professional development programs for health services administrators and other health professionals.

Facilities
The department is located in the William Grant House, formerly the Sheltering Arms Hospital, at 1008 E. Clay St., Richmond, Virginia. Built in 1857, the Grant House is on the National Register of Historic Places. VCU Medical Center, one of the largest teaching hospitals in the nation, and other clinical facilities are readily accessible to the department’s students and faculty. In addition, the department has clinical affiliations and close working relationships with a large number of health care organizations and agencies in Virginia and throughout the United States. The organizations and agencies are used extensively as clinical facilities in the department’s educational programs.

- Health Administration, Master of (M.H.A.) (p. 210)
- Health Administration, Master of (M.H.A.)/Information Systems, Master of Science (M.S.) [combined] (p. 214)
- Health Administration, Master of (M.H.A.)/Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the University of Richmond [combined] (p. 215)
- Medicine, Doctor of (M.D.)/Health Administration, Master of (M.H.A.) [combined] (p. 216)
- Health Administration, Master of Science in (M.S.H.A.) (p. 217)
- Health Services Organization and Research, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 221)

Health Administration, Master of (M.H.A.)
Overview and philosophy
The Master of Health Administration program is designed to prepare persons for administrative roles ultimately leading to top-level executive positions in complex health services organizations. The curriculum emphasizes strategic and operational management, thus orienting students toward the broad spectrum of managerial problems and functions likely to be encountered by health services organizations.

The program’s educational objectives and content are based upon the premise that a large number of students who select this curriculum aspire to become senior executives of health care organizations at some point in their careers. The graduate M.H.A. program is designed for full-time students.

The M.H.A. program was accredited initially in 1968, one of the first programs in the United States to achieve that status. It has continuously maintained its national accreditation status and in 2011 the program was awarded a six-year accreditation.

The administrative residency/internship is an integral part of VCU’s M.H.A. program. The basic purpose of the residency/internship is to provide students opportunities to apply and further develop their administrative knowledge and skills through a period of applied experience in an operational setting. The administrative residency/internship is supervised directly by experienced executives who serve as the students’ preceptors.

Through a carefully selected and organized residency/internship experience, students strengthen the foundation of general knowledge and skills gained through the core curriculum and develop further insight and expertise in their selected concentrations. Students serve their residency/internship in the type of health care organization in which they wish to gain specialized knowledge, skills and experience. Overall policies and guidance for the administrative residency/internship are established by the Department of Health Administration and are included in the Handbook for the Administrative Practica: Residencies and Internships.

Students become eligible for entrance into the administrative residency/internship after completing specified course work and achieving an overall GPA of 3.0. Students on academic probation or with any incomplete grades during their final on-campus semester prior to their residency may be, at the discretion of the faculty, prevented from entering their residency although their overall GPA is 3.0 or higher. In addition to meeting the academic requirements, the student must, in the judgment of the faculty, present evidence of readiness for a clinical experience by demonstrating sufficient academic proficiency in the core areas of the curriculum and by demonstrating professional maturity. The director of the M.H.A. program or designee has the responsibility to coordinate residency placements. In making these assignments, the director will consider the preferences of the students, the preferences of the preceptors and the recommendations of faculty advisers.

Program goal
The specific mission of the Master of Health Administration program is to prepare early careerists for management and leadership positions within complex health care organizations. The program is nationally accredited and has been consistently ranked in the top five programs in the nation by U.S. News and World Report.

The overall purpose of the Department of Health Administration in which the M.H.A. is housed is to provide top quality education, research and service related to the organization and administration of health care services. The department also has a major research program and is involved in a wide range of public service activities, including professional development programs for health services administrators and other health professionals.
The mission of the Department of Health Administration is to prepare, support and connect exceptional leaders who shape the health care industry. This is accomplished through:

1. Educating the next generation of health administrators and enhancing the skills of the present generation
2. Preparing a new generation of health services researchers and educators
3. Creating and disseminating basic and applied knowledge about the management, organization, financing, function and performance of the health care system
4. Serving people in the public and private sectors of the health care system

These activities, when mutually reinforced among all key people — faculty, staff, students, alumni — elevate the department to a premier status in the United States.

Student learning outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal/domain</th>
<th>Competency</th>
<th>Description/learning outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication and leadership management</td>
<td>Interpersonal communication</td>
<td>Build collaborative relationships and negotiation skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing skills</td>
<td>Prepare business communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presentation skills</td>
<td>Demonstrate effective oral communication and presentation skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>Leading and managing others</td>
<td>Hold self and others accountable for organizational goal attainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Change management</td>
<td>Promote and manage change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ability for honest self-assessment</td>
<td>Demonstrate reflection through self-assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Systems thinking</td>
<td>Be able to assess the potential impacts and consequences of decisions in a broad variety of situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Problem-solving and decision-making</td>
<td>Apply evidence-based decision-making techniques to health care questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionalism</td>
<td>Personal and professional ethics</td>
<td>Adhere to ethical business principles; exhibit ethical behaviors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Professional and community contribution

| Working in teams | Participate in community service; balance professional and personal pursuits |

Knowledge of the health care environment

| Health care issues and trends | Demonstrate knowledge of circumstances causing major changes and reform in U.S. health care delivery |
| Health care legal principles | Discuss and critically analyze health-related legal principles including standards, regulations and risk management |
| Health policy | Articulate the impact of select health policies on the delivery of health services |
| Population health and status assessment | Understand and explain the major factors in health status to health care professionals |

Business and analytical skills

| Financial management | Demonstrate the ability to compile and analyze financial data; develop capital, operating and cash flow budgets; analyze investment data; pro forma development |
| Human resources | Apply methods and techniques related to the management of health care organization employees and professional staff |
| Organizational dynamics and governance | Understand and be able to explain the roles, responsibilities, structures and influence governing bodies hold in health care organizations |
| Strategic planning | Ability to perform environmental analysis; discern competitive strategy; formulate business strategy based on evidence |
Marketing
- Analyze and assess markets, market segmentation, strategy, change and innovation

Information management/understanding and using technology skills
- Apply techniques and methods to plan, design, implement and assess information flow and communication

Quality improvement/ performance improvement
- Apply concepts of process improvement and patient safety to relevant problems

Quantitative skills
- Analyze data and interpret quantitative information

Planning and managing projects
- Design, plan, implement and assess projects related to performance, structure and outcomes of health services

Economic analysis and application
- Analyze and apply economic theory and concepts to business decisions

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
All enrolled students will be provided a handbook at orientation.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.H.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>GRE/GMAT scores on verbal and quantitative at or above the 50th percentile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Applications received by Dec are given priority for funding. For international students: a TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based), 250 (computer-based) minimum</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution with a 3.0 GPA for all undergraduate work completed
2. Prerequisite course work in microeconomics, financial accounting and business statistics
3. A working knowledge of college-level algebra
4. Transcripts and VCU application forms
5. GRE/GMAT scores on verbal and quantitative at or above the 50th percentile
6. TOEFL scores required for international students
7. Professional resume
8. Three letters of reference
9. Present evidence of personal achievement, scholarship, intellectual ability and professional promise (personal statement)
10. Invited interview with M.H.A. admissions committee

Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)
The prerequisite requirements may be met by completing specified courses with a minimum grade of C within the past five years at any accredited college or university.

International applicants must submit evidence of a preapproved residency site in the home country and evidence of financial responsibility.

VCU Honors students are eligible to apply for admission to the M.H.A. program during the junior or senior year of undergraduate study. The application process is the same as for other applicants with the following exceptions: (1) requirements for the GRE or GMAT are waived, (2) application fee is waived and (3) official transcript is not needed (as grades can be accessed in the VCU system). The admission decision will be made by the M.H.A. admissions committee, at which time a place will be reserved for the student, provided the student graduates with honors and completes the prerequisite course work.

Candidates with one to two years of experience are preferred.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete a total of 59 credit hours (including transfer credit hours, if any) to qualify for the Master of Health Administration degree. This requirement includes 48 credit hours of core course work plus at least three credit hours of elective studies in health administration and related disciplines, such as business administration, urban and regional planning, public health and gerontology. In addition, eight credit hours of practicum course work are required as a part of the administrative residency. The graduate program is designed to provide a balanced combination of academic studies and field experience to enable students to achieve the program’s educational goals and become well-prepared to enter the field of health administration.

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HADM 602</td>
<td>Health System Organization, Financing and Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 606</td>
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</tr>
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</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>HADM 612</td>
<td>Information Systems for Health Care Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 614</td>
<td>Health Care Marketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 615</td>
<td>Health Care Politics and Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM/ECON 624</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 646</td>
<td>Health Care Organization and Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 647</td>
<td>Management of Health Care Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 648</td>
<td>Strategic Management in Health Care Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 649</td>
<td>Human Resources Management in Health Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 681</td>
<td>Clinical Concepts and Relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 682 Executive Skills I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 683 Executive Skills II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 694 Practicum in Health Administration I</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 695 Practicum in Health Administration II</td>
<td>3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 638 Real Property Investment Law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 603 Social Gerontology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 692 Independent Study in Health Administration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 601 Emergency Management: Response Planning and Incident Command</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 650 Public Health Preparedness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 661 Information Systems for Managers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 637 Advanced Human Resource Management</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>MGMT 655 Entrepreneurship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 601 Principles of Public Administration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 625 Public Policy Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 650 Principles of Nonprofit Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCMA 677 Quality Management and Six Sigma</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

**Sample plan of study**

**Year one**

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HADM 602</td>
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</tr>
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<td>HADM 608</td>
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<td>Managerial Epidemiology</td>
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<td>Health Analytics and Decision Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>HADM 611</td>
<td>Health Care Law and Bioethics</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Information Systems for Health Care Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 646</td>
<td>Health Care Organization and Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 647</td>
<td>Management of Health Care Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 648</td>
<td>Strategic Management in Health Care Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 649</td>
<td>Human Resources Management in Health Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 681</td>
<td>Clinical Concepts and Relationships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 682 Executive Skills I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HADM 607</td>
<td>Financial Management in Health Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 610</td>
<td>Health Analytics and Decision Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 624</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 624</td>
<td>or Health Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 647</td>
<td>Management of Health Care Organizations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours:** 14

**Year two**

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HADM 608</td>
<td>Seminar in Health Care Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 612</td>
<td>Information Systems for Health Care Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 646</td>
<td>Health Care Organization and Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 647</td>
<td>Management of Health Care Organizations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 59**

1 The list is suggestive. Other graduate-level courses may be selected by a student, though they should be approved by the program director to ensure they meet requirements.
Advanced study in health administration and information systems is available through combined degree programs co-sponsored by the Department of Health Administration in the School of Allied Health Professions and the Department of Information Systems in the School of Business.

The combined M.H.A./M.S. program allows students interested in the fields of health management and information technology to earn two highly ranked and relevant master’s degrees in just three years, which is the time it usually takes to complete just one of the degrees. The combined degree program is ideal for students who are pursuing careers in health IT management, health IT business consulting or working in the health IT vendor industry.

Applicants for this program are required to meet the admission requirements of each program. For information regarding the dual-degree program, contact the director of the program.

The proposed curriculum allows students to earn both the M.H.A. and the M.S. in Information Systems with a total of 78 credit hours rather than the 89 credit hours that would be required to obtain the degrees separately. The dual-degree option offers this credit-hour efficiency by taking advantage of curricular similarities in the two programs and allowing some courses to count toward both sets of requirements. A total of 12 credit hours will count toward both degrees and the M.H.A. foundation courses will be substituted for the business school foundation course requirements for combined degree students. Students in the combined degree program will follow the same schedule as regular M.H.A. students, including the two lockstep years.

Students will take 51 credit hours of health administration courses required for the M.H.A. and nine additional courses (27 credit hours) in the M.S. in Information Systems program, including INFO 610, INFO 620 and INFO 630. Students whose undergraduate degrees are not in information systems may also be required to take additional undergraduate prerequisite courses before taking the graduate information systems courses, as determined by the program adviser. The HADM 612 course taken for the M.H.A. will substitute for INFO 640, normally required for the M.S. in Information Systems degree, and one of the additional information systems courses will also count toward the elective courses in the M.H.A. program. A three-credit-hour, 10-week internship is required and must have substantial global, entrepreneurial and/or experiential components related to both degrees. The six information systems courses to be taken in addition to INFO 610, INFO 620 and INFO 630, must be approved by the program adviser and would normally be selected to satisfy one of the M.S. in Information Systems concentrations.

Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HADM 602</td>
<td>Health System Organization, Financing and Performance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 606</td>
<td>Health Care Managerial Accounting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 607</td>
<td>Financial Management in Health Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 608</td>
<td>Seminar in Health Care Finance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 609</td>
<td>Managerial Epidemiology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 610</td>
<td>Health Analytics and Decision Support</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 611</td>
<td>Health Care Law and Bioethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 612</td>
<td>Information Systems for Health Care Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 614</td>
<td>Health Care Marketing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 615</td>
<td>Health Care Politics and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM/ECON 624</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 646</td>
<td>Health Care Organization and Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 647</td>
<td>Management of Health Care Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 648</td>
<td>Strategic Management in Health Care Organizations</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 649</td>
<td>Human Resources Management in Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 681</td>
<td>Clinical Concepts and Relationships</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 682</td>
<td>Executive Skills I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 683</td>
<td>Executive Skills II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 693</td>
<td>Internship in Health Administration</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 610</td>
<td>Analysis and Design of Database Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 620</td>
<td>Data Communications</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HADM 610</td>
<td>Health Care Law and Bioethics (Practicum)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HADM 611</td>
<td>Strategic Management in Health Care Organizations (Practicum)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 648</td>
<td>Management of Health Care Organizations (Practicum)</td>
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<tr>
<td>HADM 649</td>
<td>Human Resources Management in Health Care (Practicum)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 681</td>
<td>Clinical Concepts and Relationships (Practicum)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 682</td>
<td>Executive Skills I (Practicum)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 683</td>
<td>Executive Skills II (Practicum)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 693</td>
<td>Internship in Health Administration (Practicum)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 610</td>
<td>Analysis and Design of Database Systems (Practicum)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 620</td>
<td>Data Communications (Practicum)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Program website: had.vcu.edu (http://www.had.vcu.edu)
INFO 630  Systems Development  3
INFO electives (chosen with permission of adviser)  6
INFO focus area courses (see options below)  12
Total Hours  78

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 78

Information systems focus areas
Students must declare a focus in two of the following areas and take the classes offered for each of those two areas for a total of 12 credit hours.

### Business engineering
- INFO 611  Data Re-engineering  3
- INFO 632  Business Process Engineering  3

### Information assurance
- INFO 622  Internet Security Management  3
- INFO 644  Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security  3

### Information technology management
- INFO 641  Strategic Information Systems Planning  3
- INFO 643  Information Technology Project Management  3

### Knowledge engineering
- INFO 614  Data Mining  3
- INFO 616  Data Warehousing  3

#### Sample M.H.A./M.S. in Information Systems plan of study

**Year one**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 602</td>
<td>Health System Organization, Financing and Performance  3</td>
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<td>HADM 606</td>
<td>Health Care Managerial Accounting  3</td>
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<td>HADM 609</td>
<td>Managerial Epidemiology  2</td>
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<td>HADM 646</td>
<td>Health Care Organization and Leadership  3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HADM 681</td>
<td>Clinical Concepts and Relationships  2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 682</td>
<td>Executive Skills I  1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>HADM 607</td>
<td>Financial Management in Health Organizations  3</td>
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<td>HADM 610</td>
<td>Health Analytics and Decision Support  3</td>
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<td>HADM 624</td>
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<td>or</td>
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<td>ECON 624</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Management of Health Care Organizations  3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
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**Year two**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 608</td>
<td>Seminar in Health Care Finance  3</td>
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<td>HADM 612</td>
<td>Information Systems for Health Care Management  3</td>
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<td>HADM 615</td>
<td>Health Care Politics and Policy  3</td>
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<tr>
<td>HADM 683</td>
<td>Executive Skills II  1</td>
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<td>INFO course (elective or focus area course from above)  3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prerequisite INFO courses, if needed</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Spring semester**

| HADM 611 | Health Care Law and Bioethics  3 |
| HADM 614 | Health Care Marketing  3 |
| HADM 648 | Strategic Management in Health Care Organizations  3 |
| HADM 649 | Human Resources Management in Health Care  3 |
| TOTAL    |       |
|          | 12    |

**Summer semester**

| HADM 693 | Internship in Health Administration  3 |
| TOTAL    |       |
|          | 3     |

**Year three**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 611</td>
<td>Health Care Law and Bioethics  3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 612</td>
<td>Information Systems for Health Care Management  3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 615</td>
<td>Health Care Politics and Policy  3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 683</td>
<td>Executive Skills II  1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO course (elective or focus area course from above)  3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Graduate program director**

Dolores G. Clement, Ph.D., FACHE
Professor and director, dual-degree programs
Email: dclement@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-0719

**Additional contact**

Suzanne C. Havasy
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Email: shavasy@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-0719

**Program website:** had.vcu.edu/prospective/mha (http://sahp.vcu.edu/departments/ha/mha/prospective-students)

**Health Administration, Master of (M.H.A.)/Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the University of Richmond [combined]**

Advanced study in health administration and law is available through dual-degree programs co-sponsored by the department and the schools of law at the University of Richmond. The program leads to the awarding of the Master of Health Administration and Juris Doctor degrees.
Participants are provided the necessary expertise either to represent clients within the health care industry or to function as legal policy-makers or administrators who fully appreciate the legal environment of the health care field. Applicants for this program are required to meet the admission requirements of each program. For information regarding the dual-degree program, contact the director of the program.

The M.H.A. curriculum sequence of the M.H.A./J.D. degree is shown below. Students take a total of 48 credit hours of M.H.A. course work that includes a three-credit-hour internship.

### Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HADM 602</td>
<td>Health System Organization, Financing and Performance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 606</td>
<td>Health Care Managerial Accounting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 607</td>
<td>Financial Management in Health Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 608</td>
<td>Seminar in Health Care Finance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 609</td>
<td>Managerial Epidemiology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 610</td>
<td>Health Analytics and Decision Support</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 612</td>
<td>Information Systems for Health Care Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 614</td>
<td>Health Care Marketing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 615</td>
<td>Health Care Politics and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM/ECON 624</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 646</td>
<td>Health Care Organization and Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 647</td>
<td>Management of Health Care Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 648</td>
<td>Strategic Management in Health Care Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 649</td>
<td>Human Resources Management in Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 681</td>
<td>Clinical Concepts and Relationships</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 682</td>
<td>Executive Skills I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 683</td>
<td>Executive Skills II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 693</td>
<td>Internship in Health Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours:** 48

### Sample M.H.A./J.D. plan of study

#### Year one

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HADM 602</td>
<td>Health System Organization, Financing and Performance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 606</td>
<td>Health Care Managerial Accounting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 609</td>
<td>Managerial Epidemiology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 646</td>
<td>Health Care Organization and Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 681</td>
<td>Clinical Concepts and Relationships</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 682</td>
<td>Executive Skills I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:** 14

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HADM 607</td>
<td>Financial Management in Health Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 610</td>
<td>Health Analytics and Decision Support</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:** 3

**Total Hours:** 48

---

**Graduate program director**

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Professor and director, dual-degree programs
Email: dclement@vcu.edu
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**Additional contact**

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Coordinator, M.H.A. program
Email: shavasy@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-0719

**Program website:** had.vcu.edu/prospective/mha (http://www.had.vcu.edu/prospective/mha)

### Medicine, Doctor of (M.D.)/Health Administration, Master of (M.H.A.) [combined]

Advanced study in health administration and medicine is available through a dual-degree program co-sponsored by the Department of Health Administration and the VCU School of Medicine. The program leads to the awarding of the Doctor of Medicine and Master of Health Administration degrees. The objective of the M.D./M.H.A. program is to provide highly motivated medical students the expertise for management and leadership competency in complex health care organizations. Students may indicate their interest in the combined program prior to matriculation or during the first three years of the M.D. program. The program may be completed in five years. Applicants for this program are required to meet the admission requirements of each program.
For the combined degree program, course work for the M.H.A. is initiated following completion of the first two or three years of the M.D. program, occupies a full academic year (fall, spring and summer) and extends into a second year, and is taken during a hiatus from the third or fourth year of the M.D. program.

Students interested in the program may contact the School of Medicine Office of Curriculum or the director of the M.H.A. program in the Department of Health Administration (School of Allied Health Professions). For additional information refer to the School of Medicine handbook available on the school’s website at medschool.vcu.edu (http://www.medschool.vcu.edu).

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

The M.H.A. curricular sequence of the M.H.A./M.D. degree is shown below. Students take a total of 43 credit hours of M.H.A. course work, which includes a three-credit hour internship.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HADM 602</td>
<td>Health System Organization, Financing and Performance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 606</td>
<td>Health Care Managerial Accounting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 607</td>
<td>Financial Management in Health Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 610</td>
<td>Health Analytics and Decision Support</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 611</td>
<td>Health Care Law and Bioethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 612</td>
<td>Information Systems for Health Care Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 614</td>
<td>Health Care Marketing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 615</td>
<td>Health Care Politics and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM/ECON 624</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 646</td>
<td>Health Care Organization and Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 647</td>
<td>Management of Health Care Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 648</td>
<td>Strategic Management in Health Care Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 649</td>
<td>Human Resources Management in Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 682</td>
<td>Executive Skills I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 693</td>
<td>Internship in Health Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>43</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 43

Typical plan of study
Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

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Coordinator, M.H.A. program
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Phone: (804) 828-0719

Program website: had.vcu.edu/prospective/mha (http://www.had.vcu.edu/prospective/mha)

Health Administration, Master of Science in (M.S.H.A.)

Program accreditation
Commission on Accreditation of Health Management Education

Program goal
The Master of Science in Health Administration program mission is to prepare practicing professionals for management and leadership positions within complex health care organizations.

The overall purpose of the Department of Health Administration in which the M.S.H.A. is housed is to provide top quality education, research and service related to the organization and administration of health care services. The department also has a major research program and is involved in a wide range of public service activities, including professional development programs for health services administrators and other health professionals.

The mission of the Department of Health Administration is to prepare, support and connect exceptional leaders who shape the healthcare industry. This is accomplished through:

1. Educating the next generation of health administrators and enhancing the skills of the present generation
2. Preparing a new generation of health services researchers and educators
3. Creating and disseminating basic and applied knowledge about the management, organization, financing, function and performance of the health care system
4. Serving people in the public and private sectors of the health care system

These activities, when mutually reinforced among all key people — faculty, staff, students, alumni — elevate the department to a premier status in the United States.

The M.S.H.A. program is designed for self-motivated, mature and experienced professionals who are seeking advanced preparation in management and administrative roles that ultimately lead to executive positions in complex health services organizations. The curriculum emphasizes leadership in career progression as well as strategic and operational management of health care organizations. The program is nationally accredited and taught by faculty shared with the department’s nationally ranked M.H.A. program.

### Student learning outcomes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal/domain</th>
<th>Competency</th>
<th>Description/learning outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Communication and relationship management:</td>
<td>Interpersonal communication</td>
<td>Build collaborative relationships and negotiation skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Writing skills</td>
<td>Prepare business communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presentation skills</td>
<td>Demonstrate effective oral communication and presentation skills</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>Leading and managing others</td>
<td>Hold self and others accountable for organizational goal attainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Change management</td>
<td>Promote and manage change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ability for honest selfassessment</td>
<td>Demonstrate reflection through self-assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Systems thinking</td>
<td>Be able to assess the potential impacts and consequences of decisions in a broad variety of situations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Problem-solving and decision-making</td>
<td>Apply evidence-based decision-making techniques to health care questions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professionalism</td>
<td>Personal and professional ethics</td>
<td>Adhere to ethical business principles; exhibit ethical behaviors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Description/learning outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professional and community contribution</td>
<td>Participate in community service; balance professional and personal pursuits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working in teams</td>
<td>Create, participate in and lead teams, including interprofessionalism</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Knowledge of the health care environment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Description/learning outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health care issues and trends</td>
<td>Demonstrate knowledge of circumstances causing major changes and reform in U.S. health care delivery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care legal principles</td>
<td>Discuss and critically analyze health-related legal principles including standards, regulations and risk management.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health policy</td>
<td>Articulate the impact of select health policies on the delivery of health services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population health and status assessment</td>
<td>Understand and explain the major factors in health status to health care professionals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Business and analytical skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Description/learning outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial management</td>
<td>Demonstrate the ability to compile and analyze financial data; develop capital, operating and cash flow budgets; analyze investment data; pro forma development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human resources</td>
<td>Apply methods and techniques related to the management of health care organization employees and professional staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizational dynamics and governance</td>
<td>Understand and be able to explain the roles, responsibilities, structures and influence governing bodies hold in health care organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategic planning</td>
<td>Ability to perform environmental analysis; discern competitive strategy; formulate business strategy based on evidence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

All enrolled students will receive a student handbook at orientation.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.H.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>GRE/GMAT scores on verbal and quantitative at or above the 50th percentile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applicants who have taken the GRE or GMAT in the past five years may submit previous scores. Those applicants holding certain graduate or professional doctoral degrees (M.D., D.D.S., Pharm.D., Ph.D.) may have the testing requirement waived upon petition.

TOEFL scores for international students: score of 600 (paper-based), 250 (computer-based) or 100 (Internet-based) minimum.
In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution of higher education with a 2.75 GPA for all undergraduate work completed
2. Transcripts and VCU application forms
3. Five years of professional/managerial/health care experience
4. Employed in the health care field
5. Professional resume
6. Three letters of reference
7. Interview with M.S.H.A. admissions committee

Applicants with less than a 2.75 undergraduate GPA who have exceptional professional experience will be considered for admission on provisional status. If the applicant has completed any graduate studies (even if a degree was not awarded), performance in such course work will be considered in the admission decision.

Prerequisites: No specific previous course work is required for application. Upon formal acceptance, students will be provided, at cost, independent-study modules in three areas (microeconomics, accounting and statistics) to be completed prior to beginning the program. Applicants having acceptable previous course work in microeconomics, accounting and statistics may not be required to complete these modules. Generally, courses must be completed within five years of starting the program. The M.S.H.A. program begins in July for the fall semester.

Degree requirements

The M.S.H.A. program is designed to meet the distinctive needs of the experienced health care professional. Courses develop business skills for the unique health care environment so that students are prepared to meet the challenges of the health care marketplace. Classes draw upon the knowledge of the faculty and the diverse group of experienced professionals enrolled.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete 14 courses, a total of 41 credit hours (including transfer credit hours, if any), to qualify for the Master of Science in Health Administration degree. Each semester is composed of both on-campus and off-campus sessions. During the six, approximately week-long, on-campus sessions, students attend professional program classes on the MCV Campus. During off-campus sessions, students continue studies at their homes or work sites, employing a variety of online technologies. Students must successfully complete an integrative capstone case to complete the degree. The competency model utilized by the M.S.H.A. program is operationalized in curricular offerings in the development of learning objectives for individual courses.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HADE 602</td>
<td>Health Systems Organization, Financing and Performance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 606</td>
<td>Health Care Managerial Accounting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 607</td>
<td>Financial Management in Health Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 609</td>
<td>Managerial Epidemiology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 610</td>
<td>Health Analytics and Decision Support</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 611</td>
<td>Health Care Law and Bioethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 612</td>
<td>Information Systems for Health Care Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>HADE 614</td>
<td>Health Care Marketing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 615</td>
<td>Health Care Politics and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 624</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 646</td>
<td>Health Care Organization and Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 647</td>
<td>Management of Health Care Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 648</td>
<td>Strategic Management in Health Care Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 649</td>
<td>Human Resources Management in Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 41

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 41

Sample plan of study

Full-time enrollment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 602</td>
<td>Health Systems Organization, Financing and Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 624</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 646</td>
<td>Health Care Organization and Leadership</td>
</tr>
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<td>Term Hours</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 2</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 606</td>
<td>Health Care Managerial Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 610</td>
<td>Health Analytics and Decision Support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 615</td>
<td>Health Care Politics and Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 647</td>
<td>Management of Health Care Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 3</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 607</td>
<td>Financial Management in Health Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 609</td>
<td>Managerial Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 611</td>
<td>Health Care Law and Bioethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 612</td>
<td>Information Systems for Health Care Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours</td>
<td>11</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 4</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 614</td>
<td>Health Care Marketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 648</td>
<td>Strategic Management in Health Care Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADE 649</td>
<td>Human Resources Management in Health Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 41
Part-time enrollment

Recognizing the challenge that full-time enrollment brings to busy careers and personal lives, the department offers a part-time enrollment option in the M.S.H.A. program. Part-time students generally enroll in six or eight credit hours per semester and spend an additional 10 months in classes in the program. The recommended part-time schedule is shown below.

### Year one

#### Fall
- HADE 602 Health Systems Organization, Financing and Performance 3
- HADE 624 Health Economics 3

Term Hours: 6

#### Spring
- HADE 606 Health Care Managerial Accounting 3
- HADE 615 Health Care Politics and Policy 3
- HADE 647 Management of Health Care Organizations 3

Term Hours: 9

### Year two

#### Fall
- HADE 607 Financial Management in Health Organizations 3
- HADE 646 Health Care Organization and Leadership 3

Term Hours: 6

#### Spring
- HADE 610 Health Analytics and Decision Support 3
- HADE 614 Health Care Marketing 3

Term Hours: 6

### Year three

#### Fall
- HADE 609 Managerial Epidemiology 2
- HADE 611 Health Care Law and Bioethics 3
- HADE 612 Information Systems for Health Care Management 3

Term Hours: 8

#### Spring
- HADE 648 Strategic Management in Health Care Organizations 3
- HADE 649 Human Resources Management in Health Care 3

Term Hours: 6

Total Hours: 41

Graduate program director
Yasar Ozcan, Ph.D.
Professor and director
Email: ozcan@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-7799

Additional contact
Chuky Spivey
Coordinator, M.S.H.A. program
Email: ckspivey@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-7799

Program website: had.vcu.edu/prospective/msha (http://www.had.vcu.edu/prospective/msha)

**Health Services Organization and Research, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

**Program goal**

The Ph.D. in Health Services Organization and Research program is designed to prepare individuals for careers in teaching, research and consulting at the highest level of capability in the field of health care organizational analysis and health services research. Graduates will be competitive for positions at the nation’s top research and teaching institutions, governmental agencies and health care organizations.

**Student learning outcomes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Foundational knowledge of health care</th>
<th>Theoretical knowledge</th>
<th>Generate research questions and hypotheses</th>
<th>Study design</th>
<th>Data collection and management</th>
<th>Ethical conduct of research</th>
<th>Data analysis and interpretation</th>
<th>Communication and knowledge transfer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Display comprehensive knowledge of the context of health care systems, institutions, actors and environment.</td>
<td>Apply organizational theoretical and conceptual models relevant to health services research.</td>
<td>Review, critique and synthesize a body of research, identifying significant gaps in knowledge, methods and study subjects to develop research questions and testable hypotheses.</td>
<td>Select appropriate interventional (experimental and quasiexperimental) or observational (quantitative, qualitative or mixed) study designs to address health services research questions. Use a conceptual model to specify study constructs and develop valid and reliable variables to measure the constructs.</td>
<td>Sample and collect primary health and health care data and/or assemble and manage existing data from public or private sources.</td>
<td>Describe procedures that ensure the ethical and responsible conduct and dissemination of research.</td>
<td>Apply rigorous quantitative and qualitative analytical strategies to specific research questions. Demonstrate ability to interpret results of data analysis.</td>
<td>Effectively communicate issues, research findings and implications of health services research verbally and in writing to appropriate professional, scientific, student, policy and lay audiences.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Graduate program director**
Yasar Ozcan, Ph.D.
Professor and director
Email: ozcan@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-7799

**Additional contact**
Chuky Spivey
Coordinator, M.S.H.A. program
Email: ckspivey@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-7799
Integration

Develop and conduct original research that includes identifying the research question, selecting the theoretical framework, developing a study design, using appropriate methodologies, conducting the analysis and interpreting the results.

The doctoral program is designed to meet the professional development needs of:

1. Researchers, educators and policy analysts who want to develop in-depth theoretical and research capabilities about health services organizations
2. Clinical professionals who want to acquire a broader perspective on health care organizations and systems and to develop applied research skills in health services organization
3. Administrative professionals who want to prepare for positions as consultants or researchers in complex health organizations

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

All enrolled students will be provided a handbook at orientation.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
Ph.D. Fall only Mar 15 GRE or GMAT

Applications received by Dec 15 are given priority for funding
International students: TOEFL (Applications reviewed throughout year)

Special requirements

• Candidates with one to two years’ experience in the health care industry preferred.
• A part-time enrollment option, which requires three years of coursework prior to the dissertation research, is also available.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Graduate degree (in an academic or professional field) with a minimum GPA of 3.0
2. Working knowledge of college-level algebra
3. Advanced courses in statistics and economics
4. GRE/GMAT scores on verbal and quantitative at or above the 50th percentile
5. TOEFL scores required for international students
6. Transcripts and VCU application forms
7. Three letters of reference
8. Interview with HSOR admissions committee

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 57 credit hours of course work. This includes 48 hours in four major areas of study and nine hours of dissertation study. Students take two written comprehensive
examinations, covering health services organization and theory and health services research methods. Eleven credit hours of foundation course work are required. The program director and admissions committee may waive some of these courses. However, the credit hours required for the program are not reduced.

Curriculum requirements

Foundation courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HADM 602</td>
<td>Health System Organization, Financing and Performance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 624</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 702</td>
<td>Research in Health Care Financing and Delivery Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 711</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Services Organization I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 713</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Services Organization II</td>
<td>1</td>
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Health services organization theory courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HADM 701</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior for Health Services Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 704</td>
<td>Foundations of Health Service Organization Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 705</td>
<td>Advanced Health Service Organization Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Health services research methods courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Econometrics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 612</td>
<td>Econometrics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 761</td>
<td>Health Services Research Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 763</td>
<td>Applied Health Services Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Method electives (see list below) | 6

Specialization courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 642</td>
<td>Panel and Nonlinear Methods in Econometrics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 711</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 691</td>
<td>Topics in Management</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 722</td>
<td>Survey of Data Analysis Techniques in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 610</td>
<td>Behavioral Measurement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 632</td>
<td>Statistical Analysis and Modeling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 675</td>
<td>Time Series Analysis I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other electives may be approved by adviser.

Graduate program director

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Additional contact

Chuky Spivey
Program coordinator
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Program website: had.vcu.edu/prospective/phd (http://had.vcu.edu/prospective/phd)

Department of Nurse Anesthesia

Michael D. Fallacaro, D.N.S., CRNA, FAAN
Professor and chair

The program was first organized in 1969 as the School of Nurse Anesthetists, thus becoming the first academic program to be implemented in the newly organized School of Allied Health Professions.
A letter of intent for a proposed Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia program was submitted to the Commonwealth’s Council on Higher Education in 1977. When approved in May 1978, the graduate degree in nurse anesthesia became the first such offering within the profession of nurse anesthesia. While of major importance to the university, it marked a significant milestone for the profession of nurse anesthesia. The first class of graduate students was admitted in the fall of 1979 and graduated in the fall of 1981. A second hallmark was achieved in 2007 with approval of the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice program. The first Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists entered the post-master’s DNP program in January 2008. Soon to mark the beginning of a new era, the program anticipates enrollment of the first cohort of students into the entry-to-practice DNP option in 2017. The VCU Graduate Council approved this transition in 2015 and the application for approval by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs was submitted in February 2016.

Mission and philosophy

Mission

The mission of Virginia Commonwealth University is to provide a fertile and stimulating environment for learning, teaching, research, creative expression and public service. Essential to the life of the university is a faculty actively engaged in scholarship and creative exploration – activities that increase knowledge and understanding of the world and that inspire and enrich teaching.

The university is dedicated to educating full- and part-time students of all ages and diverse backgrounds in an atmosphere of free inquiry and scholarship so that they may realize their full potential as informed, productive citizens with a lifelong commitment to learning and service.

The mission of the Department of Nurse Anesthesia is to provide learners with the knowledge and skills necessary to work as part of an interprofessional team to serve the public through the delivery of safe, cost-efficient, quality anesthesia services and to develop leaders and scholars who will advance the specialty of nurse anesthesia through research, scholarship and public service. The department achieves this mission by establishing an environment that promotes excellence, values diversity, stimulates creativity and recognizes achievement.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the department reflects the core values of the faculty and provides the foundation for the curriculum. The department’s philosophy is synergistic with the mission and goals of VCU and the School of Allied Health Professions.

The department is a social agency dedicated to the education and development of health care professionals in the specialty of nurse anesthesia. Consequently, the faculty recognizes and accepts the responsibility entrusted to it for the learning experiences for its graduate students.

The philosophical orientation of the faculty is that learning is a developmental process through which cognitive, affective and psychomotor behaviors are developed and modified. This process includes the acquisition of information, the transfer and application of knowledge, the evaluation of new skills, and the development of a professional attitude and bearing.

The faculty further subscribes to the belief that the learning process is both positive and rewarding for the student; that it is a transaction between the student and teacher executed through formal and informal processes with an objective to prepare knowledgeable and skillful graduates. Hence, learning is a lifelong process that results in a change in thinking, valuing and behaving. The educational process includes teacher-learner interaction in setting goals, selecting and assessing learning experiences, determining instructional methods, and evaluating the learner’s progress. Learning experiences are designed to facilitate continuity in attainment of knowledge, skills and attitudes consistent with educational objectives, the individual needs of students and safe patient care. Students are respected as unique individuals possessing dignity, worth and the right to equity in educational opportunities. Faculty and students share the responsibility for creating an educational climate that reflects democratic values, fosters intellectual inquiry and creativity and encourages the maximum development of each individual’s potential.

The American health care system is becoming progressively complex. Technological advances and changing economic patterns foster competition for scarce resources while the patient population is becoming quite diverse. It is increasingly essential for the CRNA to provide care in a manner that collaborates with and values the contribution of other health professionals. As advanced practice nurses working in an ever-changing health care system, CRNAs are well-positioned for roles in research, teaching, policy-making and resource management and as integral members of interprofessional teams.

Graduate education in nurse anesthesia builds upon the education and experiences of the professional registered nurse holding an appropriate baccalaureate degree. Graduates are prepared, through a frame of academic excellence, to become proficient advanced-practice providers and leaders in the specialty and to make scholarly contributions to the health care system and community.

- Nurse Anesthesia Practice, Doctor of (D.N.A.P.) (p. 224)
- Nurse Anesthesia Practice, Doctor of (D.N.A.P.), entry-level (p. 227)
- Nurse Anesthesia Practice, Doctor of (D.N.A.P.)/Health Related Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in nurse anesthesia [sequential degree] (p. 229)
- Nurse Anesthesia Practice, Doctor of (D.N.A.P.)/Nurse Anesthesia, Master of Science in (M.S.N.A.) [combined] (p. 233)
- Nurse Anesthesia, Master of Science in (M.S.N.A.) (p. 236)

Nurse Anesthesia Practice, Doctor of (D.N.A.P.)

Program accreditation

Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs

Program goal

The mission of the Department of Nurse Anesthesia is to provide learners with the knowledge and skills necessary to work as part of an interprofessional team to serve the public through the delivery of safe, cost-efficient, quality anesthesia services and to develop leaders and scholars who will advance the specialty of nurse anesthesia through research, scholarship and public service. The department achieves this mission by establishing an environment that promotes excellence, values diversity, stimulates creativity and recognizes achievement.

Student learning outcomes

The overall objective of the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice program is to prepare graduates who have acquired knowledge, skills and competencies in patient safety, perianesthetic management, critical
thinking and communication to fulfill their professional responsibility as certified nurse anesthetists.

Upon completion of the program, the graduate will:

1. Apply physiological, safety and organizational theories to promote patient safety, enhance quality care and improve nurse anesthesia practice
2. Analyze and synthesize relevant scientific literature and apply results to improve nurse anesthesia practice and patient care outcomes in a culturally sensitive manner
3. Communicate effectively with patients, families, the public and other health professionals
4. Demonstrate leadership skills to meet the challenges of increasingly complex health care and educational environments impacting nurse anesthetists
5. Develop effective strategies for managing ethical dilemmas inherent in anesthesia patient care and the workplace
6. Employ teaching and learning principles for the nurse anesthetist in educating and counseling individuals, families, students-in-training and groups
7. Demonstrate nurse anesthesia scholarship through presentations, publications, leadership activities and collaboration with other disciplines
8. Utilize technology and information systems to analyze, manage and present data

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.

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Graduation requirements

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

A student handbook will be made available to all admitted students in their cohort organizations in Blackboard.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D.N.A.P.</td>
<td>Fall only</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>GRE within five years of application</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Review of applications is ongoing. Preference is given to those received prior to March 1 for fall entry.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must present the following minimum qualifications:

1. A graduate degree from an accredited university
2. Graduation from a nurse anesthesia educational program accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs
3. Certification by the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists
4. Recertification by the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists (if applicable)
5. Current licensure as a registered nurse and advanced practice nurse (as applicable)
6. A minimum cumulative graduate GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
7. Graduate Record Examination General Test within five years of application
8. Personal statement including:
   a. Reasons for seeking this educational opportunity
   b. Career goals and how this degree will aid in that process
   c. Prior lifework experience that will contribute to your success in
      the program
   d. Potential areas of interest for the capstone project
9. Completed Graduate School application
10. Three professional references
11. Personal interview (by invitation)

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements
(p. 40), candidates for the degree of Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice
must be recommended by the faculty and:
1. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum
2. Complete a capstone project
3. Earn a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all courses
4. Earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all work presented for
   graduation

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 708</td>
<td>Ethics and Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 760</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods for Health Related Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP/NRSA 701</td>
<td>Human Factors and Patient Safety for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 702</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Patient Safety Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 703</td>
<td>Health Services Delivery Systems for the Nurse Anesthetist</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 711</td>
<td>Policy and Practice for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 712</td>
<td>Leadership in Nurse Anesthesia Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 789</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Professional Practice</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 799</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Capstone Project</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33

Full-time and part-time planned courses of study

Full-time curriculum - one-year program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 708</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 760</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 701 or NRSA 701</td>
<td>Human Factors and Patient Safety for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Summer semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 712</td>
<td>Leadership in Nurse Anesthesia Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 789</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Professional Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Full-time curriculum - two-year program

Year one

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 708</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 701 or NRSA 701</td>
<td>Human Factors and Patient Safety for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring semester

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 702</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Patient Safety Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 703</td>
<td>Health Services Delivery Systems for the Nurse Anesthetist</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
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Summer semester

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 712</td>
<td>Leadership in Nurse Anesthesia Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 789</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Professional Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year two

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 760</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 799</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>5</td>
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</table>

Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 711</td>
<td>Policy and Practice for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 799</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Capstone Project</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Summer semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 789</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Professional Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Upon completion of the program, the graduate will:

1. Apply physiological, safety and organizational theories to promote patient safety, enhance quality care and improve nurse anesthesia practice
2. Analyze and synthesize relevant scientific literature and apply results to improve nurse anesthesia practice and patient care outcomes in a culturally sensitive manner
3. Communicate effectively with patients, families, the public and other health professionals
4. Develop effective strategies for managing ethical dilemmas inherent in anesthesia patient care and the workplace
5. Employ teaching and learning principles for the nurse anesthetist in educating and counseling individuals, families, students-in-training and groups
6. Demonstrate leadership skills to meet the challenges of complex health care and educational environments
7. Demonstrate nurse anesthesia scholarship through presentations, publications, leadership activities and collaboration with other disciplines
8. Utilize technology and information systems to analyze, manage and present data

**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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.** (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.** (p. 37)

**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 is completed by the student and approved by the graduate program director. No degrees will be conferred until the application to graduate is completed by the student and approved by the graduate program director.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
D.N.A.P. Spring only Mar 1 GRE within five years of application

Note: Review of applications is ongoing. Preference is given to those received prior to March 1 for spring entry.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must present the following minimum qualifications:

1. Baccalaureate degree in nursing or related science
2. Current, unencumbered licensure as a registered professional nurse in the United States and eligibility to obtain a registered professional nursing license in Virginia (prior to completion of the third semester)
3. Minimum cumulative undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (preferred)
4. Completion of the Graduate Record Examination within five years of application
5. A minimum of one year full-time work experience, or its part-time equivalent, as a registered nurse in a critical-care setting
6. Personal interview with members of the Admissions Committee (by invitation)
7. Three professional references (one of which must be from the immediate supervisor responsible for performance evaluations, including his or her contact number)

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), candidates for the degree of Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice must be recommended by the faculty and:

1. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum
2. Earn a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all DNAP courses
3. Earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all work presented for graduation
4. Meet all clinical requirements as specified by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs and the National Board of Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists
5. Successfully complete both the Self-Evaluation Examination offered by the National Board of Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists and a written comprehensive examination

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 708</td>
<td>Ethics and Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 701</td>
<td>Human Factors and Patient Safety for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 702</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Patient Safety Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DNAP 703 Health Services Delivery Systems for the Nurse Anesthetist 3
DNAP 704 Advanced Physiology/Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists I 3
DNAP 705 Advanced Physiology/Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists II 3
DNAP 706 Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthetists I 3
DNAP 707 Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthetists II 3
DNAP 711 Policy and Practice for Nurse Anesthetists 3
DNAP 712 Leadership in Nurse Anesthesia Education 3
DNAP 716 Advanced Chemistry and Physics Concepts for Nurse Anesthetists 1
DNAP 717 Advanced Physiological Concepts for Nurse Anesthetists 2
DNAP 718 Advanced Health Assessment for Nurse Anesthetists 3
DNAP 721 Clinical Practicum I 3
DNAP 722 Clinical Practicum II 4
DNAP 723 Clinical Practicum III 5
DNAP 724 Clinical Practicum IV 5
DNAP 725 Clinical Practicum V 5
DNAP 731 Professional Aspects of Nurse Anesthesia Practice 3
DNAP 733 Evidence-based Decision-making in Nurse Anesthesia 3
DNAP 734 Research Methods and Statistical Measures in Nurse Anesthesia Practice 3
DNAP 735 Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia Practice I 4
DNAP 736 Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia II 3
DNAP 737 Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia III 3
DNAP 738 Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia IV 2
DNAP 739 Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia V 2
DNAP 789 Nurse Anesthesia Professional Practice 6
DNAP 799 Nurse Anesthesia Capstone Project 6

Total Hours 93

Planned course of study

Year one

Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 703</td>
<td>Health Services Delivery Systems for the Nurse Anesthetist</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 731</td>
<td>Professional Aspects of Nurse Anesthesia Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 733</td>
<td>Evidence-based Decision-making in Nurse Anesthesia</td>
<td>3</td>
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Term Hours: 9
### Summer semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 716</td>
<td>Advanced Chemistry and Physics Concepts for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 717</td>
<td>Advanced Physiological Concepts for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 718</td>
<td>Advanced Health Assessment for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

**Term Hours:** 6

### Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 704</td>
<td>Advanced Physiology/Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 706</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthetists I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 735</td>
<td>Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia Practice I</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

**Term Hours:** 10

### Year two

#### Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 705</td>
<td>Advanced Physiology/Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 707</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthetists II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 721</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>DNAP 736</td>
<td>Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia II</td>
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**Term Hours:** 12

#### Summer semester

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 722</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 734</td>
<td>Research Methods and Statistical Measures in Nurse Anesthesia Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 737</td>
<td>Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia III</td>
<td>3</td>
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**Term Hours:** 10

#### Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 708</td>
<td>Ethics and Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 712</td>
<td>Leadership in Nurse Anesthesia Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 723</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum III</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 738</td>
<td>Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia IV</td>
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**Term Hours:** 13

### Year three

#### Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 702</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Patient Safety Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 711</td>
<td>Policy and Practice for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 724</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum IV</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 739</td>
<td>Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia V</td>
<td>2</td>
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**Term Hours:** 13

#### Summer semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 725</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum V</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 799</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Capstone Project</td>
<td>6</td>
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**Term Hours:** 11

### Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 701</td>
<td>Human Factors and Patient Safety for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DNAP 789</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Professional Practice</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:** 9

**Total Hours:** 93

### Graduate program director

Michael D. Fallacaro, D.N.S., CRNA, FAAN  
Professor and chair, Department of Nurse Anesthesia  
Email: mdfallac@vcu.edu  
Phone: (804) 828-9808

### Additional contact

Suzanne M. Wright, Ph.D., CRNA  
Associate professor and assistant program director  
Email: smwright@vcu.edu  
Phone: (804) 828-9808

### Program website

sahp.vcu.edu/nrsa (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/nrsa)

### Nurse Anesthesia Practice, Doctor of (D.N.A.P.)/Health Related Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in nurse anesthesia [sequential degrees]

#### Program mission/purpose

The Ph.D. in Health Related Sciences program will provide experienced health professionals with advanced knowledge and skills so that they may assume positions in teaching, research and administration upon graduation. It offers a curriculum with an interdisciplinary core of courses with concentrations in clinical laboratory sciences, gerontology, health care outcomes research, nurse anesthesia, occupational therapy, patient counseling, physical therapy, radiation sciences and rehabilitation leadership. The program emphasizes use of distance-learning technologies combined with traditional didactic methods. The curriculum is relevant, timely and meaningful to a multidisciplinary cohort of students.

The sequential D.N.A.P. to Ph.D. concentration meets the growing interest and needs of those D.N.A.P. students who desire a research doctorate. The program integrates content specific to the practice doctorate with content specific to the research doctorate where the Ph.D. portion of the program begins following successful completion of the D.N.A.P. The objective of the program is to prepare certified registered nurse anesthetists holding master’s degrees for careers in nurse anesthesia leadership, education and research. Students in this concentration take three courses that are shared between the two individual programs and are able to satisfy program requirements, in part, through distance technology while continuing to maintain their current family and employment obligations.

#### Student learning outcomes

Students completing this doctoral program will:

1. Demonstrate the ability to conduct research, understand issues, design and execute research plans, analyze research results, and present conclusions in the area of interdisciplinary health care using the appropriate methods
2. Demonstrate an in-depth knowledge in the area of specialization
3. Exhibit competency in translating research knowledge and principles into applied practice perspectives and skills
4. Display educational expertise in current principles and content of the allied health sciences and teach in the area of interdisciplinary health care practice
5. Display the ability to examine current issues and future changes in the health care environment from an interdisciplinary perspective
6. Exhibit knowledge and understanding of professional and ethical responsibility and conduct in the allied health professions
7. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the importance of cultural diversity in the delivery of health care and the formulation of health policy

**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.

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**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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

**Program completion requirements**

The doctor of philosophy degree is awarded after (1) the minimum 51 credit hours of course work are completed, (2) comprehensive exams are passed, and (3) either a dissertation is written and defended orally by the doctoral candidate once enrolled in the program or three first-author articles of publishable quality (on research undertaken by the doctoral candidate once enrolled in the program) are written and defended orally. The journal articles will be scrutinized for quality of scholarship by an internal research committee headed by the student’s research adviser. All three articles must be approved by the internal research committee prior to submission.

**Other information**

**Student handbook**

A student handbook will be made available to all admitted students in their cohort organizations in Blackboard.

**Facilities**

The administrative offices for the program are located on the MCV Campus, at 1200 E. Broad St. (West Hospital, First Floor, East Wing).

**Apply online at** [graduate.admissions.vcu.edu](http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall (begins end of Jun)</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>GRE or MAT Test must have been taken within the past five years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special requirements**

- When applicable, applicants must have a minimum Test of English as a Foreign Language score of 600. The Ph.D. program in health related sciences utilizes two six-month semesters per year (January through June and July through December), which include both on- and off-campus components.
- Students interested in the sequential Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice to Ph.D. in Health Related Sciences concentration must first be admitted to the D.N.A.P. program. Matriculated D.N.A.P. students who wish to enter the combined concentration may apply to the Ph.D. program during the semester preceding graduation from the D.N.A.P. program. Applicants must meet the admission requirements and prerequisites of both programs, be enrolled in the D.N.A.P. program and have demonstrated satisfactory academic performance and professionalism.
In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the Ph.D. program must meet the following criteria:

1. Have an earned master’s degree in an academic or allied health-related field from an accredited college or university; preference will be given to applicants who have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.3 on master’s-level work (The master’s degree should be in one of the departmental areas of choice of concentration.)
2. Have GRE (verbal, quantitative and analytic writing) or MAT scores from within the past five years
3. Have completed a graduate course in statistics with a minimum grade of B
4. Demonstrate a record of professional competency and success
5. Articulate clear professional and educational goals and written communication skills through the submission of a written essay
6. Have any additional qualifications/certifications of the individual concentrations

Prior to reviewing an application for admission, the program must receive:

1. A completed application form from the applicant, including:
   a. Three letters of recommendation, two of which preferably are from sources qualified to assess the candidate’s academic potential
   b. A written essay that discusses career goals and the manner in which this doctoral program will enhance those goals and what the applicant expects to contribute to this program
   c. A curriculum vitae
2. Official transcripts indicating completion of baccalaureate and master’s degrees (or equivalent) from an accredited college or university
3. GRE or MAT scores

Incomplete packages may not be reviewed. Materials are sent to the Graduate Admissions office for processing and then forwarded to the School of Allied Health Professions. Once received in the school, the application is reviewed for completeness. Applicants with incomplete files will be contacted regarding the missing materials. Incomplete files will be held in the director’s office until all materials are received.

Completed folders will be sent to the respective departmental representative of the School of Allied Health Professions Doctoral Program Advisory Committee. Departments will then rank qualified applicants and, based on a review of the file, a personal interview will be scheduled at the department’s discretion for the top candidates. Following the departmental ranking, all files will be returned to the director’s office.

The DPAC will meet to select and recommend the incoming class. The director and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions are responsible for the final decision.

Applicants will be notified by the Graduate Admissions office regarding the admission decision and of the deadline for their acceptance of the offer and holding fee.

**Degree requirements**

Students in the D.N.A.P. program apply to the Ph.D. in Health Related Sciences program during the last semester in the D.N.A.P. program. Once accepted into the Ph.D. program, students continue with the curriculum as described.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must successfully complete a total of 75 credit hours (33 credit hours from the D.N.A.P. program and 51 credit hours from the Ph.D. program minus nine credit hours for three shared courses). The Ph.D. curriculum includes 18 credit hours of common interdisciplinary core courses, 12 credit hours of research methods core courses, nine credit hours of specialty track (courses shared with the D.N.A.P. program), 12 credit hours of dissertation research, two comprehensive examinations, a research proposal defense and the final dissertation defense.

**Continuation requirements**

After admission to the Ph.D. program, the student must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all of the course work completed at VCU. A student who falls below that minimum will have one semester to remedy the deficiency. Even with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0, a student may earn no more than two (six credit hours) grades of C. Students who receive a grade of D or F will be reviewed for continuation in the program by the department of their concentrations.

Students are expected to maintain continuous enrollment while in the program. Following the completion of the core course work, students must register for at least one credit hour each fall and spring semester for continuation in the program. A student who fails to register must have advance approval to do so or will be dropped automatically from the program and must reapply for reinstatement. The maximum time to complete all of the requirements for the degree is eight calendar years from the date of entry into the program.

**Course transfer or waiver**

A maximum of 25 percent of the course work other than research may be transferred from another VCU program or outside institution and applied toward the degree requirements. Transfer and waiver credit is given at the discretion of the program director after consultation with appropriate faculty members, subject to university approval. Courses taken as requirements for other degrees are not transferable, unless approved as part of a combined degree program. A waiver may be warranted if an equivalent course was taken. However, another course must be substituted for the waived course in order to fulfill the requisite credit hours needed for degree completion.

**Comprehensive examination**

The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to provide a vehicle through which students can demonstrate the ability to integrate their educational experiences by adequately addressing complex questions pertinent to the current and developing knowledge of the allied health fields. Students are eligible to take each of the two comprehensive examinations upon successful completion of the appropriate core course work. The core exam must be taken within six months of completing the core course work. Following the completion of the core course work, students are expected to maintain continuous enrollment while in the program.

Two written examinations will be administered, one for the common interdisciplinary core and one for the research methods core. A three-member graduate faculty committee will develop and administer each exam. This committee will be made up of two members of the core faculty and one member appointed by the program director. Each exam will be offered once in the fall semester and once in the spring semester. Prior to completion of the semester in which students become eligible for continuation in the program, students must pass the comprehensive examination and enroll in nine credit hours of dissertation research. The dissertation research consists of a research proposal defense and the final dissertation defense. The comprehensive examination should be attempted no later than the second year of the Ph.D. program.
to take each exam, they must submit a formal statement of intent to the program coordinator.

Students who receive a failing grade on the initial attempt will have one opportunity to repeat each comprehensive examination. Failure to pass an exam on the second attempt will result in dismissal from the program.

Curriculum structure
The Ph.D. program curriculum is designed to take four years to complete. Students spend the first two and one-half years (six-month-long semesters) completing course work. The final year and one-half is spent developing the doctoral dissertation. Research components are present in each year of the program, and a research emphasis is present throughout the entire curriculum. Students are required to designate the area of intended research in their concentration areas in the first year.

Each of the five course-work semesters is composed of both on- and off-campus components. On-campus sessions, scheduled during the end of June and beginning of July and at the beginning of January, will employ a rather traditional mix of educational technologies (e.g., lectures, seminars and assigned reading). During the off-campus component of each semester, students pursue their studies employing a wide variety of innovative educational technologies (e.g., computer conferencing, computer-aided instruction, videotape packages and programmed instructional material), in addition to assigned readings and the completion of various assignments and projects. Upon completion of the five semesters of course work, students are required to return to campus each semester until a research proposal has been developed and successfully defended.

Advising
Upon admission to the program, students will be assigned an interim adviser to guide them through the core courses and assist them as they consider their areas of research. All program advisers will have an earned doctorate and be members of the university’s graduate faculty.

Students may change their interim advisers as their programs of study and interests evolve, if approved by the program director. Although discouraged, some students may wish to switch their area of concentration (changing from the department through which they were initially admitted to the program). Students who want to change concentration areas must petition the doctoral program director. The petition must be approved by the program director, the DPAC and the appropriate department chair. There is no guarantee that the applicant will be accepted into the new concentration.

After successful completion of the comprehensive examinations, students will choose a dissertation chair that will serve as adviser and guide them through the research/dissertation process.

Computer requirements
All students admitted to the program must have access to a personal computer and a DSL or cable modem. Once admitted to the program, it is recommended that students who do not feel proficient in computer skills enroll in a basic computer course to become comfortable with use of the Internet and with the basics of document processing software.

Admission to candidacy
Students are eligible to begin their dissertations upon written certification by the program director and associate dean of the Graduate School that all predissertation/research requirements, including the comprehensive examinations, have been satisfied and that the student is prepared to proceed with the dissertation/research project. Copies of the certification will be forwarded to the student, the student’s formal program adviser and the dean of the School of Allied Health Professions. After admission to candidacy, students will proceed to propose, complete and defend their dissertations or three journal articles research requirement.

Enrollment requirement
Students are required to maintain continuous enrollment in ALHP 899 until completion of the requirements, including the defense process.

Dissertation/research committee
After successful completion of the comprehensive exam, the student nominates a dissertation/research committee, and the dissertation/research director submits the nominations in writing to the program director. Such committees will consist of a minimum of four graduate faculty members, one of whom will be outside the student’s concentration area. The program director will provide written approval of the dissertation/research committee and clear such appointments with the appropriate administrative officials.

Dissertation/research standards
The dissertation or publishable research articles must represent independent research and should be based on an original research question or hypothesis. Generally, dissertations or publishable research articles will demonstrate the student’s ability with empirical research, adhering to canons of (1) logic in conceptualization and design, (2) valid and reliable measurement, (3) appropriate analytic technique and (4) appropriate interpretation of results. Studies should be based on a formal theoretical or conceptually explicit framework for investigating a question or testing a hypothesis relevant to the allied health field.

Curriculum requirements
Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 702</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALHP 899</td>
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</table>
Health Services Delivery Systems for the Nurse Anesthetist

Sample plan of study

D.N.A.P. program requirements

Fall semester 2
ALHP 708 Ethics and Health Care 3

Spring semester 2
DNAP 703 Health Services Delivery Systems for the Nurse Anesthetist 3

Fall semester 3
ALHP 760 Biostatistical Methods for Health Related Sciences 3

Ph.D. in Health Related Sciences

Semester 1
ALHP 712 Curriculum and Communication Design for Health Care Professionals 3

Term Hours: 3

Semester 2
ALHP 702 Finance and Economic Theory for Health Care 3
ALHP 761 Health Related Sciences Research Design 3
ALHP 762 Multivariate Statistical Methods for Health Related Sciences Research 3

Term Hours: 9

Semester 3
ALHP 763 Clinical Outcomes Evaluation for Health Related Sciences 3
ALHP 781 Doctoral Seminar in Health Related Sciences 3

Methods comprehensive exam

Term Hours: 9

Semester 4
ALHP 716 Grant Writing and Project Management in Health Related Sciences 3
ALHP 890 Dissertation Seminar 3

Core comprehensive exam

Term Hours: 6

Semester 5
ALHP 792 Independent Study (hours variable; three hours required) 3
ALHP 793 Research Practicum 3
ALHP 899 Dissertation Research (nine hours required) 1-9

Term Hours: 15

Semester 6
ALHP 899 Dissertation Research (hours variable) 1-9

Term Hours: 3

Semester 7

Graduate program director
Paula K. Kupstas, Ph.D.
Associate professor
Email: pkupstas@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1914

Additional contact
Monica L. White
Program coordinator
Email: mlwhite1@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-3273

Program website: sahp.vcu.edu/phd

Nurse Anesthesia Practice, Doctor of (D.N.A.P.)/Nurse Anesthesia, Master of Science in (M.S.N.A.) [combined]

Program accreditation
Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs

Program goal
The mission of the Department of Nurse Anesthesia is to provide learners with the knowledge and skills necessary to work as part of an interprofessional team to serve the public through the delivery of safe, cost-efficient, quality anesthesia services and to develop leaders and scholars who will advance the specialty of nurse anesthesia through research, scholarship and public service. The department achieves this mission by establishing an environment that promotes excellence, values diversity, stimulates creativity and recognizes achievement.

Student learning outcomes
In addition to the learning outcomes of the individual M.S.N.A. and D.N.A.P programs, graduates of the combined M.S.N.A./D.N.A.P. program will be able to:

1. Apply physiological, safety and organizational theories to promote patient safety, enhance quality care and improve nurse anesthesia practice
2. Analyze and synthesize relevant scientific literature and apply results to improve nurse anesthesia practice and patient care outcomes in a culturally sensitive manner
3. Communicate effectively with patients, families, the public and other health professionals
4. Develop effective strategies for managing ethical dilemmas inherent in anesthesia patient care and the workplace
5. Employ teaching and learning principles in educating and counseling individuals, families, students-in-training and groups
6. Demonstrate leadership skills to meet the challenges of complex health care and educational environments

7. Demonstrate scholarship through presentations, publications, leadership activities and collaboration with other disciplines

8. Utilize technology and information systems to analyze, manage and present data

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Other information**

A student handbook will be made available to all admitted students in their cohort organizations in Blackboard.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.N.A.</td>
<td>Fall only</td>
<td>Jun 1</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D.N.A.P.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Review of applications is ongoing. Preference is given to applications received prior to June 1 for fall entry.

Master of Nurse Anesthesia students with a minimum GPA of 3.25 are eligible to apply to the combined M.S.N.A. and D.N.A.P. program during the third semester of study. Students enrolled in the M.S.N.A./D.N.A.P. combined degree option will graduate with the master's degree in nurse anesthesia at the end of the seven-semester, 28-month master's curriculum and take the national certification exam. These students will then continue their doctoral studies (largely via distance) in the eighth semester (spring) to graduate with the Doctor of Nurse Anesthesia Practice degree at the end of the eighth semester.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Currently enrolled and in good academic standing in VCU’s M.S.N.A. program
2. Current licensure as a registered nurse and advanced practice nurse (as applicable)
3. A cumulative minimum graduate GPA of 3.25 on a 4.0 scale
4. Graduate Record Examination general test within five years of application
5. Personal statement including:
   a. Reasons for seeking this educational opportunity
   b. Career goals and how this degree will aid in that process
   c. Prior lifework experience that will contribute to your success in the program
   d. Potential areas of interest for the capstone project
6. Completed Graduate School application to D.N.A.P. program by July 1 of year graduating from M.S.N.A. program
7. Three professional references
8. Personal interview (by invitation)
9. M.S.N.A./D.N.A.P. students must pass the National Certification Examination to be eligible for graduation from the D.N.A.P. component of the M.S.N.A./D.N.A.P. program.
### Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the combined program must complete a minimum of 97 credit hours (98 with elective).

### Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 708</td>
<td>Ethics and Health Care</td>
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<td>ALHP 760</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods for Health Related Sciences</td>
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<td>DNAP/NRSA 701</td>
<td>Human Factors and Patient Safety for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
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<td>DNAP 702</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Patient Safety Seminar</td>
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<td>Health Services Delivery Systems for the Nurse Anesthetist</td>
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<td>DNAP 711</td>
<td>Policy and Practice for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
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<td>DNAP 712</td>
<td>Leadership in Nurse Anesthesia Education</td>
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<td>DNAP 789</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Professional Practice</td>
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<td>DNAP 799</td>
<td>Nurse Anesthesia Capstone Project</td>
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<td>MEDC 532</td>
<td>Medicinal Chemistry for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
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<td>NRSZ 601</td>
<td>Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia I</td>
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<td>NRSZ 602</td>
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<td>Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia III</td>
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<td>NRSZ 611</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRSZ 620</td>
<td>Advanced Health Assessment for Nurse Anesthetists I</td>
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<td>NRSZ 683</td>
<td>Research Methods in Nurse Anesthesia Practice</td>
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<td>NRSZ 684</td>
<td>Evidence-based Decision Making in Nurse Anesthesia</td>
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<td>NRSZ 685</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHTX 515</td>
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<tr>
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**Total credit hours required (minimum) 97**

1 Completing NRSA 611, an elective course, brings curriculum total to 98 hours.

### Sample plan of study

#### Year one

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>NRSA 620</td>
<td>Advanced Health Assessment for Nurse Anesthetists I</td>
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<td>NRSZ 601</td>
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**Term Hours:** 13

**Spring semester**

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<td>NRSA 622</td>
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<td>NRSA 683</td>
<td>Research Methods in Nurse Anesthesia Practice</td>
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<td>PHTX 516</td>
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**Term Hours:** 14

#### Summer semester

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<td>NRSA 633</td>
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<td>NRSA 642</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Professional Aspects of Anesthesia Practice II</td>
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**Term Hours:** 10

#### Year two

**Fall semester**

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<td>Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia IV</td>
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<td>NRSA 624</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum III</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRSA 645</td>
<td>Professional Aspects of Anesthesia Practice II</td>
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</table>

**Term Hours:** 12

**Spring semester**
Nurse Anesthesia, Master of Science in (M.S.N.A.)

Program accreditation
Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs

Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

Program goal
The mission of the Department of Nurse Anesthesia is to provide learners with the knowledge and skills necessary to work as part of an interprofessional team to serve the public through the delivery of safe, cost-efficient, quality anesthesia services and to develop leaders and scholars who will advance the specialty of nurse anesthesia through research, scholarship and public service. The department achieves this mission by establishing an environment that promotes excellence, values diversity, stimulates creativity and recognizes achievement.

Student learning outcomes
The overall objective of the Master of Science in Nurse Anesthesia degree program is to prepare graduates who have acquired knowledge, skills and competencies in patient safety, perianesthetic management, critical thinking and communication to fulfill their professional responsibility as certified nurse anesthetists.

Upon completion of the program, the graduate will:
1. Plan, organize, deliver and evaluate safe anesthesia care
2. Design, implement and evaluate perianesthetic care
3. Incorporate critical thinking into ongoing professional practice
4. Evaluate the postoperative course of a patient
5. Assimilate into practice effective and culturally competent written, verbal and nonverbal communication with patients and families, other individuals involved in patient care, and the public
6. Assume responsibility for professional behavior

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

A student handbook will be made available to all admitted students in their cohort organizations in Blackboard.

Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.N.A.</td>
<td>Fall only</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>GRE within five years of application</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Review of applications is ongoing. Preference is given to applications received prior to Jan. 1 for fall entry.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Baccalaureate degree in nursing or related science
2. Current licensure as a registered professional nurse in Virginia (by completion of the first semester)
3. Cumulative minimum undergraduate grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (preferred)
4. Upper-division undergraduate organic chemistry course or a Web-based medicinal chemistry prep course offered through VCU’s Department of Chemistry [Contact (804) 828-9808 to register.]
5. A minimum of one year’s experience in an area of acute/critical care nursing (recent)
6. Personal interview with members of the admissions committee (by invitation)
7. Three professional references (One must be from the immediate supervisor who is responsible for applicant’s performance evaluations with contact phone number attached.)

Contact the department (804) 828-9808 for specific admission requirements.

Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), candidates for the M.S.N.A. degree must be recommended by the faculty and:

1. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum
2. Earn a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all NRSA courses
3. Earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 in all work presented for graduation
4. Meet all clinical requirements as specified by the National Board on Certification and Recertification of Nurse Anesthetists
5. Successfully complete the Self Evaluation Examination offered by the National Board of Certification and Recertification for Nurse Anesthetists and a two-part (didactic/research) written comprehensive examination

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 532</td>
<td>Medicinal Chemistry for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRSA 601</td>
<td>Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>NRSA 602</td>
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<td>Clinical Practicum IV</td>
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<td>NRSA 626</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum V</td>
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<td>Clinical Practicum VI</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRSA 633</td>
<td>Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRSA 642</td>
<td>Professional Aspects of Anesthesia Practice I</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRSA 645</td>
<td>Professional Aspects of Anesthesia Practice II</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRSA 647</td>
<td>Professional Aspects of Anesthesia Practice III</td>
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<td>NRSA 683</td>
<td>Research Methods in Nurse Anesthesia Practice</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NRSA 684</td>
<td>Evidence-based Decision Making in Nurse Anesthesia</td>
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Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 73

Sample plan of study

Year one

Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NRSA 601</td>
<td>Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia I</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRSA 620</td>
<td>Advanced Health Assessment for Nurse Anesthetists I</td>
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<tr>
<td>NRSZ 601</td>
<td>Laboratory in Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia I</td>
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<td>PHIS 501</td>
<td>Mammalian Physiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHTX 515</td>
<td>Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthetists I</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHTX 516</td>
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Term Hours: 13

Spring semester

<table>
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<td>NRSA 603</td>
<td>Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia III</td>
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<td>Advanced Health Assessment for Nurse Anesthetists II</td>
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<td>PHTX 516</td>
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Term Hours: 14

Summer semester

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<td>NRSA 623</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum I-II</td>
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<td>NRSA 633</td>
<td>Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists</td>
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<td>Professional Aspects of Anesthesia Practice I</td>
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Term Hours: 10

Year two

Fall semester

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<td>Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia IV</td>
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Term Hours: 9

Spring semester

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<td>NRSA 625</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum IV</td>
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<td>NRSZ 601</td>
<td>Laboratory in Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia I (crosslisted as DNAP 701)</td>
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Term Hours: 9

Year three

Fall semester

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<tr>
<td>NRSA 701</td>
<td>Human Factors and Patient Safety for Nurse Anesthetists (crosslisted as DNAP 701)</td>
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Term Hours: 9

Total Hours: 73

Graduate program director
Michael D. Fallacaro, D.N.S., CRNA, FAAN
Professor and chair, Department of Nurse Anesthesia
Email: mdfallac@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-9808

Additional contact
Suzanne M. Wright, Ph.D., CRNA
Associate professor and assistant program director
Email: smwright@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-9808

Program website: sahp.vcu.edu/nrsa (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/nrsa)

Department of Occupational Therapy

Albert E. Copolillo, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair

The program in occupational therapy was initiated at Richmond Professional Institute in 1942. In 1965, the graduate program leading to a Master of Science degree in basic professional education in occupational therapy was initiated. The School of Occupational Therapy became a department in the School of Allied Health Professions in 1970.

Philosophy

The philosophy of the Department of Occupational Therapy embraces the philosophical base of occupational therapy stated by the American Occupational Therapy Association (1979):

Man is an active being whose development is influenced by the use of purposeful activity. Human beings are able to influence their physical and mental health and their social and physical environment through purposeful activity. Human life is a process of continuous adaptation. Adaptation is a change in function that promotes survival and self-actualization. Biological, psychological and environmental factors may interrupt the adaptation process at any time throughout the life cycle, causing dysfunction. Purposeful activity facilitates the adaptive process. Purposeful activity (occupation), including its interpersonal and environmental components, may be used to prevent and mediate dysfunction and to elicit maximum function. Activity as used by occupational therapists includes both an intrinsic and a therapeutic
Mission
The primary mission of the Department of Occupational Therapy is the preparation of excellent, innovative, adaptable and responsible occupational therapists as professional leaders for the state and the nation.

In pursuit of this mission, the department:

- Fosters student commitment to scientific inquiry and professional competence, and promotes personal growth, balance and dedication to lifelong learning
- Promotes faculty excellence and collaboration in teaching, scholarship and research that models integrity and competence
- Collaborates with the community through education, consultation and the development of strong linkages with clinical educators and the community
- Interacts dynamically with the occupational therapy profession and stakeholders, contributing proactively to the evolution of the profession

Facilities
The educational facilities of the Department of Occupational Therapy are located in the Theater Row building at 730 E. Broad St. During the professional master’s degree program, fieldwork assignments are made for students in a wide range of clinics and agencies in the Richmond metropolitan area. A 24-week extended fieldwork requirement will be arranged in approved clinical education facilities throughout the United States.

Academic regulations
Students are admitted to the occupational therapy programs with the expectation that they will direct maximum time and effort to the learning process. Outside activities must be scheduled by students for such dates and hours as permit full compliance with the time requirements for course work. Tardiness, lack of regular attendance or failure to meet deadlines for course assignments will not be excused because of employment or other outside activities.

To continue in the graduate curriculum, students are expected to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 based on course work following matriculation.

- Graduate students who fail to maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA or receive a grade of D (regardless of the cumulative GPA) will automatically be placed on probation and will be notified of probationary status.
- Conditions of probation:
  - Students must earn a quality point average during the semester of probation sufficient to result in a cumulative GPA of 3.0 in order to be removed from probationary status.
  - Students who are on probation due to receiving a D grade must retake that course, achieving a grade of C or better while also meeting all other academic standards.
  - Conditions of probation also may include recommendations for academic counseling, assignments by individual instructors and other requirements identified by the Committee on Academic Standing and Student Progress. Conditions of probation will be detailed in a letter of notification of probation prepared by this committee.
- Only one semester of academic probation is permitted in the program. If probationary students fail to meet academic standards (GPA of 3.0) in a second semester or do not successfully complete deficient courses, they will be considered for dismissal.
- As courses usually are offered only once a year and because early courses serve as prerequisites for later courses, students retaking a course or taking a reduced course load will have to continue under an adjusted curriculum plan. This will result in extending the student’s time in the program.
- Students who receive an F grade in any required course will be considered for dismissal by the committee.
- University standards require that a graduate student must not have more than six semester hours or 20 percent of semester hours attempted, whichever is greater, with a grade of C. Students who receive a grade of C on more than the allowable number of semester hours will be reviewed for possible academic termination by the Committee on Academic Standing and Student Progress. Students who are not terminated for this criterion will be placed on automatic probation.
- If a student withdraws or is terminated by the clinical faculty before the completion of the Level II fieldwork course, the student will receive an U grade for the course.
- If the student withdraws, is terminated or fails a fieldwork experience, the course may be repeated only upon approval by the Committee on Academic Standing and Student Progress in consultation with the department chair and the fieldwork coordinator. Students may be dismissed from the program or be allowed to continue contingent upon fulfilling remedial activities based on a plan prepared by the fieldwork coordinator and ratified by the committee. No more than one additional fieldwork experience will be rescheduled.
- The opportunity to re-register and repeat the fieldwork course is contingent upon the fieldwork coordinator’s ability to locate another facility willing to offer a fieldwork experience to the student and upon the support of the committee. Level II fieldwork must be completed no later than 24 months subsequent to the completion of the academic phase.
- To continue in good standing, students also are expected to:
  - Pay all fees
  - Maintain personal attributes and ethical behaviors consistent with professional practice as defined in the Occupational Therapy Department Student Handbook
  - Complete fieldwork requirements to the satisfaction of clinical and academic faculty
- Although arrangements are made in advance, each student is reviewed prior to placement in the Level II Fieldwork education. Students must have satisfactorily completed courses prerequisite to that fieldwork experience and be recommended by the faculty. They must demonstrate professional behavior as specified in the ethical behaviors listed in the Occupational Therapy Department Student Handbook. Medical problems may delay or prevent fieldwork placement.

- Occupational Therapy Doctorate (O.T.D.), entry-level (p. 240)
- Occupational Therapy Doctorate (O.T.D.), post-professional (p. 243)
- Occupational Therapy, Master of Science in (M.S.O.T.) (p. 246)
Occupational Therapy Doctorate (O.T.D.), entry-level

Program accreditation
Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational Therapy Association

The O.T.D. program prepares students for entry-level practice while also providing advanced training in evidence-based practice, interprofessional and collaborative care and program and career development. In April 2014, the Board of Directors of the American Occupational Therapy Association, responding to changes seen in higher education, health care and the profession, issued a statement in support of a doctoral-level single point of entry for occupational therapists. The recommended target date for completion of the transition is 2025. The Board's rationale included:

- Greater demands for practice-based scholarship and research
- A need to prepare graduates with professional autonomy and avoid de-professionalization
- An increased focus on primary care, interprofessional care teams and specialization in practice
- Trends in health care professions to transition to the entry-level doctorate
- Creation of an unambiguous entry level that reflects equivalent preparation of all practitioners entering the profession

The entry-level O.T.D. program is designed to prepare students for careers in a wide range of occupational therapy practice settings. Graduates will be eligible to apply for licensure to practice in any state.

Program goal
The primary mission of the Department of Occupational Therapy is the preparation of excellent, innovative, adaptable and responsible occupational therapists as professional leaders for the state, the nation and the world. Our mission represents an integration of the missions of the university and the School of Allied Health Professions. In pursuit of this mission, the department:

- Fosters student commitment to scientific inquiry and professional competence and promotes growth, balance and dedication to lifelong learning
- Promotes faculty excellence and collaboration in teaching, scholarship, research and service that models integrity and competence
- Collaborates with the community through education, consultation and the development of strong linkages with clinical educators and the community
- Interacts dynamically with the OT profession and stakeholders, contributing proactively to the evolution of the profession.

Student learning outcomes

1. **Meet foundational requirements:** As part of a broad foundation in liberal arts and sciences, including biological, physical, social and behavioral sciences, to meet the needs of individuals and communities, students will be able to employ logical thinking, critical analysis, clinical reasoning and problem-solving to demonstrate oral and written communication skills, innovative use of computer technology, knowledge of human structure and function, awareness of social development and apply the use of statistics to interpret tests and measurements. (Objectives B.1.1-B.1.11 in ACOTE Standards)

2. **Basic tenets of occupational therapy:** Students will be able to explain the meaning and impact of occupation in meeting society's current and future occupational needs, including articulating the historical and philosophical base of the profession, its role as a central construct in OT theory development, its relationship to the promotion of health and wellness and prevention of disease and disability. Recognizing the importance of activity analysis in the process of formulating intervention plans will be an emphasis for student learning. (Objectives B.2.1-B.2.11 in ACOTE Standards)

3. **OT theories, models and frames of reference:** Students will be able to describe, integrate and apply a variety of occupational therapy theories, models of practice and frames of reference in evaluation and intervention and will articulate the process of theory development and its desired impact and influence on the individual and society. Students will be able to discuss how practice influences and is influenced by history, theory and sociopolitical climate. Occupational therapy theories and models covered in the curriculum will include but not be limited to: the model of human occupation, sensory integration, biomechanical and rehabilitation models, motor control and movement recovery models. (Objectives B.3.1-B.3.6 in ACOTE Standards)

4. **OT screening, evaluation and referral:** To analyze, synthesize, evaluate and diagnose problems related to occupational performance and participation, students will be able to use evidence-based reasoning to select appropriate tools, both standardized and non-standardized; analyze psychometric properties of assessment tools; evaluate occupational performance across all areas of occupation; distinguish between roles of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants; make appropriate client referrals; interpret test results; and document services to assure accountability, reimbursement and need for services. (Objectives B.4.1-B.4.11 in ACOTE Standards)

5. **Intervention planning:** In accordance with the Occupational Therapy Practice Framework, students will learn to develop occupation-based intervention plans and strategies from the level of individual to population-based interventions in traditional and emerging practice environments. Intervention planning will be based on appropriate theoretical approaches, information acquired via occupational profiles, evaluation of client factors — body function and structure strengths/weaknesses, performance patterns, contextual issues, activity demands, and performance skills. Students will be able to choose appropriate therapeutic activities, learn the value of therapeutic use of self, modify environments, incorporate assistive technologies, fabricate needed orthotics and train clients in areas of mobility and transfer, feeding and eating, and activities of daily living. Students will educate clients as needed and safely use superficial thermal and mechanical modalities as preparatory measures to improving occupational performance. (Objectives B.5.1-B.5.28 in ACOTE Standards)

6. **Context of service delivery:** Students will demonstrate knowledge of the variety of contexts that affect and are affected by occupational therapy service delivery. They will be able to compare and contrast differences in service delivery systems, including health care, education, community and social systems. They will be able to discuss the impact of socioeconomic and political influences on
occupational therapy and advocate for changes in policies and systems to address society’s occupational needs. They will integrate national and international resources in education, research, practice and policy development. (Objectives B.6.1-B.6.6 in ACOTE Standards)

7. Leadership and management: Students will be able to identify and evaluate how contextual factors affect service delivery and management of services; awareness of how federal and state laws guide service delivery; understanding of the requirements for licensing and certification, documentation and reimbursement; and the essential nature of competency-based procedures for legal and ethical supervision of occupational therapy personnel, non-occupational therapy personnel and fieldwork students. Students will demonstrate the ability to design and write program development plans for the provision of occupational therapy services to individuals and populations. (Objectives B.7.1-B.7.12 in ACOTE Standards)

8. Scholarship: Students will be able to articulate the importance of knowledge development for the profession; locate, critique and interpret research evidence; apply research literature to make evidence-based practice decisions; use and interpret basic descriptive, correlational and inferential quantitative statistics and code; analyze and synthesize qualitative data; and demonstrate an understanding of the grant process. Students will complete a culminating project that involves the design of a scholarly proposal, implementation and documentation of the study. (Objectives B.8.1-B.8.10 in ACOTE Standards)

9. Professional ethics, values and responsibilities: Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the American OT Association Code of Ethics and Ethics Standards and AOTA Standards of Practice; the importance of membership in professional organizations; the value of supporting and educating other professions about OT; identification and development of strategies for ongoing professional development; responsibilities related to liability; conflict resolution; contractual service provision; and ethical supervision. Students will discuss and justify the varied roles of occupational therapists, including program and policy development, advocate, administrator and leader. (Objectives B.9.1-B.9.13 in ACOTE Standards)

10. Fieldwork: Through a carefully coordinated process of fieldwork, students will be able to apply concepts learned in the classroom to practice settings under careful supervision of trained and qualified occupational therapy practitioners. Gradation of time spent, responsibilities and expectations placed on students will be provided through assignment, first to fieldwork level I and then to fieldwork level II experiences across a wide range of settings and practice areas. (Objectives C.1.1-C.1.19 in ACOTE Standards)

11. Doctoral experiential component: Through completion of a professional portfolio, a doctoral experiential component, and evaluation and dissemination, students will demonstrate leadership and advanced skills in one or more of the following areas: clinical practice, administration, research, program or policy development, advocacy, education or theory development. Upon completion of all course work, fieldwork and doctoral experiential requirements, students will be prepared to take the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy examination, thereby qualifying them for state licensure and practice of occupational therapy at the entry level. (Objectives C.2.1-2.5 in ACOTE Standards)

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.graduates.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

All graduates of an occupational therapy program are required to take the national certification examination to become a registered occupational therapist and use the credentials OTR. The national certifying organization for occupational therapy is the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. Other licensure or certification requirements have been established by all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico. Most licensure requirements include board certification as a registered occupational therapist. Some
licensure or certification agencies consider individuals convicted of a felony ineligible for licensure or certification. For specific information, prospective students should contact the licensure or certification agency for occupational therapy.

**Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).**

### Admission requirements

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<tr>
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<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O.T.D.</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Dec 1 (OTCAS and VCU graduate applications)</td>
<td>GRE</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university
2. A minimum grade-point average in all college courses of 2.7 (based on a 4.0 system)
3. A minimum grade-point average in prerequisite courses of 3.0. (without rounding)
4. A one-page, “value-added” essay submitted as a PDF file to otentrylevel@vcu.edu
5. An Occupational Therapy Centralized Application Service application (https://portal.otcas.org) including these items:
   a. A personal statement that addresses:
      i. Why applicant is selecting OT as a career
      ii. How a master’s degree in OT relates to immediate and long-term professional goals
      iii. How the applicant’s personal, educational and professional background will help achieve these goals
   b. Evidence of completion of a minimum of 30 observation hours in one or more settings under the supervision of a licensed OTR or COTA
   c. Three letters of recommendation (One letter from an occupational therapist is preferred, but it is not essential.)
   d. Ten prerequisite (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/departments/occu/programs/entry-level-otd/prerequisite-courses) courses (30-32 semester credit hours)
6. A course on medical terminology (strongly recommended, but not required)
7. For non-native English-speaking applicants, regardless of immigration status, a Test of English as a Foreign Language iBT score of greater than 102, a TOEFL CBT score of greater than 253, a TOEFL PBT score of greater than 610 or an International English Language Testing System score of greater than 6.5

The VCU entry-level occupational therapy doctorate is a 104 credit program that spans three years (nine semesters). Applicants apply for the program between July and Dec. 1 of the year preceding enrollment. Orientation and summer semester classes begin the first week of June. The first semester is a seven-credit part-time semester and the second summer semester is a five-credit part-time semester. All other semesters, including the last year of two semesters of Level II fieldwork and the final semester of doctoral practicum are full-time semesters. Five courses in the curriculum (OCCT 780, OCCT 781, OCCT 782, OCCT 783 and OCCT 784) taken during the second summer and the second and third spring semesters will be taught in a hybrid format, which will require some on-campus hours with the remainder taught using the Blackboard course management system. Students will be required to have a computer or tablet with access to the Internet.

### Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete all School of Allied Health Professions requirements and successfully complete 104 credit hours.

- IPEC 501 Foundations of Interprofessional Practice 1
- OCCT 580 Introduction to the Profession of Occupational Therapy 2
- OCCT 589 Advanced Functional Anatomy 5
- OCCT 590 Functional Movement Analysis in Occupational Therapy 3
- OCCT 591 Neuroscience Applications to Occupational Therapy 4
- OCCT 592 Introduction to Injury, Illness and Disability 3
- OCCT 593 Analysis of Human Occupation 1
- OCCT 594 Theoretical Foundations of Occupational Therapy 4
- OCCT 613 Adult Occupational Performance I 3
- OCCT 614 Pediatric Occupational Performance I 4
- OCCT 615 Level I Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy 1
- OCCT 616 Research Process in Occupational Therapy 3
- OCCT 617 Therapeutic Process in Occupational Therapy 3
- OCCT 689 Occupational Therapy Assessment and Evaluation 3
- OCCT 692 Assistive Technologies for Occupational Engagement 2
- OCCT 693 Occupational Synthesis and Adaptations 2
- OCCT 713 Adult Occupational Performance II 4
- OCCT 714 Pediatric Occupational Performance II 4
- OCCT 715 Level I Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy 1
- OCCT 716 Evidence-based Practice in Occupational Therapy 3
- OCCT 717 Level I Fieldwork in Psychosocial Occupational Therapy 3
- OCCT 720 Policy, Advocacy and Management for Occupational Therapy Practice 3
- OCCT 721 Clinical Reasoning in Occupational Therapy 3
- OCCT 759 Fieldwork Education Seminar 2
- OCCT 760 Level II Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy 9
- OCCT 761 Level II Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy 9
- OCCT 780 OTD Leadership Seminar 2
Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 104

Sample plan of study

Year one

Summer semester

<table>
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Fall

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<td>Neuroscience Applications to Occupational Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCT 592</td>
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<td>OCCT 593</td>
<td>Analysis of Human Occupation</td>
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<td>OCCT 594</td>
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Term Hours: 16

Spring

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<td>OCCT 616</td>
<td>Research Process in Occupational Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCT 689</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy Assessment and Evaluation</td>
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Term Hours: 17

Year two

Summer semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 780</td>
<td>OTD Leadership Seminar</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 781</td>
<td>Program Development and Evaluation</td>
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</tbody>
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Term Hours: 5

Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 692</td>
<td>Assistive Technologies for Occupational Engagement</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 713</td>
<td>Adult Occupational Performance II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 714</td>
<td>Pediatric Occupational Performance II</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCT 715</td>
<td>Level I Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCT 716</td>
<td>Evidence-based Practice in Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Term Hours: 14

Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 693</td>
<td>Occupational Synthesis and Adaptations</td>
<td>2</td>
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Year three

Summer semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 760</td>
<td>Level II Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy</td>
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</table>

Term Hours: 9

Fall semester

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 761</td>
<td>Level II Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy</td>
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</table>

Term Hours: 9

Spring semester

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<tr>
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<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 763</td>
<td>Doctoral Practicum</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 784</td>
<td>Practicum Evaluation and Dissemination</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Term Hours: 12

Total Hours: 104

Graduate program director
Dianne F. Simons, Ph.D., OTR/L
Assistant professor, program director and graduate admissions chair
Email: dfsimons@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-2219

Additional contacts
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Program manager
Email: lsmith@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-2219

Al Copolillo, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA
Associate professor and chair, Department of Occupational Therapy
Email: aecopoli@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-2219

Program website: sahp.vcu.edu/departments/occu/programs/entry-level-otd (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/departments/occu/programs/entry-level-otd)

Occupational Therapy Doctorate (O.T.D.), post-professional

Note: As part of the transition from the entry-level program from the M.S.O.T. to the O.T.D. degree, the Department of Occupational Therapy has suspended admissions to the post-professional O.T.D. until summer 2016. The post-professional O.T.D. curriculum is being adjusted to bring that program in sync with the entry-level O.T.D. until summer 2016. The department's goal is to provide the best overall program at both levels. Plans continue to evolve, so please be in touch if you are interested in a post-professional O.T.D. Prospective students can visit the department's website (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/departments/occu/programs/postprofessional-otd) or call directly at (804) 828-2220.
Program goal

The primary mission of the Department of Occupational Therapy is the preparation of excellent, innovative, adaptable and responsible occupational therapists as professional leaders for the state, the nation and the world. Our mission represents an integration of the missions of the university and the School of Allied Health Professions. In pursuit of this mission, the department:

1. Prepares students to become client-centered practitioners who utilize up-to-date evidence, theory and technology to facilitate their clients’ health and well-being through the use of occupation
2. Seeds the development of new occupational therapy leaders in research, teaching and service through educational, community and research expectations and opportunities
3. Fosters student commitment to scientific inquiry and professional competence and promotes personal growth, balance and dedication to lifelong learning and service
4. Promotes faculty excellence, collaboration and leadership in teaching, scholarship, research and service that models integrity, competence and evidence-based practice
5. Collaborates with the community through education, consultation and the development of strong linkages with practitioners, clinical educators and the community
6. Interacts dynamically with the OT profession and stakeholders, contributing proactively to the evolution and recognition of the profession and the use of occupation to meet society’s needs for health and quality life

Student learning outcomes

1. The student will articulate knowledge of leadership theories and models, critically analyze current leadership abilities and apply leadership skill in professional contexts.
2. The student will identify and use professional, data-driven evidence to support professional programs and initiatives through proposal writing for grant funding and program development.
3. The student will demonstrate advanced skill in developing and implementing new programs/projects designed to advance the field of occupational therapy.

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.graduated.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

Student manuals are distributed to new students every August at the on-campus meeting.

Note: As part of the transition from the entry-level program from the M.S.O.T. to the O.T.D. degree, the Department of Occupational Therapy has suspended admissions to the post-professional O.T.D. until summer 2016. The post-professional O.T.D. curriculum is being adjusted to bring that program in synch with the entry-level O.T.D. The department’s goal is to provide the best overall program at both levels. Plans continue to evolve, so please be in touch if you are interested in a post-professional O.T.D. Prospective students can visit the department’s website (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/departments/occu/programs/postprofessional-otd) or call directly at (804) 828-2220.

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>O.T.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>GRE (if applying with a bachelor's degree in occupational therapy)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s or master’s degree in occupational therapy from an accredited college or university
2. Cumulative minimum GPA of 3.0 from prior course work
3. Current (within 5 years) GRE scores if applying with a bachelor’s degree (The GRE is not required if applying with a master’s degree.)
4. Official transcripts in sealed envelopes and signed by university official across seal
5. A leadership essay describing how earning an O.T.D. and completing a capstone leadership project will enhance personal career goals and how the applicant may use advanced leadership skills developed in this program to advance the profession of occupational therapy
6. Curriculum vitae or resume that details professional leadership experience
7. Three letters of recommendation

Note: As part of the transition from the entry-level program from the M.S.O.T. to the O.T.D. degree, the Department of Occupational Therapy has suspended admissions to the post-professional O.T.D. until summer 2016. The post-professional O.T.D. curriculum is being adjusted to bring that program in synch with the entry-level O.T.D. The department’s goal is to provide the best overall program at both levels. Plans continue to evolve, so please be in touch if you are interested in a post-professional O.T.D. Prospective students can visit the department’s website (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/departments/occu/programs/postprofessional-otd) or call directly at (804) 828-2220.

Degree requirements

The Occupational Therapy Doctorate is a part-time, distance education, post-professional program for students with an occupational therapy degree. It combines Web-based instruction with on-campus meetings twice a year, in August and January. The program follows the traditional fall and spring semester schedule. Summer courses are required for students entering with a bachelor’s degree and are optional for students entering with a master’s degree. The curriculum consists of leadership, research/scientific foundation and theory practice foundation core courses, along with electives for concentrated study.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete all university and School of Allied Health Professions requirements. Students must successfully complete all credit hours appropriate to the curriculum into which students enter. The curriculum for an occupational therapist entering with a master’s degree from VCU requires a minimum of 21 credit hours. The curriculum for an occupational therapist entering with a master’s degree from another university or college requires a minimum of 32 credit hours. The curriculum for an occupational therapist entering with a baccalaureate degree requires a minimum of 47 credit hours of courses.

Curriculum requirements

Students entering with an M.S. from VCU

Research and scientific foundations core

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 735</td>
<td>Evidence Bases for Occupational Therapy Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Leadership core

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 736</td>
<td>Developing Fundable Projects</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 739</td>
<td>Program Development and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 740</td>
<td>Concepts in Disability Leadership for Occupational Therapists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 741</td>
<td>Leadership Applications for Occupational Therapists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Select three of the following: 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 510</td>
<td>Aging</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 604</td>
<td>Problems, Issues and Trends in Gerontology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 606</td>
<td>Aging and Human Values</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours

21

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 21

Students entering with an M.S. from another university/college

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 671</td>
<td>Advanced Theory in Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 673</td>
<td>Health Care Delivery and Occupational Therapy Practice Models</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 710</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Processes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 735</td>
<td>Evidence Bases for Occupational Therapy Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 736</td>
<td>Developing Fundable Projects</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 739</td>
<td>Program Development and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 740</td>
<td>Concepts in Disability Leadership for Occupational Therapists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 741</td>
<td>Leadership Applications for Occupational Therapists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 742</td>
<td>Practicum in Leadership for Occupational Therapists</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 743</td>
<td>Synthesis and Evaluation of Capstone Leadership Project</td>
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Total Hours

32

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 32

Students entering with a B.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 671</td>
<td>Advanced Theory in Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 673</td>
<td>Health Care Delivery and Occupational Therapy Practice Models</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 685</td>
<td>Advanced Clinical Reasoning: Asking the Right Questions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 686</td>
<td>Advanced Clinical Reasoning Applications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 710</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Processes</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 735</td>
<td>Evidence Bases for Occupational Therapy Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 736</td>
<td>Developing Fundable Projects</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 739</td>
<td>Program Development and Evaluation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 740</td>
<td>Concepts in Disability Leadership for Occupational Therapists</td>
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<td>OCCT 741</td>
<td>Leadership Applications for Occupational Therapists</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCT 742</td>
<td>Practicum in Leadership for Occupational Therapists</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 743</td>
<td>Synthesis and Evaluation of Capstone Leadership Project</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours

21
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1. Prepares students to become client-centered practitioners who utilize up-to-date evidence, theory and technology to facilitate their clients’ health and well-being through the use of occupation
2. Seeds the development of new occupational therapy leaders in research, teaching and service through educational, community and research expectations and opportunities
3. Fosters student commitment to scientific inquiry and professional competence and promotes personal growth, balance and dedication to lifelong learning and service
4. Promotes faculty excellence, collaboration and leadership in teaching, scholarship, research and service that models integrity, competence and evidence-based practice
5. Collaborates with the community through education, consultation and the development of strong linkages with practitioners, clinical educators and the community
6. Interacts dynamically with the OT profession and stakeholders, contributing proactively to the evolution and recognition of the profession and the use of occupation to meet society’s needs for health and quality life

Student learning outcomes

1. Meet foundational requirements: As part of a broad foundation in liberal arts and sciences, including biological, physical, social and behavioral sciences, students will be able to employ logical thinking, critical analysis, clinical reasoning and problem solving to demonstrate oral and written communication skills, innovative use of computer technology, knowledge of human structure and function, awareness of social development and use of statistics to interpret tests and measurements. (Objectives B.1.1-B.1.11 in ACOTE Standards)

2. Basic tenets of occupational therapy: Students will be able to understand and articulate the meaning and impact of occupation, its historical and philosophical significance to the profession, its role as a central construct in OT theory development, its relationship to the promotion of health and wellness and prevention of disease and disability. Recognizing the importance of activity analysis in the process of formulating intervention plans will be an emphasis for student learning. (Objectives B.2.1-B.2.11 in ACOTE Standards)

3. OT theories, models and frames of reference: Students will be able to describe and apply occupational therapy theories and models to these and other theoretical foundations of evaluation and intervention and will demonstrate appreciation for the process of development of theoretical principles. Occupational therapy theories and models covered in the curriculum will include but not be limited to: the model of human occupation sensory integration, biomechanical and rehabilitation models, motor control and movement recovery models. (Objectives B.3.1-B.3.6 in ACOTE Standards)

4. OT screening, evaluation and referral: Students will be able to select appropriate tools, both standardized and nonstandardized, for effective evaluation; analyze psychometric properties of assessment tools; evaluate occupational performance across all areas of occupation; distinguish between roles of occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants; make appropriate client referrals; interpret test results; and document services to assure

**OCCT 690** Occupational Therapy Seminar

**OCCT 697** Independent Study

**SEDP 532** Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder

**SEDP 634** Assessment, Curriculum and Teaching Methods for Autism Spectrum Disorder

**SEDP 635** Supporting Behavior and Social Skills for Autism Spectrum Disorder

**SEDP 638** Instructional Design and Field Experience for Autism Spectrum Disorder

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**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 47**

**Graduate program director**
Linwood (Tony) Gentry, Ph.D., OTR/L
Professor and director, post-professional education
Email: logentry@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-2219

**Additional contacts**
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Program manager
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Phone: (804) 828-2219

Al Copolillo, Ph.D., OTR/L, FAOTA
Associate professor and chair, Department of Occupational Therapy
Email: aecopoli@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-2219

**Program website:** sahp.vcu.edu/departments/occu/programs/postprofessional-otd (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/departments/occu/programs/postprofessional-otd)

**Occupational Therapy, Master of Science in (M.S.O.T.)**

**Program accreditation**
Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education of the American Occupational Therapy Association

**Note:** Starting summer 2016, the M.S.O.T. program will be replaced with an entry-level occupational therapy doctorate, or O.T.D. The last class of M.S.O.T. students, enrolled in summer 2015, will graduate in December 2017. Students with a bachelor’s degree who meet all prerequisite requirements may apply to the entry-level OTD program from mid-July to December of 2015 and yearly thereon. Prospective students may visit the department’s website (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/departments/occu/programs/entry-level-otd) for details on the entry-level O.T.D.

**Program goal**
The primary mission of the Department of Occupational Therapy is the preparation of excellent, innovative, adaptable and responsible
5. Intervention planning: In accordance with the occupational therapy practice framework, students will learn to develop occupation-based intervention plans and strategies. Intervention planning will be based on information acquired via occupational profiles, evaluation of client factors – body function and structure strengths/weaknesses, performance patterns, contextual issues, activity demands, and performance skills. Students will be able to choose appropriate therapeutic activities, learn the value of therapeutic use of self, modify environments, incorporate assistive technologies, fabricate needed orthotics, and train clients in areas of mobility and transfer, feeding and eating, and activities of daily living. Students will educate clients as needed and safely use superficial thermal and mechanical modalities as preparatory measures to improving occupational performance. (Objectives B.5.1-B.5.28 in ACOTE Standards)

6. Context of service delivery: Students will demonstrate knowledge of the variety of contexts that affect and are affected by occupational therapy service delivery. They will be able to compare and contrast differences in service delivery systems, including health care, education, community and social systems. They will be able to discuss the impact of socioeconomic and political influences on occupational therapy and the need to respond to system changes to create opportunities and avoid pitfalls in education, research and practice. (Objectives B.6.1-B.6.6 in ACOTE Standards)

7. OT management: Students will be able to describe and demonstrate how practice settings affect service delivery and management of services; awareness of how federal and state laws guide service delivery; understanding of the requirements for licensing and certification, documentation, and reimbursement; and the essential nature of competency-based procedures for legal and ethical supervision of personnel and fieldwork students. Understanding of program needs, service delivery, optional and effective staffing procedures will be discussed. (Objectives B.7.1-B.7.10 in ACOTE Standards)

8. Understanding and consuming research: Students will be able to articulate the importance of knowledge development for the profession; locate, critique and interpret research evidence; apply research literature to practice; use basic statistics and qualitative research methods; demonstrate knowledge of the research process; and implement some aspect of research methodology. Discussion of grant writing, proposal development, research dissemination, and translation and research report writing will be included. (Objectives B.8.1-B.8.9 in ACOTE Standards)

9. Professional ethics: Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the American OT Association’s code of ethics; the importance of membership in professional organizations; the value of supporting and educating other professions about OT; the importance of ongoing professional development; the threat and avoidance of liability issues; conflict resolution; contractual service provision; and ethical supervision. (Objectives B.9.1-B.9.13 in ACOTE Standards)

10. Fieldwork: Through a carefully coordinated process of fieldwork, students will be able to apply concepts learned in the classroom to practice settings under careful supervision of trained and qualified occupational therapy practitioners. Graduation of time spent, responsibilities and expectations placed on students will be provided through assignment, first to fieldwork level 1 and then to fieldwork level 2 experiences across a wide range of settings and practice areas. Upon completion of all fieldwork requirements, students will be prepared to take the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy examination, thereby qualifying them for state licensure and practice of occupational therapy at the entry level. (Objectives B.10.1-B.1.22 in ACOTE Standards)

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

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**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.

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**Graduation requirements**

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.** (p. 40)

**Other information**

Student manual distributed to new students every June during orientation.

All graduates of an occupational therapy program are required to take the national certification examination to become a registered...
occupational therapist and use the credentials OTR. The national certifying organization for occupational therapy is the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy. Other licensure or certification requirements have been established by all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam and Puerto Rico. Most licensure requirements include board certification as a registered occupational therapist. Some licensure or certification agencies consider individuals convicted of a felony ineligible for licensure or certification. For specific information, prospective students should contact the licensure or certification agency for occupational therapy.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Note: Starting summer 2016, the M.S.O.T. program will be replaced with an entry-level occupational therapy doctorate, or O.T.D. The last class of M.S.O.T. students, enrolled in summer 2015, will graduate in December 2017. Students with a bachelor’s degree who meet all prerequisite requirements may apply to the entry-level OTD program from mid-July to December of 2015 and yearly thereon. Prospective students may visit the department’s website (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/departments/occuprograms/entry-level-otd) for details on the entry-level O.T.D.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete all School of Allied Health Professions requirements and successfully complete 82 credit hours consisting of 60 credit hours in course work and 22 in fieldwork.

Curriculum requirements

Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 525</td>
<td>Advanced Functional Anatomy (Occupational Therapy) (Occupational Therapy)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 520</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy Applications: Kinesiology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 521</td>
<td>Neuroscience Applications to Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 522</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Medical Lectures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 530</td>
<td>Nature of Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 531</td>
<td>Interpersonal Communication and Group Dynamics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 532</td>
<td>Life Span Occupational Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 533</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy Principles, Values and Theories</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 534</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy Evaluation and Intervention Overview</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 620</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy Practice Activities I: Activity Analysis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 621</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy Practice Activities II: Assistive Technologies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 623</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy Practice Activities III: Activity and Occupational Synthesis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 630</td>
<td>Adult Evaluation and Intervention I: Foundations</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCT 633</td>
<td>Adult Evaluation and Intervention II: Facilitating Function With Disability Across the Continuum of Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCT 635</td>
<td>Psychosocial Evaluation and Intervention I: Foundations</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 640</td>
<td>Pediatric Evaluation and Intervention I: Infant and Preschool Children</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCCT 641</td>
<td>Pediatric Evaluation and Intervention II: Ages 6 to 12</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 650</td>
<td>Occupational Therapy in Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 651</td>
<td>Administration and Supervision of Occupational Therapy Services</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Starting summer 2016, the M.S.O.T. program will be replaced with an entry-level occupational therapy doctorate, or O.T.D. The last class of M.S.O.T. students, enrolled in summer 2015, will graduate in December 2017. Students with a bachelor’s degree who meet all prerequisite requirements may apply to the entry-level OTD program from mid-July to December of 2015 and yearly thereon. Prospective students may visit the department’s website (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/departments/occuprograms/entry-level-otd) for details on the entry-level O.T.D.
Students must meet admission requirements for the occupational therapy degree and the aging studies certificate programs.

## Curriculum requirements

### Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 601</td>
<td>Biological and Physiological Aging</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY/PSYC 602</td>
<td>Psychology of Aging</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 603</td>
<td>Social Gerontology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 606</td>
<td>Aging and Human Values</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 616</td>
<td>Geriatric Rehabilitation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 691</td>
<td>Topical Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 709</td>
<td>Research Process and Statistical Analysis in Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OCCT 729</td>
<td>Research Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 21

Contact the respective departments for additional curriculum information.

### Graduate program director

E. Ayn Welleford, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Gerontology
Email: ewellefo@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1565

### Program website:

sahp.vcu.edu/gerontology (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/gerontology)

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### Department of Patient Counseling

Russell H. Davis, Ph.D.
Professor and chair

Patient counseling is the practice of communicating emphatic concern, support and sensitive spiritual counsel to the physically or emotionally troubled person in the traumas of life. There is a long history of a concerted effort toward this end at VCU Health. With the appointment of Dr. George D. Ossman as chaplain in 1943, the administration gave clear evidence of its awareness of the need for a specialized caring ministry to hospitalized patients and their families.

The chaplaincy program was significantly expanded in 1958 and was accredited to begin the education and clinical training of persons in patient counseling. Since then, a continuous program has been in existence and has evolved into the present program in patient counseling. Patient counseling, as it exists today, became an integrated program in the School of Allied Health Professions in 1970. A comprehensive curriculum review was completed in 1999.

With the rapid growth of health care and the increasingly complex problems of medical ethics and viable delivery systems, it is very important to educate qualified persons to deal with the human dimensions of illness as well as the personal and family stressors related to it. Through this program, VCU has an opportunity to make an impact upon health care education by emphasizing the spiritual dimension of human needs in life crises. By so doing, this university has a significant role to play in the important task of keeping health care holistic and
utilizing technical and scientific methodology in the context of a deep respect for the total life of persons.

**Accreditation**

The program is accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education Inc (https://www.acpe.edu), and is offered in collaboration with VCU Health. Virginia Commonwealth University/VCU Health is accredited to offer CPE (Levels I/II) and Supervisory CPE by the ACPE, 1549 Clairmont Road, Suite 103, Decatur, Georgia, 30033; (404) 320-1472.

**Objectives**

The programs in patient counseling are designed to assist an individual to work in the health field as one skilled in dealing with the whole person in the context of life’s crises and in a cooperative interprofessional team approach. The programs are offered to persons who have an existing identity in a helping or counseling profession. This includes clergy, social workers, institutional counselors, education specialists, psychologists, community health workers and others in the health care professions.

**Facilities**

West Hospital (W4S) is the base for the educational program, and limited space is available in clinical areas to work with persons and families in crisis. The Main Hospital, mezzanine level, contains the chapel, family consultation room and administrative offices.

**Code of ethics**

The professional behavior of the student is expected to be in accordance with the Code of Professional Ethics, as adopted by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc. and the Code of Ethics of the Association of Professional Chaplains.

**Student responsibilities**

Students serve in the dual capacity of providing pastoral care service while learning. Extensive clinical involvement, including night and weekend responsibilities, is required for selected courses and clinical pastoral education credit. Each student receives individual supervision by a member of the faculty.

Students who are unsuccessful in demonstrating completion of designated clinical pastoral education outcomes in any program will be required to develop with a faculty mentor an individualized plan of study toward their completion. Typically, this plan will be accomplished through additional course work or a directed independent study.

**Continuation requirements, advising, transfer and part-time status**

A student must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all course work completed at VCU. A student who falls below that minimum will have one semester to remedy the deficiency.

A student must register for at least one credit hour each academic year for continuation in the program. Any student who fails to register must have prior approval to do so or be dropped from the program and must reapply for reinstatement.

There is a five calendar-year maximum for students to complete the Master of Science degree and a seven calendar-year maximum for the dual degree. The graduate certificate program must be completed within a four calendar-year maximum. Part-time students who wish to accumulate concurrent ACPE credit need to be sure that course work is completed in accordance with ACPE standards.

A maximum of eight credits may be transferred from another university toward the Master of Science course requirements provided these credits have not been applied to a previous degree. A maximum of one-third of the didactic hours may be transferred from another VCU program. Dual-degree candidates may apply six credits from their seminary studies to the VCU degree. Transfer is given at the discretion of the chair after consultation with the faculty, subject to university approval. Credits are not transferable to either of the certificate programs.

Students who have been admitted to the graduate certificate program may be admitted to the Master of Science degree with advanced standing after the completion of at least 18 credits with a B or better. All credits of a B or better will transfer to the degree program.

Upon admission to all programs students will be assigned a faculty adviser.

- Patient Counseling, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in accelerated chaplain certification (p. 252)
- Patient Counseling, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in chaplain certification (p. 253)
- Patient Counseling, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in supervisory clinical pastoral education (p. 255)
- Patient Counseling, Master of Science (M.S./Divinity, Master of (M.Div.) from the Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond or the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University [combined]) (p. 257)
- Patient Counseling, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) (p. 250)

**Patient Counseling, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)**

**Program accreditation**

Association for Clinical Pastoral Education

**Program goal**

To provide clinical education for pastoral care professionals as well as other health care providers in the spiritual care of patients and families within an interdisciplinary context

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Students will articulate the central themes and core values of their religious heritage and the theological understanding that informs their ministry (ACPE Standard 311, Outcome 311.1).
2. Students will identify and discuss major life events, relationships and cultural contexts that influence personal identity as expressed in pastoral functioning (ACPE Standard 311, Outcome 311.2).
3. Students will initiate peer group and supervisory consultation and receive critique about one’s ministry practice (ACPE Standard 311, Outcome 311.3).
4. Students will risk offering appropriate and timely critique (ACPE Standard 311, Outcome 311.4).
5. Students will recognize relational dynamics within group contexts (ACPE Standard 311, Outcome 311.5).
6. Students will demonstrate integration of conceptual understandings presented in the curriculum into pastoral practice (ACPE Standard 311, Outcome 311.6).
7. Students will initiate helping relationships within and across diverse populations (ACPE Standard 311, Outcome 311.7).
8. Students will use the clinical methods of learning to achieve their educational goals (ACPE Standard 311, Outcome 311.8).
9. Students will formulate clear and specific goals for continuing pastoral formation with reference to personal strengths and weaknesses (ACPE Standard 311, Outcome 311.9).

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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.
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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**Graduation requirements**

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Other information**

Students receive a Department of Patient Counseling student handbook during orientation.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jun 1</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>International students required to present TOEFL scores.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have successfully completed undergraduate training and hold a bachelor’s degree or its equivalent.
from an accredited institution reflecting ability to perform at the graduate level, as well graduate degree in a health-related field. Students must apply and be accepted to VCU's Graduate School to participate in the clinical pastoral education program.

ACPE application fact sheets and narrative instructions can be found at http://s531162813.onlinehome.us/forms.

Accelerated chaplain certification concentration in the Master of Science

1. The accelerated chaplain certification concentration in the Master of Science in Patient Counseling is available to students who hold a master's degree and who have completed one unit of ACPE clinical pastoral education.

2. Students admitted to this option must have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Submission of the Graduate Examination Record is required when this GPA requirement is not met.

3. Applicants holding degrees from recognized foreign institutions should display an acceptable level of English proficiency by achieving a minimum score of 550 on the TOEFL paper-based examination or 100 on the Internet-based examination. The ability to communicate orally and in writing must be presented to the Department of Patient Counseling admissions committee.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must:

1. Complete a minimum of 30 credit hours in accordance with the approved curriculum
2. Complete all core courses
3. Complete all required elective course hours

Curriculum requirements

Core requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATC 611</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Patient Counseling I</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>PATC 612</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Patient Counseling II</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 613</td>
<td>Group Process I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 614</td>
<td>Group Process II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 615</td>
<td>Theory of Group Leadership</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 617</td>
<td>Supervised Clinical Practice I</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 635</td>
<td>Clinical Ethics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 639</td>
<td>Pastoral Care Management</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 640</td>
<td>Research Basics for Hospital Chaplains</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 641</td>
<td>Evidence-based Inquiry for Hospital Chaplains</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>PATC 642</td>
<td>Developing and Presenting Chaplaincy Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>PATC elective course (500 level or higher)</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRTY elective course (620 and 630 series)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Courses may be taken in patient counseling, gerontology and rehabilitation counseling. Other electives may be allowed with prior permission of the program director and chair.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATC elective course (620 and 630 series)</td>
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</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Graduate program director
Angelina H. Flack, M.Div.
Director of education, assistant professor and ACPE supervisor
Email: aflack@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-0540

Additional contact
Russell H. Davis, Ph.D.
Professor and Rev. Robert B. Lantz Chair, Department of Patient Counseling, CPE supervisor (ACPE)
Email: rhdavis2@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-0540

Program website: sahp.vcu.edu/ptc (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/ptc)

Patient Counseling, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in chaplain certification

Program accreditation
Association for Clinical Pastoral Education

Program goal
To provide clinical education for pastoral care professionals as well as other health care providers in the spiritual care of patients and families within an interdisciplinary context

Student learning outcomes

1. Graduates will demonstrate awareness of self with congruence in the care of patients, families and staff (ACPE Standard 312, Outcome 312.1).
2. Graduates will demonstrate ability to provide care with sensitivity and respect in a diverse patient, family and staff environment (ACPE Standard 312, Outcome 312.2).
3. Graduates will demonstrate the knowledge and provision of intensive and extensive pastoral/spiritual care to persons in crisis (ACPE Standard 312, Outcome 312.3).
4. Graduates will demonstrate incorporation of theological understanding and knowledge of the behavioral sciences in care of patients, families and staff (ACPE Standard 312, Outcome 312.4).
5. Graduates will demonstrate effective participation as a member of a comprehensive health care team (ACPE Standard 312, Outcome 312.5).
6. Graduates will demonstrate responsible care and professional boundaries (ACPE Standard 312, Outcome 312.6).
7. Graduates will demonstrate the utilization of individual and group supervision for personal and professional development as well as ongoing evaluation of clinical practice (ACPE Standard 312, Outcome 312.7).
8. Graduates will demonstrate awareness of professional standards in chaplaincy (ACPE Standard 312, Outcome 312.8).
9. Graduates will demonstrate ability to self-supervise and critically reflect on their own pastoral encounters (ACPE Standard 312, Outcome 312.9).

**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.granduate.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Other information**

Students receive a Department of Patient Counseling student handbook during orientation.

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**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall (preferred)</td>
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<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have successfully completed undergraduate training and hold a bachelor’s degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution reflecting ability to perform at the graduate level; graduate degree in a health-related field; or two years of graduate theological education. Students must apply and be accepted to VCU’s Graduate School to participate in the clinical pastoral education program.

This program also requires submission of the following supplemental material: a current resume, the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education Inc. application materials, copies of all previous self- and supervisor’s CPE evaluations and two verbatim case studies of clinical work. An interview with the faculty admission committee will be granted based on application material.

ACPE application fact sheets and narrative instructions can be found at http://s531162813.onlinehome.us/forms.

**Chaplain certification concentration**

1. The chaplain certification concentration is available to individuals who have a previous graduate degree or who have at least two years of graduate education in theology, the behavioral sciences or the health-related sciences. It is assumed that completion of this 44-credit-hour concentration will take four to five semesters.

2. Students admitted to this option must have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Submission of the Graduate Examination Record is required when this GPA requirement is not met.

3. Applicants holding degrees from recognized foreign institutions should display an acceptable level of English proficiency by achieving a minimum score of 550 on the TOEFL paper-based examination or 100 on the Internet-based examination. Ability to communicate orally and in writing must be presented to the Department of Patient Counseling admissions committee.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must:

1. Complete a minimum of 44 credit hours in accordance with the approved curriculum
2. Complete all core courses
3. Complete all required elective course hours

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core requirements</th>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATC 515</td>
<td>Basic Patient Counseling</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 611</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Patient Counseling</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student learning outcomes

1. Student maintains personal integrity and a deepening pastoral identity (ACPE Standard 315, Outcome 315.1).
2. Student demonstrates emotional and spiritual maturity (ACPE Standard 315, Outcome 315.2).
3. Student forms meaningful pastoral relationships (ACPE Standard 315, Outcome 315.3).
4. Student self-supervises their own ongoing pastoral practice (ACPE Standard 315, Outcome 315.4).
5. Student refines their professional identity as a clinical pastoral educator (ACPE Standard 315, Outcome 315.5).
6. Student demonstrates awareness of how their own culture affects professional and personal identity, pastoral practice, the supervisory relationship and student learning (ACPE Standard 315, Outcome 315.6).
7. Student articulates understanding of and methodology for clinical pastoral supervision based on a critical grasp of the professional literature relating to the field of clinical supervision (Standard 315, Outcome 316.1).
8. Student articulates and implements a philosophy of CPE based on an educational model integrating the theory and practice of CPE, which is based on and congruent with their own theology (Standard 316, Outcome 316.2).
9. Student articulates rationale for multicultural competence, integrating the theory and practice of CPE, which is based on and congruent with their own theology (Standard 316, Outcome 316.3).
10. Student assesses an individual student’s learning patterns, personality, religious history and cultural values as a basis for supervisory strategies (ACPE Standard 317.1, Outcome 317.1.1).
24. Student advocates for students based on awareness of how persons’ social locations, systems and structures affect their ministry, learning and the educational context (ACPE Standard 318, Outcome 318.8).

25. Student considers cultural factors in the use of learning assessments, educational strategies, curriculum resources and evaluation procedures (ACPE Standard 318, Outcome 318.9).

26. Student integrates educational theory, knowledge of behavioral science, professional and organizational ethics, theology and pastoral identity into supervisory function (ACPE Standard 319, Outcome 319.1).

27. Student demonstrates awareness of the cultural contexts of diverse student groups and clinical populations that integrates and articulates ethnic identity development and its implications for pastoral practice and supervisory relationships (ACPE Standard 319, Outcome 319.2).

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.graduated.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.

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

Students receive a Department of Patient Counseling student handbook during orientation.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall (preferred)</td>
<td>Jun 1</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td>students required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(TOEFL)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have successfully completed undergraduate training and hold a bachelor’s degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution reflecting ability to perform at the graduate level; graduate degree in a health-related field; or two years of graduate theological education. Students must apply and be accepted to VCU’s Graduate School to participate in the clinical pastoral education program.

This program also requires submission of the following supplemental material: a current resume, the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education Inc. application materials, a copy of all previous self- and supervisor’s CPE evaluations and two verbatim case studies of clinical work. An interview with the faculty admission committee will be granted based on application material.

ACPE application fact sheets and narrative instructions can be found at http://s531162813.onlinehome.us/forms.

Supervisory clinical pastoral education concentration

1. The supervisory clinical pastoral education concentration is offered to persons seeking certification as supervisors according to the Standards of the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education Inc.

2. This degree concentration is available to students who hold a master’s degree or equivalency and who have completed a minimum of four units of ACPE clinical pastoral education.

3. Students admitted to this option must have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Submission of the Graduate Examination Record is required when this GPA requirement is not met.

4. Applicants holding degrees from recognized foreign institutions should display an acceptable level of English proficiency by achieving a minimum score of 550 on the TOEFL paper-based examination or 100 on the Internet-based examination. The ability to communicate orally and in writing must be presented to the Department of Patient Counseling admissions committee.

5. Each full-time semester at VCU is designed to meet the requirements for one unit of supervisory CPE as accredited by the Association for Clinical Pastoral Education, Inc.
Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must:

1. Follow, under faculty guidance, the procedures outlined in ACPE’s Manual on Certification
2. Meet with faculty annually for review of progress and continuation in the program
3. Complete a minimum of 44 credit hours in accordance with the approved curriculum
4. Complete all core courses
5. Complete all required elective course hours

Students who have completed degree requirements may continue to enroll as special students if completing residency requirements at VCU Medical Center or certification requirements with the ACPE.

Curriculum requirements
Only students admitted to this concentration are eligible to take courses numbered 653 through 696.

Core curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATC 615</td>
<td>Theory of Group Leadership</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 640</td>
<td>Research Basics for Hospital Chaplains</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 641</td>
<td>Evidence-based Inquiry for Hospital Chaplains</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 642</td>
<td>Developing and Presenting Chaplaincy Research</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 653</td>
<td>Patient Counseling Evaluation I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 654</td>
<td>Patient Counseling Evaluation II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 661</td>
<td>History of Pastoral Supervision</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 663</td>
<td>Theory of Pastoral Supervision I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 664</td>
<td>Theory of Pastoral Supervision II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 694</td>
<td>Advanced Clinical Pastoral Supervision</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 696</td>
<td>Intensive Supervisory Practicum</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives
Options for completing seven hours of elective study include the following: 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATC 665</td>
<td>Selected Topics in Pastoral Supervision (may be repeated for total of four credits)</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 692</td>
<td>Independent Study in Pastoral Supervision (may be repeated for total of four credits)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 697</td>
<td>Clinical Research (may be repeated for total of five credits)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 44

1 Other electives may be allowed with prior permission of the program director and chair.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 44

Additional contact
Russell H. Davis, Ph.D.
Professor and Rev. Robert B. Lantz Chair, Department of Patient Counseling, CPE supervisor (ACPE)
Email: rhdavis2@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-0540

Program website: sahp.vcu.edu/ptc (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/ptc)

Patient Counseling, Master of Science (M.S.)/Divinity, Master of (M.Div.) from the Baptist Theological Seminary in Richmond or the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University [combined]

Program accreditation
Association for Clinical Pastoral Education

Program goal
To provide clinical education for pastoral care professionals as well as other health care providers in the spiritual care of patients and families within an interdisciplinary context

Student learning outcomes
1. Graduates will demonstrate awareness of self with congruence in the care of patients, families and staff (ACPE Standard 312, Outcome 312.1).
2. Graduates will demonstrate ability to provide care with sensitivity and respect in a diverse patient, family and staff environment (ACPE Standard 312, Outcome 312.2).
3. Graduates will demonstrate the knowledge and provision of intensive and extensive pastoral/spiritual care to persons in crisis (ACPE Standard 312, Outcome 312.3).
4. Graduates will demonstrate incorporation of theological understanding and knowledge of the behavioral sciences in care of patients, families and staff (ACPE Standard 312, Outcome 312.4).
5. Graduates will demonstrate effective participation as a member of a comprehensive health care team (ACPE Standard 312, Outcome 312.5).
6. Graduates will demonstrate responsible care and professional boundaries (ACPE Standard 312, Outcome 312.6).
7. Graduates will demonstrate the utilization of individual and group supervision for personal and professional development as well as ongoing evaluation of clinical practice (ACPE Standard 312, Outcome 312.7).
8. Graduates will demonstrate awareness of professional standards in chaplaincy (ACPE Standard 312, Outcome 312.8).
9. Graduates will demonstrate ability to self-supervise and critically reflect on their own pastoral encounters (ACPE Standard 312, Outcome 312.9).
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://wwwgraduate.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

Other information

Students receive a Department of Patient Counseling student handbook during orientation.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://wwwgraduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
M.S. Fall (preferred) Jun 1 GRE TOEFL (required for international students)
Nov 1
Mar 1

In addition to general VCU Graduate Bulletin graduation requirements (p. 18), applicants must have successfully completed undergraduate training and hold a bachelor’s degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution reflecting ability to perform at the graduate level; graduate degree in a health-related field; or two years of graduate theological education. Students must apply and be accepted to VCU’s Graduate School to participate in the clinical pastoral education program.

ACPE application fact sheets and narrative instructions can be found at http://s531162813.onlinehome.us/forms.

Combined Master of Science in Patient Counseling and Master of Divinity

1. The dual degree (M.S./M.Div.) option is offered cooperatively with two Richmond-area graduate institutions of theological education (the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond and the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University).
2. The program is designed as a four-year program with four full semesters spent in residence at VCU. Typically, students apply to the Department of Patient Counseling during the first semester of seminary enrollment.
3. Students admitted to this option must have a minimum GPA of 3.0. Submission of the Graduate Examination Record is required when this GPA requirement is not met.
4. Applicants holding degrees from recognized foreign institutions should display an acceptable level of English proficiency by achieving a minimum score of 550 on the TOEFL paper-based examination or 100 on the Internet-based examination. The ability to communicate orally and in writing must be presented to the Department of Patient Counseling admissions committee.
5. Students enrolled in the dual-degree program will remain in good standing at VCU while enrolled in their seminary studies. Each sponsoring institution will grant its respective degree.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must:

1. Complete a minimum of 44 credit hours in accordance with the approved curriculum
2. Complete all core courses
3. Complete all required elective course hours
4. Submit official seminary transcript with VCU Application to Graduate Council

Final granting of the Master of Science degree requires an oral review with the faculty demonstrating completion of outcomes for Level II Clinical Pastoral Education or Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education as determined by the chosen track of study.

Curriculum requirements

Core curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATC 515</td>
<td>Basic Patient Counseling</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 611</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Patient Counseling I</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 612</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Patient Counseling II</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 613</td>
<td>Group Process I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 614</td>
<td>Group Process II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 615</td>
<td>Theory of Group Leadership</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 617</td>
<td>Supervised Clinical Practice I</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 635</td>
<td>Clinical Ethics</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 639</td>
<td>Pastoral Care Management</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 640</td>
<td>Research Basics for Hospital Chaplains</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 641</td>
<td>Evidence-based Inquiry for Hospital Chaplains</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATC 642</td>
<td>Developing and Presenting Chaplaincy Research</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastoral care (seminary course)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethics (seminary course)</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective

Course may be taken in patient counseling, gerontology and rehabilitation counseling. Other electives may be allowed with prior permission of the program director and chair.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATC elective course (500 level or higher)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY elective course (620 and 630 series)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB elective course (620 and 630 series)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 44

Graduate program director
Angela H. Flack, M.Div.
Director of education, assistant professor and ACPE supervisor
Email: aflack@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-0540

Additional contact
Russell H. Davis, Ph.D.
Professor and Rev. Robert B. Lantz Chair, Department of Patient Counseling, CPE supervisor (ACPE)
Email: rhdavis2@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-0540

Program website: sahp.vcu.edu/ptc (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/ptc)

Department of Physical Therapy

Mary Snyder Shall, P.T., Ph.D.
Professor and chair

The Department of Physical Therapy was established in 1931 to provide basic preparation for the practice of physical therapy. Between 1931 and 1954, the program consisted of a 12-month professional course designed to train students for entry into the profession. This program was based upon at least three years of college work or the possession of a registered nurse certificate. A two-year professional program after two years of preparatory college work was initiated in 1954. This program led to the degree of Bachelor of Science in Physical Therapy. In 1968, the Department of Physical Therapy became part of the School of Allied Health Professions. The two-year professional program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree continued through the 1988-89 academic year.

In August 1989, the department began a three-year professional program based on three years of previous college work that leads to a Master of Science degree. On Feb. 8, 2001 the VCU Board of Visitors approved a proposal to offer a Doctor of Physical Therapy as the entry-level professional degree. The State Council of Higher Education in Virginia gave its final approval for the proposal on June 20, 2001. The first class to study the professional program began in July 2002.

In addition to the professional program, the department participates in three collaborative and interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs.

Mission
The mission of the VCU Department of Physical Therapy is to serve the commonwealth of Virginia and the nation by:

- Advancing excellence in entry-level and post-entry-level education
- Generating innovative scientific discovery
- Impacting the health of the community through leadership

Philosophy
Physical therapy is an integral part of the health care system. Expanding knowledge in the basic and clinical sciences, and changes in the needs and mandates of society, continually place new demands on the physical therapy profession. The faculty of the Department of Physical Therapy is committed to providing educational programs responsive to expanding knowledge and the needs of society.

The primary principle directing the activities of the department is the faculty’s commitment to optimal patient care through physical therapy education, research and practice. The faculty strongly believes that physical therapists must have a thorough understanding of the theory and evidence that form the basis of contemporary patient/client management. In addition, physical therapists must be excellent problem-solvers and must demonstrate the highest levels of professionalism in their interactions with patients/clients, families and colleagues. The faculty also believes that physical therapists have a responsibility to develop skills for lifelong learning and to engage in service to the profession and to their communities.

Objectives
The objectives of the Department of Physical Therapy, in concert with the mission of the university and the School of Allied Health Professions, are to:

- Provide an entry-level post-baccalaureate educational program for full-time students with diverse backgrounds and experiences
- Contribute to interdisciplinary post-professional doctoral programs that prepare physical therapists to contribute to the understanding and application of therapeutic procedures through basic and applied research and to teach both clinical and didactic physical therapy on all academic levels
- Provide an atmosphere that fosters creative, critical thinking, intellectual curiosity and integrity, freedom of expression, personal growth and professional competence, and a commitment to learning for faculty and students
- Provide an environment that facilitates research and scholarship directed toward optimizing patient care
- Provide services to the public and professional communities

Facilities
The educational facilities for the Department of Physical Therapy are located on the basement floor of A.D. Williams/West Hospital. These buildings, located on the northeast corner of 12th and Broad streets, house administrative and faculty offices, classrooms, physical therapy instructional, computer and research laboratories, and student locker rooms. Classrooms in other buildings on the MCV Campus are used as needed.

Clinical education experiences for professional students are offered in physical therapy clinics throughout Virginia and the country.

Graduate (post-professional) programs in physical therapy
The Department of Physical Therapy is committed to improving physical therapy services through graduate education and research. The department participates in cooperative and interdisciplinary doctoral programs. An interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science is offered in conjunction with two other departments at VCU: the Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences in the College of Humanities and Sciences and the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation in the School of Medicine. Also, the department participates in the School of Allied Health Professions’ Ph.D. in Health Related Sciences.

Education at the Ph.D. level is a highly independent adventure. The curricula offered by the Department of Physical Therapy through joint ventures with other departments allow students the opportunity to focus
on highly divergent aspects of research related to physical therapy. Each of the programs also offers students opportunity to hone teaching skills in preparation for a well-rounded academic career.

Regardless of the chosen program or track, each Ph.D. student conducts a substantial original research project. Individuals interested in doctoral education are encouraged to examine the research interest areas of faculty in each of the participating departments and to consult with the program directors before submitting their application to a specific program.

Admission requirements

Applications are encouraged from individuals who are practicing physical therapists. Applicants must have graduated from a physical therapy educational program approved by the American Physical Therapy Association. International students must have an equivalent level of education as determined by the International Admissions. Individuals who are not physical therapists are not accepted into the advanced degree programs.

Additional admission requirements for graduate study in the Department of Physical Therapy are as follows:

1. A minimum GPA of 2.7 on a 4.0 scale for entry-level professional education
2. Satisfactory score on the general test of the GRE (taken no more than five years prior to admission)
3. Three satisfactory letters of recommendation
4. Applicant’s written statement of intent for pursuing graduate studies in a particular program
5. Such additional requirements as established for each specific program

International students also must score a 600 or above on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (250 on computer-based test).

Financial assistance

Some teaching and research assistantships are available from the department. These assistantships are competitive. Part-time employment as a physical therapy clinician is available in Richmond and surrounding areas. Doctoral students receiving stipends must receive approval of outside employment.

VCU provides three types of student assistance: scholarships, loans and work-study. For information on these types of financial assistance, write to the Office of Financial Aid, Virginia Commonwealth University, MCV Campus, Richmond, VA 23298-0244.

Priority consideration is given to applications received by Jan. 9.

- Physical Therapy, Doctor of (D.P.T.) (p. 260)
- Rehabilitation and Movement Science, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in exercise physiology (p. 263)
- Rehabilitation and Movement Science, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in neuromusculoskeletal dynamics (p. 265)

Physical Therapy, Doctor of (D.P.T.)

Program accreditation
Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education

The Department of Physical Therapy serves the people of the commonwealth of Virginia and the nation by providing educational programs related to physical therapy. The department provides an environment that encourages education through problem solving, free inquiry, professional behavior and scholarship. The department’s primary focus is to prepare individuals for general physical therapy practice. These practitioners are educated to serve as an entry point into the health care system for consumers. Post-professional programs provide quality education leading to careers in teaching and research. The department also provides assistance and services to the community and engages in research and scholarly activities related to the practice of physical therapy.

Preparation of physical therapists

VCU’s Department of Physical Therapy offers a three-year degree program leading to a Doctor of Physical Therapy. The program prepares students for entry into the profession by teaching them to evaluate and manage patients with physical therapy problems effectively and in accordance with ethical principles. It also provides students with strategies to continually define and meet their own educational needs in order to keep skills and knowledge current throughout their professional careers.

Expected student outcomes

Satisfactory performance in the experiences provided in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program prepares the graduate to:

1. Demonstrate professional behavior in a manner consistent with APTA Code of Ethics and APTA Core Values
2. Adhere to legal practice standards, including all federal, state and institutional regulations related to patient/client care and fiscal management
3. Communicate effectively with all stakeholders, including patients/clients, family members, caregivers, practitioners, interprofessional team members, consumers, payers and policymakers
4. Adapt delivery of physical therapy services with consideration for patients’ differences, values, preferences and expressed needs in all professional activities
5. Integrate basic principles of critical inquiry to evaluate, interpret and utilize professional literature in clinical practice, participate in clinical research activities, and critically analyze new concepts in the application of physical therapy practice
6. Apply current knowledge, theory and professional judgment, while considering the patient/client perspective, the environment and available resources
7. Determine, with each patient encounter, the patient’s need for further examination or consultation by a physical therapist or referral to another health care professional
8. Perform a physical therapy patient examination using evidenced-based tests and measures that are appropriate to the patient’s age, diagnosis and health status
9. Evaluate data from the patient examination (history, systems review, and tests and measures) to determine a diagnosis, prognosis, client goals and expected outcomes that guide future patient management
10. Establish and manage a safe and effective physical therapy plan of care that is consistent with professional obligations, interprofessional collaborations, and administrative policies and procedures of the practice environment
11. Perform physical therapy interventions in a competent manner to achieve patient/client goals and outcomes.

12. Educate others (patients, caregivers, staff, students, other health care providers, business and industry representatives, school systems) using relevant and effective teaching methods.

13. Produce accurate documentation that follows guidelines and specific documentation formats required by state practice acts, the practice setting and other regulatory agencies.

14. Collect and analyze data from selected outcome measures in a manner that supports accurate analysis of individual patient and group outcomes.

15. Direct and supervise personnel to meet patient’s goals and expected outcomes according to legal standards and ethical guidelines.

16. Demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning and the physical therapy profession by serving as an advocate for the profession and the health care needs of society.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Other information**

A hard copy of the VCU D.P.T. program student handbook and policies and procedures manual is distributed to each entering physical therapy student at orientation.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D.P.T.</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>The beginning of November of the year prior to intended enrollment</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For non-native English-speaking applicants, regardless of immigration status, a TOEFL score of at least 600 (score of 250 on computerized exam) All test scores should be reported directly to VCU.

**Special requirements**

- The VCU Department of Physical Therapy participates in the American Physical Therapy Association-sponsored physical therapy centralized application service for applicants to the D.P.T. program. All students interested in applying to this program must submit their application materials directly to PTCAS. Applicants who apply through PTCAS will submit a completed Web-based application comprising biographical data, colleges and universities attended, academic course history, physical therapy observation hours, list of reference providers, work experience, extracurricular activities, honors, professional licenses and a personal essay. It is the applicant’s responsibility to read and follow all PTCAS and program-specific instructions. Please visit the Department of Physical Therapy website for application deadlines.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. A Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree from an accredited college or university.
2. A minimum grade-point average of 2.7 (in a 4.0 system)
3. A minimum total of 45 volunteer hours in at least two physical therapy practice settings
4. Three recommendations, at least one of which is from a physical therapist

Prerequisites for admission to the professional Doctor of Physical Therapy program include a Bachelor of Arts or Bachelor of Science degree from an accredited college or university. If the applicant has received college credit hours for AP courses and/or exams, and those hours are listed on the university transcript, those credit hours will be accepted. A grade of D in any required prerequisite course is not acceptable. A minimum GPA of 2.7 (in a 4.0 system) is required to be considered for admission. The GRE is required; the scores should be reported directly to Virginia Commonwealth University. For non-native English-speaking applicants, regardless of immigration status, a Test of English as a Foreign Language score of at least 600 (score of 250 on computerized exam) is required; scores should be reported directly to Virginia Commonwealth University.

The program of study necessary to be considered for admission to the professional Doctor of Physical Therapy program must include a minimum of the following subject areas and credits:

**Biological sciences** – 12 credit hours including laboratory experiences

- Must include four credit hours of college-level biology
- Must include four credit hours of anatomy and four credit hours of human physiology, or eight credit hours of anatomy/physiology (An exercise physiology course is not an acceptable substitute for a human physiology course.)
- Cell biology and histology highly recommended but not required

**Chemistry** – eight credit hours including laboratory experiences

**Mathematics** – three credit hours (must be in pre-calculus or a more advanced mathematics course)

**Physics** – eight credit hours of general physics with laboratory (Courses that emphasize mechanics, electricity, heat and light are highly recommended.)

**Psychology** – six credit hours (One introductory course and one course in human growth and development or abnormal psychology is required.)

**Statistics** – three credit hours

In order to complete the total requirements, students are encouraged to elect courses from the following categories: computer science, embryology, histology, cell biology, comparative anatomy, kinesiology, exercise physiology, foreign languages and courses in physical education dealing with an analytical approach to human movement or motor learning.

Students must also present a minimum of 45 volunteer hours in at least two physical therapy practice settings.

Students are required to have current CPR certification.

One of the three required letters of recommendation must be from a physical therapist.

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### Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), every professional physical therapy program student must maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.0. At the end of each semester, the faculty reviews the academic performance of all students. All students must have a GPA of 3.0 by the end of the second academic year in order to matriculate into PHTY 680 in the third academic year. Physical therapy students must complete all clinical education experiences to the satisfaction of the clinical and academic faculty.

Under no circumstances are physical therapy students permitted to participate in graduation ceremonies if they have not satisfactorily completed all the requirements of the professional physical therapy program curriculum.

### Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHTY 501</td>
<td>Gross Anatomy (Physical Therapy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHTY 502</td>
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<td>Applied Exercise Physiology</td>
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<td>PHTY 506</td>
<td>Functional Neuroanatomy</td>
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<td>Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy I</td>
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<td>Rehabilitation I</td>
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<td>Health Care Systems</td>
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<td>Evidence-based Practice Concepts</td>
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<td>Rehabilitation II</td>
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<td>PHTY 540</td>
<td>Psychosocial Aspects of Physical Therapy</td>
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<td>PHTY 609</td>
<td>Clinical Biomechanics</td>
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<td>PHTY 615</td>
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<td>PHTY 621</td>
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<td>Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy</td>
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<td>PHTY 624</td>
<td>Clinical Problem-solving I</td>
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<td>Lifespan I</td>
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<td>PHTY 676</td>
<td>Comprehensive Study of Physical Therapy Practice</td>
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### Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 122

**Sample plan of study**

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<th>Summer semester</th>
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<td>IPEC 501</td>
<td>Foundations of Interprofessional Practice</td>
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<td>PHTY 502</td>
<td>Kinesiology</td>
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<td>PHTY 503</td>
<td>Applied Exercise Physiology</td>
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<td>Evidence-based Practice Concepts</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<td>Health Care Systems</td>
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<td>PHTY 609</td>
<td>Clinical Biomechanics</td>
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<td>Lifespan II</td>
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<td>PHTY 644</td>
<td>Orthotics and Prosthetics</td>
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- **PHTY 650** | Clinical Education II | 8 |
| **Term Hours:** | 8 |

**P3 year**

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<td>PHTY 651</td>
<td>Professional Issues in Physical Therapy</td>
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<td>PHTY 654</td>
<td>Clinical Problem-solving II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTY 670</td>
<td>Clinical Integration of Physical Therapy Concepts</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHTY 676</td>
<td>Comprehensive Study of Physical Therapy Practice</td>
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<td>PHTY 660</td>
<td>Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy III</td>
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<td>Block 2-12 weeks</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHTY 674</td>
<td>Clinical Problem-solving III</td>
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<td>PHTY 695</td>
<td>Clinical Education IV</td>
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<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
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</table>

| **Total Hours:** | 122 |

---

**Graduate program director**

Mary S. Shall, P.T., Ph.D.
Professor and chair, Department of Physical Therapy
Email: msshall@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-0234

**Additional contact**

Melissa Lee
D.P.T. admissions coordinator
Email: mlee27@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-0234

**Program website:** sahp.vcu.edu/departments/pt/prospective-students/dpt-professional-degree (http://sahp.vcu.edu/departments/pt/prospective-students/dpt-professional-degree)

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**Rehabilitation and Movement Science, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in exercise physiology**

[School of Allied Health Professions]

**Program goal**

The Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science is an interdisciplinary degree program developed through a collaborative partnership of the departments of Kinesiology and Health Sciences, Physical Therapy, and Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. The mission of this collaborative degree program is to prepare applied scientists capable of approaching multifaceted health care, preventive medicine and rehabilitation initiatives from an integrative perspective and to prepare graduates to assume research, teaching and leadership positions within rehabilitation and movement science professions.

There are two program concentrations: exercise physiology and neuromusculoskeletal dynamics. The exercise physiology concentration prepares individuals to conduct research, direct external funding
initiatives and teach in the area of exercise physiology, with particular focus on physical activity’s impact on chronic disease states. The neuromusculoskeletal dynamics concentration prepares individuals for research, teaching and clinical initiatives associated with the identification and rehabilitation of movement disorders.

Student learning outcomes
At the completion of the program students will:

1. Demonstrate teaching effectiveness in the classroom, clinical environment or both
2. Have disseminated research findings at an appropriate regional, national or international conference
3. Demonstrate the ability to independently collect research data, analyze research data and synthesize conclusions from research data

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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall preferred</td>
<td>Applications received prior to Jan. 9 will be given priority consideration. Applications received following the deadline may be considered if space and resources are available.</td>
<td>GRE</td>
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</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must:

1. Have completed at least one of a master’s degree in a related area, 30 hours of post-baccalaureate work (e.g. course work at 500 level or greater) or a first-professional degree program
2. Provide official GRE score
3. Submit a curriculum vitae or professional resume indicating an applicant’s educational and career experience as well as evidence of research potential

Admission decisions are made only on the basis of a completed application packet.

Applicants being considered for admission must complete an interview with a Ph.D. admissions committee representative and/or research faculty member with whom the student would like to work.

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students pursuing the Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science must successfully complete:

1. A minimum of 50 credit hours developed in conjunction with their advisers
2. Written and oral comprehensive examinations
3. All other university requirements of qualification for degree candidacy
4. Written dissertation based on a focused line of research
5. Oral defense of the dissertation

Curriculum requirements
Research core courses
Select one of the following:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 761</td>
<td>Health Related Sciences Research Design</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUS 710</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Design</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 761</td>
<td>Health Services Research Methods I</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 600</td>
<td>Introduction to Research Design in Health and Movement Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>STAT/BIOS 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>STAT/BIOS 544</td>
<td>Statistical Methods II</td>
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<tr>
<td>ALHP 716</td>
<td>Grant Writing and Project Management in Health Related Sciences</td>
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<td>BIOS 531</td>
<td>Clinical Epidemiology</td>
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<td>BIOS 553</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods I</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOS 571</td>
<td>Clinical Trials</td>
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<td>BIOS 572</td>
<td>Analysis of Biomedical Data I</td>
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<tr>
<td>PHTX 614</td>
<td>Foundation in Psychoneuroimmunology</td>
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<tr>
<td>REMS/HEMS 660</td>
<td>Neuromuscular Performance</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>REMS 690</td>
<td>Research Seminar in Rehabilitation and Movement Science (.5 credit-hour course repeated for a total of 3 credits)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>REMS 703</td>
<td>Cardiovascular Exercise Physiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>REMS 704</td>
<td>Psychobiology of Physical Activity</td>
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<td>REMS 705</td>
<td>Metabolic Aspects of Physical Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOL 524</td>
<td>Endocrinology</td>
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<td>HEMS 610</td>
<td>Laboratory Techniques in Rehabilitation Science</td>
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<td>HEMS 675</td>
<td>Clinical Exercise Physiology</td>
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<td>Foundation in Psychoneuroimmunology</td>
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<td>REMS 702</td>
<td>Advanced Exercise Physiology II</td>
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**Core concentration**

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<td>REMS 701</td>
<td>Advanced Exercise Physiology I</td>
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**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 50**

**Approved electives**

- **BIOL 524** Endocrinology 3
- **HEMS 610** Laboratory Techniques in Rehabilitation Science 3
- **HEMS 675** Clinical Exercise Physiology 3
- **PHTX 614** Foundation in Psychoneuroimmunology 3
- **REMS/HEMS 660** Neuromuscular Performance 3
- **REMS 690** Research Seminar in Rehabilitation and Movement Science (.5 credit-hour course repeated for a total of 3 credits) 3
- **REMS 703** Cardiovascular Exercise Physiology II 3
- **REMS 704** Psychobiology of Physical Activity 3
- **REMS 705** Metabolic Aspects of Physical Activity 3

**Additional contact**

Sheryl D.G. Finucane, Ph.D., P.T.
Assistant professor and graduate program director, Department of Physical Therapy
sfinucan@vcu.edu
(804) 828-0234

**Program website:** sahp.vcu.edu/departments/pt/prospective-students/phd-programs/rehabilitation-and-movement-science

### Rehabilitation and Movement Science, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in neuromusculoskeletal dynamics [School of Allied Health Professions]

**Program goal**

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<tr>
<td>Degree:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
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<td>HEMS 600</td>
<td>Introduction to Research Design in Health and Movement Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
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<tr>
<td>or BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 544</td>
<td>Statistical Methods II</td>
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</table>

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).
or BIOS 544  Graduate Research Methods II

Select one additional research design class of above or of the following:

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</tr>
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<td>BIOS 531</td>
<td>Clinical Epidemiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 553</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods I</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 571</td>
<td>Clinical Trials</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOS 572</td>
<td>Analysis of Biomedical Data I</td>
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Core concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REMS/HEMS 611</td>
<td>Biomechanics of Human Motion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS/HEMS 660</td>
<td>Neuromuscular Performance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 665</td>
<td>Instrumentation in Motion Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approved electives (from list below)  9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPID 622</td>
<td>Maternal and Child Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 603</td>
<td>Developmental Processes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 614</td>
<td>Development in Infancy and Early Childhood</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS/PHTY 608</td>
<td>Advanced Musculoskeletal Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS/PHTY 612</td>
<td>Advanced Biomechanics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 692</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Laboratory rotations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REMS 710</td>
<td>Research Techniques in Rehabilitation and Movement Science</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Professional development course work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REMS 690</td>
<td>Research Seminar in Rehabilitation and Movement Science (.5 credit-hour course repeated for a total of 3 credits)</td>
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<tr>
<td>REMS 793</td>
<td>Teaching Practicum in Higher Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>REMS 794</td>
<td>Research Presentation Seminar</td>
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Dissertation research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>REMS 798</td>
<td>Research in Rehabilitation and Movement Science</td>
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Total Hours 50

Approved electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPID 622</td>
<td>Maternal and Child Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 603</td>
<td>Developmental Processes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 614</td>
<td>Development in Infancy and Early Childhood</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS/PHTY 608</td>
<td>Advanced Musculoskeletal Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS/PHTY 612</td>
<td>Advanced Biomechanics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>REMS 692</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 50

Graduate program director
Sheryl D.G. Finucane, Ph.D., P.T.
Assistant professor and graduate program director, Department of Physical Therapy
sfinucan@vcu.edu
(804) 829-0234

Additional contact
Ronald K. Evans, Ph.D.
Associate professor and director of graduate studies, Department of Kinesiology and Health Sciences
rkevans@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1948

Program website: sahp.vcu.edu/departments/pt/prospective-students/phd-programs/rehabilitation-and-movement-science

Department of Radiation Sciences

Jeffrey S. Legg, Ph.D., RT(R)(CT)(QM)
Associate professor and chair
sahp.vcu.edu/departments/radsci

The Department of Radiation Sciences is an integral part of the School of Allied Health Professions and shares its values. The department serves as a national leader in the education of students in the radiation sciences and provides learning opportunities that are innovative and educationally sound. Strong linkages with clinical affiliates and their staffs are vital to the department’s success. Faculty and staff work in a cooperative spirit in an environment conducive to inquisitiveness and independent learning to help a diverse student body develop to its fullest potential. The faculty is committed to the concept of lifelong learning and promotes standards of clinical practice that will serve students throughout their professional careers. Faculty members serve as resources for professionals in practice and contribute to an expanded knowledge base in the field of clinical radiation sciences.

The mission of the Department of Radiation Sciences is to enable a diverse student body to develop its fullest potential and to graduate baccalaureate-level radiologic health professionals who demonstrate outstanding technical, communication and critical-thinking skills.

Department of Radiation Sciences’ goals

1. For entry-level and second modality programs, students will be clinically competent.
   a. Students will attain clinical competence.
   b. Graduates will demonstrate clinical competence while employed in the radiation sciences.

2. Students will communicate effectively.
   a. Students will demonstrate effective communication during their clinical experience.
   b. Students will demonstrate effective communication through the research project.
   c. Graduates will demonstrate effective communication while employed in the radiation sciences.

3. Students will demonstrate critical-thinking skills.
   a. Students will demonstrate critical-thinking skills during their clinical experience.
   b. Students will demonstrate critical-thinking skills in developing their research project.

4. Students will model professionalism.
   a. Students will demonstrate professionalism during their clinical experience.
   b. Graduates will demonstrate professionalism while employed in the radiation sciences.

5. The department will assure program effectiveness.

History

Radiologic technology education began at the Medical College of Virginia in the 1930s with a one-year training program in radiography. This
program has undergone a number of changes through the years to evolve into the current baccalaureate educational program.

A concentration in nuclear medicine technology was added in 1984 and in radiation therapy in 1992. Degree-completion programs have been added to provide an opportunity for certified technologists and therapists to complete requirements for the baccalaureate degree.

Facilities

The educational facilities for the Department of Radiation Sciences are located at 701 W. Grace St., Suite 2100. These facilities include energized laboratories in radiography, nuclear medicine, radiation therapy and mammography. The radiography laboratory includes a digital imaging system. In addition, the radiation therapy laboratory has a 3-D treatment planning system.

During the various phases of the curriculum, students will be assigned to one or more of the following affiliate institutions: VCU Health’s MCV Hospitals, McGuire VA Medical Center, Southside Regional Medical Center, Henrico Doctors’ Hospitals and a variety of smaller clinics and facilities.

Department of Rehabilitation Counseling

Amy J. Armstrong, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair

sahp.vcu.edu/rehab (http://sahp.vcu.edu/departments/rehab)

Founded in 1955, the Department of Rehabilitation Counseling serves as a national leader in the professional preparation of licensed professional counselors and certified rehabilitation counselors who will exercise skill and competence on a high technical and ethical level. Department faculty conduct active programs of research and service and maintain high levels of teaching competence. In partnership with students, community agencies and consumer and professional organizations, the department endeavors to enhance the personal, social and economic well-being of the clients they serve, regardless of disability or other life circumstances.

The Department of Rehabilitation Counseling is fully accredited by the Council on Rehabilitation Education, and is the only such program in the commonwealth of Virginia. The purpose of accreditation is to promote the effective delivery of rehabilitation services to people with disabilities by fostering ongoing review and improvements of rehabilitation education programs. CORE has developed a field-based research accreditation process that has gained widespread acceptance in the professional accreditation movement. With more than 2,000 alumni, the department also enjoys solid relationships with many community organizations that serve as excellent sites for clinical training.

Faculty adviser

Every student must have a faculty adviser to guide the student regarding course selection and scheduling, to supervise his/her research and to act as a channel of communication with the department, to other departments and to the Graduate School. When the student receives notification of admission to the department, it is his/her responsibility to contact the faculty adviser to plan the program of study. Students consult with faculty advisers on a regular basis to ensure orderly progress through the entire program of study, choose clinical placement sites, select electives and plan their careers.

- Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, Master of Science (M.S.)
- Rehabilitation Counseling, Master of Science (M.S.)/Aging Studies, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) [combined]
- Professional Counseling, Certificate in (Post-master’s certificate)

Professional Counseling, Certificate in (Post-master’s certificate)

Program goals

The post-master’s certificate program in professional counseling is designed for persons who hold the Master of Science or Master of Arts degree in counseling from VCU or other accredited institutions. The intent is to assist students in meeting the educational requirements for the Licensed Professional Counselor, the Licensed Substance Abuse Practitioner and the Certified Substance Abuse Counselor credentials in Virginia and other states.

The certificate program also may be pursued to fulfill preservice or continuing education requirements for various national certifications, such as National Certified Counselor or Certified Rehabilitation Counselor. Specialization requirements may exceed the minimum number of required credit hours for the certificate program as a whole.

Courses are selected from course offerings of the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling program based on individualized need and in conjunction with a faculty adviser.

Specific goals include but are not limited to:

1. The encouragement of advanced graduate education in counseling
2. The facilitation of the professional counselor’s career development efforts and goals
3. The facilitation of the acquisition or maintenance of professional state licenses or national certificates
4. The expansion of the student’s awareness and expertise in specialized counselor roles and functions

Student learning outcomes

Upon completion of the program, the graduate will be able to:

1. Develop and maintain confidential counseling relationships with individuals using established skills and techniques
2. Establish, in collaboration with the consumer, individual counseling goals and objectives
3. Apply advanced counseling and interviewing skills
4. Employ consultation skills with and on behalf of the consumer

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.

• Rehabilitation Counseling, Master of Science (M.S.)/Aging Studies, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) [combined] (p. 272)
• Professional Counseling, Certificate in (Post-master’s certificate) (p. 268)
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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.  

(p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.  

(p. 37)

**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 VCU Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.  

(p. 40)

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree: Post-master’s certificate</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special requirements**

- Statement of academic and professional goals and of previous work or volunteer experience
- Three letters of reference from professors, employers or others who can assess applicant’s capabilities (nonfamily members)
- Personal interview (may be required)

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have completed a master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling or a related discipline.

Upon admission to the program, students must meet with an academic adviser to design an approved course of study that leads to the completion of the educational requirements for licensure or certification as a professional counselor.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40),

1. Students must complete a minimum of 15 graduate credit hours of course work in professional counseling that leads to the completion of the educational requirements for licensure or certification as a professional counselor, as prescribed in their approved courses of study. Specialization requirements may exceed the minimum number of required credit hours for the certificate program as a whole.
2. Students must maintain an overall minimum grade point average of 3.0.
3. The 15 graduate credit hours must not duplicate previous graduate course work completed at VCU or other institutions.
4. The 15 graduate credit hours must include six graduate credit hours in advanced counseling skills.
5. Transfer credits are not accepted.

**Curriculum requirements**

Upon admission to the program, students must meet with an academic adviser to design an approved course of study that leads to the completion of the educational requirements for licensure or certification as a professional counselor. Each plan of study is individualized, but may include courses from the following list, if approved by the faculty adviser.

**Licensed Professional Counselor credential**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 613</td>
<td>Advanced Rehabilitation Counseling Seminar (three-credit course; may be repeated for a total of nine credit hours)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 614</td>
<td>Counseling, Death and Loss</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 615</td>
<td>Human Growth and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Possible topics: cognitive behavioral therapy, crisis counseling, etc.
2 Courses that may satisfy the six graduate credit hours in advanced counseling skills requirement.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 15**

Certified Rehabilitation Counselor credential

Select five of the following:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 525</td>
<td>Introduction to Rehabilitation Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 611</td>
<td>Theories of Professional Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 623</td>
<td>Career Counseling and Job Placement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 624</td>
<td>Assessment and Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 640</td>
<td>Medical and Psychosocial Aspects of Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 633</td>
<td>Case Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 654</td>
<td>Multicultural Counseling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 15

Licensure requirements

Refer to the Department of Rehabilitation Counseling website for additional information on Licensed Professional Counselor (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/rehab/current/lpc.html) and the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification website (http://www.crccertification.com/pages/aboutcertification/46.php) for Certified Rehabilitation Counselor examination requirements.

Graduate program director
Amy J. Armstrong, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Rehabilitation Counseling
Email: ajarmstro@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-0913


Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, Master of Science (M.S.)

Program accreditation
Council on Rehabilitation Education

Department goals
• To provide students with educational experiences that facilitate the development of knowledge, skills and values necessary to practice as a licensed professional counselor and certified rehabilitation counselor
• To provide students with learning opportunities that foster culturally responsive and ethical counseling practices
• To provide students with clinical training environments that prepare them to work in a variety of counseling settings

Program objectives
• Develop a well-rounded education in rehabilitation and mental health counseling
• Advance the basic philosophical tenets of rehabilitation, including the value and worth of all individuals, a belief in human dignity, and the right of all persons to fully participate in society
• Exercise skills and competencies on a high ethical level and with personal integrity
• Acquire a comprehensive understanding of the personal, social, vocational and psychological needs of persons with disabilities

Student learning outcomes
Upon completion of the program, the graduate will be able to:
• Demonstrate the ability to function ethically and effectively within settings that offer counseling, advocacy and related services to diverse populations
• Understand a range of counseling theories and skills applicable in a pluralistic society with individuals, groups, couples and families, as well as demonstrate the ability to apply this knowledge in a therapeutic manner to promote change and growth.
• Understand and apply the stages of development throughout the lifespan, including developmental goals, when working with individuals, regardless of disability or other impairing conditions
• Understand and apply career development theory and tools
• Demonstrate the ability to apply case management techniques with an understanding of the range of community resources available
• Demonstrate the appropriate use of assessment techniques when working with individuals and utilize relevant information within the counseling process
• Demonstrate the ability to evaluate professional research literature and incorporate such information into their professional development
• Demonstrate the knowledge and skills necessary to be an effective professional counselor through supervised practicum and internship experience

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
A student handbook is made available to students through a closed electronic system (Blackboard) and at new student orientation.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
M.S. Fall Mar 1 GRE or MAT

Special requirements

• Full- and part-time students can be accommodated by the program. Applications are reviewed on an ongoing basis. To be considered, all pertinent materials must be received in the department by March 1.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following requirements:

• Satisfactory performance in undergraduate education (based upon transcripts provided to Graduate Admissions)
• Three positive letters of reference from professors, employers or relevant sources
• Satisfactory performance on either the GRE or the MAT
• A relevant and clear statement of goals for graduate study and career
• Statement of previous work or volunteer experience

A personal interview with a faculty member may also be required.

A complete set of application materials is available from the Graduate Admissions website (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the minimum degree requirement is 60 graduate credits, including 48 credits of didactic course work, 100 hours of fieldwork, 600 hours of internship and three credits of electives.

Graduates from accredited rehabilitation counseling programs are typically trained in counseling theory and techniques; individual, group and environmental assessment; psychosocial and medical aspects of disability; human development; cultural diversity; principles of psychiatric rehabilitation, case management and rehabilitation planning; issues and ethics in rehabilitation service delivery; technological adaptation; vocational evaluation and work adjustment; career counseling; implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act; job development; and placement.

According to CORE Standards and the requirements of the department, students must have supervised rehabilitation and mental health counseling fieldwork and internship experiences that include:

• A minimum of 100 clock hours of fieldwork experience (as part of RHAB 692)
• A minimum of 600 clock hours of internship experience in rehabilitation and mental health settings (as part of RHAB 695 or RHAB 696)
• Written expectations and procedures for these experiences that are distributed to students and agency supervisors
• The following activities:
  • Orientation to program components, policies and procedures
  • Introduction to staff and their roles and functions
  • Identification of the expectations for students
  • Observation of all aspects of the delivery of rehabilitation and mental health counseling services
  • Work assignments performing the tasks required of an employed rehabilitation and mental health counselor in a rehabilitation and mental health setting from intake to discharge and/or placement
  • Reporting, including all required academic reports as well as logs, weekly progress reviews and summaries of activities

• Evaluation of student performance by the agency supervisor and the faculty supervisor, including self-evaluation by the student

Internship experiences shall be carried out under the regularly scheduled consultation, information and the provision of professional development resources to agency supervisors.

Transfer credit

A maximum of 12 graduate credit hours may be transferred from another VCU graduate program or outside institution if not applied previously to another degree. Transfer credit hours must carry a minimum grade of B from an accredited institution. Acceptance of transfer credit hours is made at the level of the department chair and dean of the School of Allied Health Professions. Transfer credit hours earned as a nondegree-seeking graduate student are limited to six credit hours. Credit hours earned as deficiency hours or to demonstrate the ability to compete at the graduate level, though transferable, may not be applied to the 48-credit-hour program of study.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 521</td>
<td>Addiction Counseling</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 525</td>
<td>Introduction to Rehabilitation Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 526</td>
<td>Introduction to Mental Health Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 611</td>
<td>Theories of Professional Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 612</td>
<td>Group Counseling Theories and Techniques</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 615</td>
<td>Human Growth and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 616</td>
<td>Couples and Family Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 623</td>
<td>Career Counseling and Job Placement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 624</td>
<td>Assessment and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 625</td>
<td>Research and Program Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 633</td>
<td>Case Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Course Title</td>
<td>Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 640</td>
<td>Medical and Psychosocial Aspects of Disabilities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 642</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Health Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 654</td>
<td>Multicultural Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 691</td>
<td>Counseling Techniques</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 692</td>
<td>Advanced Professional Issues in Counseling (includes 100-hour practicum)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 695</td>
<td>Supervised Clinical Practice in Substance Abuse Rehabilitation</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RHAB 696</td>
<td>Supervised Clinical Practice in Rehabilitation and Mental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective 3

Select one of the following:

RHAB 695 Supervised Clinical Practice in Substance Abuse Rehabilitation
RHAB 696 Supervised Clinical Practice in Rehabilitation and Mental Health

Total Hours 60

Note that semesters three and six are completed during the summer.

Graduate program director
Amy J. Armstrong, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Rehabilitation Counseling
Email: ajarmstr@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-0913

Additional contact:
Christopher C. Wagner, Ph.D.
Associate professor and vice chair
Email: ccwagner@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-0916

Program website: sahp.vcu.edu/rehab (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/rehab)

Rehabilitation Counseling, Master of Science (M.S.)/Aging Studies, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) [combined]

The Department of Gerontology, in cooperation with other programs at the university, provides students interested in working with elders or in gerontological settings with the opportunity to complete the Certificate in Aging Studies while also completing requirements for other degree programs. Students must apply separately to the participating programs and must meet all admission and degree requirements for both programs. In some cases, and with the approval of the advisers of both programs, course work in one program may be approved to satisfy a course requirement in another program.

The Department of Rehabilitation Counseling, in cooperation with the Department of Gerontology, provides its degree-seeking students with the opportunity to earn the Certificate in Aging Studies while concurrently completing the requirements for the Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Students must meet admission requirements for both the rehabilitation counseling degree and the aging studies certificate program, and admission into one is independent of the other.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 601</td>
<td>Biological and Physiological Aging</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRTY/PSYC 602</td>
<td>Psychology of Aging</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>GRTY 603</td>
<td>Social Gerontology</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>
GRTY 615  Aging and Mental Disorders  3
or GRTY 641  Survey of Psychological Assessment and Treatment of the Older Adult
GRTY 692  Independent Studies  3
RHAB 625  Research and Program Evaluation  3
RHAB 696  Supervised Clinical Practice in Rehabilitation and Mental Health  3

Total Hours  21

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 21**

Contact the respective departments for additional curriculum information.

**Graduate program director**
E. Ayn Welleford, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Gerontology
Email: ewellefo@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1565

**Program website:** sahp.vcu.edu/gerontology (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/gerontology)

**Virginia Center on Aging**

The Virginia Center on Aging, established at VCU by the Virginia General Assembly in 1978, is a statewide resource for aging-related research, education, service, training and technical assistance. It serves as a focal point for the collection, assessment and maintenance of data on elders in the commonwealth; designs and tests innovative demonstration projects in education and service delivery; and assists public and private organizations in meeting the needs of older citizens.

The Virginia Center on Aging and the Department of Gerontology maintain the Information Resources Center, a broad collection of print and audiovisual materials on aging that is available on loan. Short reports and training manuals may be obtained at cost. The Virginia Center on Aging also administers the Alzheimer’s and Related Diseases Research Award Fund that provides seed grants of $25,000 each to researchers in Virginia in order to investigate biomedical, psychosocial, clinical, public policy and other aspects of dementing illness.

The Virginia Center on Aging regularly partners with other units of VCU in developing, conducting and evaluating research and training projects related to aging, disabilities, lifelong learning and health problems. The center is located in the Theater Row building at 730 E. Broad St.
The School of the Arts offers 25 degree programs and comprises more than 3,000 students. With the inclusion of our campus in Qatar come an additional four programs. It all began as one night class taught by Theresa Pollak in the fall of 1928.

The school strives to be a stimulating community of students and teachers who cross the boundaries of conventional art and design disciplines, apply aesthetic and intellectual vision to the expression of complex ideas, value artistic tradition and experimentation in the search for creative solutions, connect international experience with professional education, integrate technical skills with theoretical understanding and care about the impact of their work on people.

Administration
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Interim associate dean for graduate studies and faculty affairs

John Guthmiller
Senior associate dean for academic affairs

Christina Lindholm
Associate dean for curriculum and assessment

Nancy M. Scott
Associate dean for academic administration

Jody Symula
Assistant dean for student affairs

Accreditation
VCU School of the Arts is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design, the National Association of Schools of Dance, the National Association of Schools of Music and the National Association of Schools of Theatre.

Visual arts
Visual arts degree programs
Art education, art history, cinema, communication arts, craft and material studies, fashion (design and fashion merchandising), graphic design, interior design, kinetic imaging, painting and printmaking, and sculpture

National Association of Schools of Art and Design

Art education (bachelor’s and master’s degrees)
National Association of Schools of Art and Design, National Council for Accreditation for Teacher Education, Virginia Department of Education

Interior design (bachelor’s degree)
National Association of Schools of Art and Design, Council for Interior Design Accreditation

Performing arts
Dance and choreography (bachelor’s degree)
National Association of Schools of Dance

Music (bachelor’s and master’s degrees)
National Association of Schools of Music

• Music education concentrations (bachelor’s and master’s degrees)
National Council for Accreditation National Association of Schools of Music, for Teacher Education, Virginia Department of Education

Theatre (bachelor’s and master’s degrees)

Programs
The School of the Arts offers degrees in the following areas of study:

Advanced Media Production Technology

• Post-baccalaureate undergraduate certificate

Art Education

• Master of Art Education

Art History

• Bachelor of Arts
• Master of Arts
• Doctor of Philosophy

Arts

• Bachelor of Fine Arts with a concentration in art education

Cinema

• Bachelor of Arts

Communication Arts

• Bachelor of Fine Arts

Craft and Material Studies

• Bachelor of Fine Arts
• See Fine Arts concentrations for master’s option

Dance and Choreography

• Bachelor of Fine Arts

Design

• Master of Fine Arts (with concentrations in interior environments and visual communications)

Fashion

• Bachelor of Arts
• Bachelor of Fine Arts
Fine Arts
- Master of Fine Arts (with concentrations in ceramics, fibers, furniture design, glassworking and jewelry/metalworking; kinetic imaging; painting or printmaking; photography and film; sculpture)

Graphic Design
- Bachelor of Fine Arts

Interior Design
- Bachelor of Fine Arts

Kinetic Imaging
- Bachelor of Fine Arts
- See Fine Arts concentrations for master’s option

Music
- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Music
- Master of Music

Painting and Printmaking
- Bachelor of Fine Arts
- See Fine Arts concentrations for master’s option

Photography and Film
- Bachelor of Fine Arts
- See Fine Arts concentrations for master’s option

Sculpture
- Bachelor of Fine Arts
- See Fine Arts concentrations for master’s option

Theatre
- Bachelor of Arts
- Bachelor of Fine Arts
- Master of Fine Arts

School of the Arts Visual Resource Center
VCU’s Cabell Library houses an extensive collection of books, publications and magazines on the visual and performing arts. VCU subscribes to ARTstor, the largest online image bank for the arts.

VCU is a short distance from Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York and the museums, libraries and research facilities in those urban areas.

Graduate information

Graduate admission
Admission procedures
Application forms and instructions for applying to all graduate programs in the School of the Arts are available on the School of the Arts website at arts.vcu.edu (http://arts.vcu.edu).

General information about admission to graduate study and application procedures can be found in the Graduate School section of this bulletin or on the Graduate School website (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements
For Ph.D. degree, see Ph.D. in Art History section.

For all other degrees (M.A., M.A.E., M.F.A. and M.M.):
- Applicants should hold the baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution.
- It is expected that applicants will have a 3.0 (B) average on the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work.

The prospective student should consult the appropriate section of this bulletin for additional admission requirements for a particular degree program. Such requirements include:

- The Graduate Record Examination for applicants to art history
- An audition and examination for music applicants, as described in the program description for the M.M. degree
- An audition or presentation of portfolio, as well as a personal interview, for applicants for the M.F.A. in Theatre
- A portfolio review for all applicants to the visual arts M.F.A. degrees (a personal interview is encouraged)

Graduate student status
The School of the Arts has two categories of graduate students — full-time or part-time. Full- or part-time graduate students are accepted either provisionally or as students with full standing into the graduate degree programs of the various departmental areas. These students may matriculate full time or part time except for the residence limitation discussed elsewhere in this bulletin.

Most graduate programs in the school require full-time status, including the concentrations in the Master of Fine Arts in Fine Arts degree (photography and film, painting and printmaking, sculpture, kinetic imaging, and ceramics, fibers, furniture design, glassworking and jewelry/metalworking) and the visual communication track of the M.F.A. in Design. Check with the individual departments to confirm whether full-time status is required or part-time status is permitted.

Holders of the baccalaureate degree from recognized institutions may enroll in graduate courses as nondegree-seeking (special) graduate students, but such courses are not applicable toward a graduate degree from this institution unless the student is accepted into a graduate degree program prior to the conclusion of the semester in which the student registered as a nondegree-seeking graduate student.

A nondegree-seeking student who is later admitted as a degree-seeking student will not be allowed to apply more than six credits earned as a nondegree-seeking student toward a degree.

The second type of nondegree-seeking graduate student is the student who holds a baccalaureate degree, who wishes to take graduate courses for personal enrichment and who does not intend to work toward a graduate degree. There is no limit to the number of credits that students in this category may take, as long as the academic performance is credible.
All nondegree-seeking (special) graduate students must have written permission from the chair of the appropriate department in order to enroll in classes.

Registration for graduate students

Graduate art students are urged to plan their schedules and register during advanced registration. Registration materials for students accepted into advanced degree programs are available in the department during the advanced registration and registration periods. The advantage of advanced registration is that of securing places in classes before they are closed and of obtaining proper counsel from advisers. All graduate students must see their assigned advisers for schedule planning and signature approval. New nondegree-seeking graduate students, or those contemplating registration as such, must secure written permission to register from the departmental chair.

Continuous enrollment policy for graduate students

Graduate students in the School of the Arts must observe the university’s continuous enrollment policy (p. 35) as explained elsewhere in this bulletin.

Candidates for all advanced degree programs, after completing all formal course work, must register for at least one semester hour of credit each semester, except summer, until the culminating graduate project (dissertation, thesis, creative project, exhibition, recital, etc.) is completed and the student is ready to graduate. Also, if candidates intend to graduate in August, they must be enrolled for at least one semester hour in the summer session.

Transfer credit and graduate study

A maximum of nine graduate credits may be transferred from other accredited institutions and applied to any of the graduate degree programs in the School of the Arts. However, transfer credit is not typically granted to incoming students and is approved at the discretion of the department chair.

Graduate advising

All students accepted into advanced degree programs must make an appointment with the chair of the department or the graduate adviser prior to registration for their first semester of course work. Normally, the student’s initial adviser will be the chair of the department; but students may be assigned an adviser more directly related to their areas of concentration.

Students also are encouraged to consult faculty members outside their major area and arrange with the appropriate departmental chair to use facilities and equipment available in other departments.

Finances for graduate students

Special charges

All degree-seeking graduate students are charged an art comprehensive fee. The art comprehensive fee is not charged to students who are registered only in course work to complete a dissertation/thesis/creative project or who are enrolled in order to satisfy the one-credit requirement for continuous enrollment. Nondegree-seeking graduate students enrolled in any of the courses that require an additional outlay for materials will be billed for those individual fees by the Student Accounting Department.

In addition to the comprehensive fee for all majors in the School of the Arts, all students registering for private music lessons pay an applied music fee.

Financial support

The School of the Arts awards a limited number of graduate assistantships and scholarships to full-time students. Please see the specific program requirements for more information and application deadlines.

Advanced degree candidacy

Students seeking an advanced degree in all programs must apply for advanced degree candidacy. Those seeking the M.A.E. and the M.M. must submit the application during or after the completion of the first nine semester credits of graduate work and prior to the completion of 18 semester credits. Students pursuing the M.F.A. degree must submit the application during or after the completion of the first 15 semester credits of graduate work and prior to the completion of 30 semester credits. Applications for candidacy are available in the departmental offices and the Office of Graduate Studies of the School of the Arts.

Admission to a degree program does not constitute candidacy, and admission to degree candidacy is not an automatic process. Departments carefully review applicants for candidacy on such basis as examination or review of creative work or performance. Upon certification by the department that the applicant has met all departmental expectations, including the minimum 3.0 GPA and is adequately prepared to continue pursuing the degree program, the School of the Arts will admit the applicant to degree candidacy.

Students who are found to be inadequately prepared to continue their graduate programs, but who demonstrate the potential to ultimately fulfill degree requirements will be advised as to what additional work will be needed in order to meet departmental expectations. Candidacy, in such instances, will be postponed until departmental expectations are satisfied; postponement of candidacy may result in termination of financial assistance. Students whose academic or creative work demonstrates no likelihood of successful completion of a graduate program will be denied candidacy by the School of the Arts.

Advanced degree requirements

• Students must achieve candidacy (with the exception of art history students).
• Students must complete all formal course work.
• Students must maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA. No grade below B will count toward graduation for students in the art history and the visual communications degree programs. For all students in the theatre program, any grade below B in any course will result in termination from the degree program. Students in all programs in the Department of Music must not have more than six hours or 20 percent of semester hours attempted — whichever is greater — with a grade of C. For all other degree programs in the School of the Arts, no grade below B is acceptable for any course within the student’s major department, and a grade below B in a course in the student’s major department will result in termination from the degree program.
• All students must complete the culminating project (dissertation, thesis, final examination, creative project, recital, etc.) as outlined in departmental guidelines. The thesis, or other written documentation related to the culminating project, must be done in a form that can be retained by the university and in accordance with departmental guidelines. Students preparing a thesis must use the guidelines set
Residency requirements for graduate study
Candidates for the Master of Fine Arts degree in the fine arts and theatre must complete a minimum of one-third of their degree program semester-hour credits within one calendar year.

Candidates for all master’s degrees in the School of the Arts have five years plus two possible extensions of one year each to complete all degree requirements. The above limitations apply to both full-time and part-time students. A petition for an extension is initiated with the academic or thesis adviser.

Media, Art, and Text, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) [School of the Arts]
Program goal
VCU’s interdisciplinary doctoral program in media, art, and text is a joint endeavor of the Department of English, the School of the Arts and the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture. The program prepares students primarily to teach at the college or university level, although some pursue careers in related media fields. MATX emphasizes the historical and theoretical foundations essential to the scholarly study of media, both old and new, broadly defined. It provides an intellectually stimulating environment that encourages students to work both collaboratively and independently, as well as across and between disciplines and media. Students maintain a base in their primary area of research, which is usually but not always the field in which they have done prior graduate work.

Student learning outcomes
1. Develop advanced communication skills in writing, speaking and the use of multimedia
2. Demonstrate broad knowledge of history and theory as the foundation for interdisciplinary work in a specialized facet of media, art, and/or text
3. Develop competence in interdisciplinary and disciplinary research methods and responsible conduct of research
4. Develop specialized knowledge in relevant fields to support dissertation and subsequent research
5. Demonstrate the ability to conduct independent research and produce new, specialized knowledge within the broad parameters of media, art, and text
6. Develop a strong basis for ongoing professional practice

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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information
The MATX student handbook is available at matx.vcu.edu/program/handbook.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission.

1. Applicants must hold a master’s degree (M.A., M.F.A., M.S.) in a relevant field.
2. Applicants must submit the following, in the formats indicated via VCU’s online application portal:
   a. Writing sample demonstrating the ability to write clearly, analyze effectively and conduct original research in advanced doctoral-level seminars – This may be a master’s thesis, a graduate-level seminar paper or a published essay. Submit as a PDF.
b. Statement of purpose describing the applicant’s interest, motivation and goals in pursuing this degree – The statement should specifically address the importance of interdisciplinarity to the applicant’s academic goals, and it should also offer evidence of preparation for the study of media, art, and text. The applicant should indicate the specific area of study and research to be pursued at VCU and identify faculty who might potentially direct dissertation research. Submit as a PDF.

c. Academic curriculum vitae or professional resume – List all colleges and universities attended and degrees earned, all professional and academic positions held, all publications and/or exhibitions, technical skills, and any other relevant information. Include URLs for personal and/or professional websites. Submit as PDF.

d. Letters of recommendation – Provide letters from three present or former instructors or other individuals qualified to evaluate the applicant’s ability to engage in interdisciplinary study at the doctoral level. Have recommenders submit their letters via the online application portal.

3. Applicants who wish to pursue creative work at VCU must also submit a portfolio. Those with an M.F.A. who do not wish to continue creative work should consult with the MATX director about this requirement. Materials submitted should demonstrate excellence in studio or professional practice and the potential to do graduate-level work in media, art, and text. Portfolios will be reviewed by the MATX admissions committee as well as relevant faculty in the School of the Arts and the Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture. Please observe the following guidelines:

a. Those working in 2-D or 3-D mediums should provide 20 images of representative work arranged chronologically, beginning with the most recent.

b. Those working in sound and time-based media, as well as those in the performing arts, should provide clips totaling no more than 10 minutes.

c. Those working across media may submit a combination of the above.

d. The portfolio should include title, date, media and dimensions of each work, as well as a brief statement or other information that will help the admissions committee in its evaluation.

Small files illustrating 2-D or 3-D work should be submitted in a single PDF. Sound or video files should be posted to Vimeo or Sound Cloud with a functioning link submitted in a PDF with the required information posted to the portal. Portfolio materials may also be posted to a personal or professional website and the link submitted in a PDF posted to the portal.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students in the MATX program are required to earn a minimum of 42 graduate-level credit hours beyond the master’s. At least one-half of the credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher. The 42-hour curriculum comprises 36 hours of course work and a minimum of six hours of dissertation research. Course work includes a core of four required courses taken during the first two semesters by all incoming students. Three doctoral seminars provide a shared historical and theoretical foundation for the study of media, art, and text, while a workshop offers the opportunity to develop and expand professional and/or creative skills relevant to the student’s career goals and research focus. In addition, all students will take a research methods course in a field relevant to their anticipated area of dissertation research. Beyond the core, students select 21 hours of elective credit hours from course offerings in disciplines relevant to their research interests and career goals. The program offers a topics seminar focused on the history, theory or practice of media, art, and text. Independent study and internships are also available as electives. While enrollment in courses with the MATX prefix is guaranteed to matriculated MATX students, enrollment in other graduate courses is subject to the conditions established by individual units. Together the core and the electives support the interdisciplinary work of the dissertation, which is an original scholarly examination of some aspect of media, art, and/or text. It may include work in media other than text. It is supervised by a committee consisting of four or five members drawn from disciplines relevant to the research topic.

2. Grade requirements: To graduate, degree applicants must achieve an overall grade point average of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale with a grade of C in no more than two courses. The GPA for graduation will be based on all graduate courses attempted after acceptance into the program.

3. Requirements for admission to candidacy: Before beginning formal dissertation research, students must complete all 36 hours of required course work, both stages of the e-portfolio and the requirements described below. Upon completion of these, the student will apply for degree candidacy.

4. Dissertation committee: The dissertation committee consists of the director (who must hold a Ph.D.) and three or four additional members whose scholarly knowledge and interests are relevant to the project. The committee must have at least one member from each of the sponsoring units (Department of English, School of the Arts, Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture). All must be members of VCU’s graduate faculty. Appropriate faculty from outside VCU may serve on committees (but not as director) with the approval of the MATX director and the graduate dean. It is the student’s responsibility to assemble the committee, in consultation with the dissertation director. Committees will not be appointed by the program.

5. E-portfolio: Work on the e-portfolio will begin in MATX 604 in the spring of the first year. There are no technical specifications, and content will include, but is not limited to, work done in the first two years in the program. It will take the form of a website and must demonstrate the technical skills (Web design, audio, video, etc.) relevant to the student’s work on the dissertation and the career sought after VCU. Submission is a two-stage process:

a. Stage 1 (August of the second year): a three- to five-page design rationale for the portfolio site along with a mock-up or rough structure

b. Stage 2 (April of the second year): a finished, live site accompanied by a five-page statement relating it to the student’s work inside and outside the program and outlining how it uses media techniques to promote a specific professional and/or creative identity (Note: Each submission is graded pass/fail and may be repeated once. A second failure results in automatic termination from the program.)

6. Competency: Candidates must demonstrate competency in a skill or technique relevant to the dissertation research or planned professional career. The dissertation committee approves and
administers the competency portion. Graded pass/fail, the test may be repeated once.

7. Bibliography exam: Candidates will complete an exam on a reading list of 20 to 30 sources relevant to or supportive of the dissertation topic. The dissertation committee approves and administers the bibliography exam. Graded pass/fail, the test may be repeated once.

8. Dissertation prospectus and prospectus defense: The prospectus is a 15- to 20-page document that indicates the significance of the proposed research, gives a short review of relevant literature, states the research question, specifies the proposed methodology and indicates how the project lays the foundation for the anticipated academic or professional career. It also includes a work plan for the completion of research and writing, as well as a complete bibliography. The prospectus is defended orally before the dissertation committee, which may accept, reject or require revisions. The defense may be repeated once.

9. Dissertation and dissertation defense: The dissertation is an original, interdisciplinary and scholarly examination of a topic relevant to an aspect of media, art, and/or text. Given the varied nature of doctoral research, there is no set time frame for completion of a dissertation. It is expected, however, that the dissertation will take about two years after attaining candidacy, but it must be defended within the eight-year time limit for completion of the doctoral degree. The dissertation will be defended orally before the dissertation committee. Successful defense of the dissertation completes the requirements for the degree.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<td>MATX 601</td>
<td>Texts and Textuality</td>
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<td>MATX 602</td>
<td>History of Media, Art, and Text</td>
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<td>Mass Media</td>
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<td>Interdisciplinary Workshop</td>
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<td>ENGL 627</td>
<td>Genres</td>
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<td>Form and Theory of Poetry</td>
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<td>ENGL 630</td>
<td>Form and Theory of Fiction</td>
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<td>Form and Theory of Creative Nonfiction</td>
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<td>Themes in Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>MASC 688</td>
<td>Converged Media Applications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 691</td>
<td>Topics in Mass Communications</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATX 690</td>
<td>Seminar in Media, Art, and Text</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATX 696</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATX 791</td>
<td>Directed Study (may be taken for a maximum of 12 credit hours)</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 42

List 1: Methods courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 690</td>
<td>Historiography and Methodology of Art History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 605</td>
<td>Introduction to Scholarship in English Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 602</td>
<td>Feminist Research Epistemology and Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 611</td>
<td>Research Methods in Mass Communications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

List 2: Recommended electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 591</td>
<td>Special Topics in Art History</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 690</td>
<td>Historiography and Methodology of Art History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 722</td>
<td>Seminar in 19th-century Art</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate program director

Eric G. Garberson, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Art History
eeggarberson@vcu.edu
(804) 828-7295

Additional contact

Thom Didato
Graduate programs adviser, Department of English
tndidato@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1329

Program website: matx.vcu.edu (http://matx.vcu.edu)
Department of Art Education

Sara Wilson McKay, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair

arts.vcu.edu/arteducation (http://arts.vcu.edu/arteducation)

The Department of Art Education supports instruction in art that encourages the construction of meaning. Faculty and students are actively involved with the art world, education and local and global communities through art-based service-learning, visual culture studies, critical thinking, exhibition, assessment, curriculum, critical theory and emerging digital technologies (virtual and interactive).

The department emphasizes interdisciplinary connections throughout the School of the Arts and the university as a whole. Through their own research and instruction, art teacher candidates engage their students and themselves in traditional and nontraditional forms of inquiry to contribute to the continuing growth and strength of the profession.

- Art Education, Master of (M.A.E.) (p. 280)

Art Education, Master of (M.A.E.)

Program accreditation
National Association of Schools of Art and Design
National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education

Program goal
Through engagement with theory, research and emerging technologies, the Master of Art Education program prepares art educators to be mindful professionals who are active in the field of art education.

The program offers two specific options:

1. One option is for teachers who are already licensed and who wish to deepen their understanding of art education.

2. The second is for people who hold baccalaureate degrees and wish to earn a master’s degree that may include a teaching license.

The program includes required and elective courses and allows students to pursue an area of interest. All students are expected to work at a high level of independence, be self-motivated, respect peers and instructors and participate in the opportunities that the Department of Art Education and the School of the Arts offer. With the assistance of the adviser, the student determines a viable structure for the content and sequence of a program of graduate study. Such a program can utilize the collective expertise of the art education faculty as well as appropriate community resources. Graduate course work, therefore, could include both on-campus and off-campus involvement.

Opportunities for personal growth through the M.A.E. program also include the rich resources of other graduate departments in the university in the visual and performing arts, education (including supervision, administration and specialty areas), the natural and social sciences and the humanities. Alternative approaches to traditional thesis methods are also encouraged within the program.

Student learning outcomes

1. Theoretical foundations: Students will demonstrate an ability to analyze varying points of view regarding art education theories.

2. Research competencies: Students will demonstrate the ability to apply research methods and methodologies to write a realistic proposal.

3. Skills with and knowledge of emerging technologies: Students will demonstrate knowledge of emerging technologies for teaching, research or art-making.

4. Command of literature and practice in art education: Students will demonstrate historical and current knowledge of theoretical and practical issues in art education.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)
Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
M.A.E. Fall Jan 15 GRE required if undergraduate GPA is below 3.2; optional if 3.2 or higher.

Special requirements

- See the School of the Arts admissions page for the specific directions about the portfolio, letters of reference, etc.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Thirty-six undergraduate credit hours of art and art history course work (Students who do not have these credit hours from the undergraduate degree are welcome to take undergraduate courses to earn these credit hours before applying to VCU. These can be taken at any accredited undergraduate institution.)
- An undergraduate degree in art education, studio art, art history or a related field

It is desired, though not required, for students to have some teaching experience before applying.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the M.A.E. program requires a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours, including required art education and approved elective courses.

Licensure

For students who also pursuing teaching licensure, there are additional requirements, including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 301</td>
<td>Human Development and Learning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTE 404</td>
<td>Clinical Internship Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTE 550</td>
<td>Art for the Exceptional Learner</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SEDP 505</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Educating Individuals with Special Needs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTE 501</td>
<td>Art Education Elementary Materials and Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTE 502</td>
<td>Art Education Secondary Materials and Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A semester of student teaching

The electives in the following curricular requirements account for some of these courses. The M.A.E. plus licensure requires a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours plus 13-16 of undergraduate credit hours.

Students who wish to be considered for a teaching license are required to complete a series of tests as mandated by the Virginia Department of Education. See arts.vcu.edu/arteducation/mae/testing (http://arts.vcu.edu/arteducation/mae/testing) for additional information.

Written examination

After completing nine credit hours, including ARTE 611, and before completing 18 credit hours, all students are required to submit a written exam. This exam will determine whether a student is approved for degree candidacy and is ready to proceed to the final stages of the degree program. Failure to submit this required exam may result in dismissal from the program. Students who fail the exam will have a second chance the following semester. Students who fail on the second attempt will be dismissed from the program.

Thesis option

A thesis or project option may develop from graduate course work or professional involvement. Projects are those endeavors of thesis proportion that do not fit the traditional thesis format. A thesis or project may be explored by descriptive research, historical research, empirical/statistical research, design of learning packages, philosophical study, curriculum development, action research or other methodologies if deemed appropriate by the adviser and committee.

Comprehensive exam option

In lieu of the thesis, students complete six credit hours of graduate seminar work (ARTE 600 taken twice with different topics and different faculty members) in the Department of Art Education. In addition, students must successfully pass a written and oral comprehensive examination in the later stages of their course work. The examination will pertain to the course work, to contemporary issues in the field and to students’ particular areas of expertise. This option is suggested for students pursuing the track that results in the M.A.E. and simultaneous teaching licensure.

Students who do not pass all portions of the comprehensive exam will have one opportunity to retake the exam the following semester. Students who fail the exam on the second attempt will be dismissed from the program.

Curriculum requirements

Thesis option

Core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTE 611</td>
<td>Theory and Literature in Art Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTE 665</td>
<td>Curriculum Development and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTE 670</td>
<td>Technology in Art Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTE 690</td>
<td>Issues and Methods of Inquiry in Art Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTE 508</td>
<td>Two-dimensional Art Experiences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTE 509</td>
<td>Three-dimensional Art Experiences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTE 550</td>
<td>Art for the Exceptional Learner</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTE 600</td>
<td>Seminar: Issues in Art Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTE 691</td>
<td>Topics in Art Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTE 692</td>
<td>Independent Study in Art Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approved electives

Select approved electives at the 500 level or higher and approved by the adviser 1

Thesis

15
The Department of Art History offers programs that acquaint students with the humanistic discipline of art historical inquiry. While providing students with the opportunity for a broad education drawing on the liberal arts and humanities, the department also emphasizes a close bond with the studio and performing arts and enjoys a close relationship with the other departments in the School of the Arts.

The department offers a broad-based education in the humanistic discipline of art history at the baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral levels.

Overseas studies are available through university-sponsored programs abroad in Europe and Asia. Graduate assistantships and fellowships are available to full-time graduate students.

- Art History, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in curatorial (p. 282)
- Art History, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in historical studies (p. 284)
- Art History, Master of Arts (M.A.) with a concentration in historical studies (p. 286)
- Art History, Master of Arts (M.A.) with a concentration in museum studies (p. 288)

**Art History, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in curatorial**

**Program goal**

The Ph.D. in Art History is a research-oriented degree designed to train critical and productive scholars, college and university professors, and curators and museum professionals who are well-grounded in the literature, methodology and major art historical and/or museological problems in their selected areas of study.

All doctoral students establish a program of study that includes a major field of study and a minor field of study shared by a full-time faculty member. Students in the curatorial concentration select museum studies as either the major or minor field of study.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Students apply critical and analytical concepts, frameworks and methods.
2. Students contextualize scholarship in relationship to existing art historical/museological knowledge, discourse and/or debate.
3. Students write effectively for audiences of scholarly and nonspecialist readers.
4. Students speak effectively to scholarly and nonspecialist audiences.
5. Students demonstrate ability to translate art historical scholarship written in a language or languages relevant to their research.
6. Students conduct scholarly inquiry that makes a scholarly professional contribution.

**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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information

For more information about the programs of study, go to arts.vcu.edu/arthistory (http://arts.vcu.edu/arthistory).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
Ph.D. Fall only Jan 15 GRE

Special requirements

• Writing sample

Prospective students holding a master's degree in art history or a related field from VCU or any other accredited institution may apply directly to the doctoral program. Prospective students who hold only a bachelor's degree in art history or a related field also may apply directly to the Ph.D. program; if admitted, they select one of the three M.A. curriculum concentrations and complete 27 of the required 30 credit hours for the M.A. degree before beginning Ph.D. course work.

Applicants are encouraged to speak with a prospective dissertation adviser (the full-time faculty member whose research area corresponds to an applicant's interests).

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the Ph.D. in Art History must meet the following requirements:

1. A statement of purpose, 750-1000 words in length, that briefly recounts applicant's academic background, describes an avenue of inquiry that the applicant expects to explore, notes applicant’s professional goals beyond graduate study and explains why VCU’s Ph.D. in Art History program is suited to applicant’s interests
2. A research/writing sample that has a clearly articulated thesis statement, identifies and interprets primary and/or secondary sources in support of a well-argued thesis, and offers a coherent, cohesive narrative
3. Three letters of recommendation, at least two of which are from faculty members who can assess the applicant’s preparation and promise for graduate work (Some applicants may choose to solicit the third letter from a museum professional who has supervised the applicant’s professional work in a museum setting.)
4. Official transcripts from schools where applicant completed course work applied toward the baccalaureate or master’s degree
5. An official report of GRE scores

Applications are reviewed by the program’s full-time faculty members, who assess an applicant’s overall package of materials with particular attention to the statement of interest and writing sample. Applicants are encouraged to correspond with individual faculty members who share their areas of research interests.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the program of study for students who have an M.A. degree upon applying for the Ph.D. program is determined on a case-by-case basis, to include at least 30 credit hours in the concentration area. Students may also be required to also complete ARTH 690, ARTH 694 and/or selected art history seminars if they have not completed equivalent courses in their master’s programs and/or if their degrees were awarded in fields other than art history. Students in the curatorial concentration may also be required to take one or more museum studies course (ARTH 681-ARTH 684, ARTH 691) if their M.A. programs did not include equivalent courses.

Students who matriculate into the concentration in historical studies with only a baccalaureate degree initially complete the requirements in either the concentration in historical studies or the concentration in architectural history in the M.A. program; they then proceed to complete the following 30 credit hours.

Major and minor art historical field of study

Students complete a major and a minor art historical field of study of their choosing. The major area requires three seminars, while the minor requires two seminars. M.A./Ph.D. students may complete some of these courses while at the master’s stage.
Language proficiency

Doctoral students must demonstrate competency in two foreign languages relevant to their areas of research and approved by the departmental graduate committee before admission to candidacy. Foreign language competency demonstrated for an M.A. may be applied to this requirement. The Department of Art History administers language exams and offers a course in German for art history.

Admission to candidacy

Doctoral students are admitted to candidacy after demonstrating proficiency in two foreign languages, passing the major and minor field exams administered in ARTH 772 and ARTH 773 and orally defending a dissertation prospectus previously approved by the dissertation adviser. Only after candidacy is granted may a student enroll for dissertation credits.

Dissertation

After admission to candidacy, doctoral students proceed to complete and defend a dissertation. They work under the supervision of the dissertation director, and they are required to maintain continuous enrollment of at least three credit hours per semester (excluding summer) until they have attained six hours of dissertation credit, after which they may enroll for as few as one credit per semester. The dissertation must represent independent research that is devoted to an original question or hypothesis with the appropriate development, analysis and interpretation. Successful defense of the dissertation completes the requirements for the degree. All degree requirements must be completed within eight years of the first semester of enrollment in the doctoral program (either M.A./Ph.D. or Ph.D.).

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 693</td>
<td>Graduate Museum Internship</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 772</td>
<td>Major Field Exam</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 773</td>
<td>Minor Field Exam</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 774</td>
<td>Dissertation Proposal</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select three of the following art history or museum studies seminars:</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 591</td>
<td>Special Topics in Art History</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 681</td>
<td>Museums and Communities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 682</td>
<td>The Museum as Educational Institution</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 683</td>
<td>Museum Collections</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 684</td>
<td>Curating Museum Exhibitions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Museum Studies</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTH 721</td>
<td>Seminar in Early Modern Art</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 722</td>
<td>Seminar in 19th-century Art</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 723</td>
<td>Seminar in 20th-century Art</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 725</td>
<td>Seminar in Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 727</td>
<td>Seminar in Latin American Art</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTH 728</td>
<td>Seminar in Asian Art</td>
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<td>ARTH 741</td>
<td>Seminar in Art and Theory</td>
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<td>ARTH 742</td>
<td>Seminar in Trans-millennial Art and Ideas</td>
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<td>ARTH 743</td>
<td>Seminar in Art and Representation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 749</td>
<td>Seminar in Diasporic Art</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 30

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Program website: arts.vcu.edu/arthistory (http://arts.vcu.edu/arthistory)

Art History, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in historical studies

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Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- Writing sample

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5. An official report of GRE scores.

Applications are reviewed by the program’s full-time faculty members, who assess an applicant’s overall package of materials with particular attention to the statement of interest and writing sample. Applicants are encouraged to correspond with individual faculty members who share their areas of research interests.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the program of study for students who have an M.A. degree upon applying for the Ph.D. program is determined on a case-by-case basis, to include at least 30 credit hours in the concentration area. Students may also be required to also complete ARTH 690, ARTH 694 and/or selected art history seminars if they have not completed equivalent courses in their master’s programs and/or if their degrees were awarded in fields other than art history. Students in the curatorial concentration may also be required to take one or more museum studies course.
(ARTH 681-ARTH 684, ARTH 691) if their M.A. programs did not include equivalent courses.

Students who matriculate into the concentration in historical studies with only a baccalaureate degree initially complete the requirements in either the concentration in historical studies or the concentration in architectural history in the M.A. program; they then proceed to complete the following 30 credit hours.

**Major and minor art historical field of study**

Students complete a major and a minor art historical field of study of their choosing. The major area requires three seminars, while the minor requires two seminars. M.A./Ph.D. students may complete some of these courses while at the master’s stage.

**Language proficiency**

Doctoral students must demonstrate competency in two foreign languages relevant to their areas of research and approved by the departmental graduate committee before admission to candidacy. Foreign language competency demonstrated for an M.A. may be applied to this requirement. The Department of Art History administers language exams and offers a course in German for art history.

**Admission to candidacy**

Doctoral students are admitted to candidacy after demonstrating proficiency in two foreign languages, passing the major and minor field exams administered in ARTH 772 and ARTH 773 and orally defending a dissertation prospectus previously approved by the dissertation adviser. Only after candidacy is granted may a student enroll for dissertation credits.

**Dissertation**

After admission to candidacy, doctoral students proceed to complete and defend a dissertation. They work under the supervision of the dissertation director, and they are required to maintain continuous enrollment of at least three credit hours per semester (excluding summer) until they have attained six hours of dissertation credit, after which they may enroll for as few as one credit per semester. The dissertation must represent independent research that is devoted to an original question or hypothesis with the appropriate development, analysis and interpretation. Successful defense of the dissertation completes the requirements for the degree. All degree requirements must be completed within eight years of the first semester of enrollment in the doctoral program (either M.A./Ph.D. or Ph.D.).

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 772</td>
<td>Major Field Exam</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 773</td>
<td>Minor Field Exam</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 774</td>
<td>Dissertation Proposal</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select 15 credits in art history seminars from the following:</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 591</td>
<td>Special Topics in Art History</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 721</td>
<td>Seminar in Early Modern Art</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 722</td>
<td>Seminar in 19th-century Art</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 723</td>
<td>Seminar in 20th-century Art</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 725</td>
<td>Seminar in Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 727</td>
<td>Seminar in Latin American Art</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 728</td>
<td>Seminar in Asian Art</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30**

**Graduate program director**

Margaret A. Lindauer, Ph.D.

Associate professor

malindauer@vcu.edu

(804) 828-2784

**Program website:** arts.vcu.edu/arthistory (http://arts.vcu.edu/arthistory)

**Art History, Master of Arts (M.A.) with a concentration in historical studies**

**Program goal**

The mission of the graduate program in art history is to equip students with requisite knowledge, skills and theoretical foundation to embark on successful careers in academia and/or museums.

The M.A. curriculum concentrations provide students with a general background in the research methods and teachings of art history in preparation for careers in museums, collections care or arts organizations. It also prepares students for the more rigorous research demands of the Ph.D., which is the required degree for academic and curatorial careers.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Students apply critical and analytical concepts, frameworks and methods.
2. Students contextualize scholarship in relationship to existing art historical/museological knowledge, discourse and/or debate.
3. Students write effectively for audiences of scholarly and nonspecialist readers.
4. Students speak effectively to scholarly and nonspecialist audiences.
5. Students demonstrate ability to translate art historical scholarship written in a language or languages relevant to their research.
6. Students conduct scholarly inquiry that makes a scholarly professional contribution.

**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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.A.</td>
<td>Fall only</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special requirements**

- Writing sample

Students with a bachelor’s degree in art history or in a related field (e.g., history, anthropology, literary studies, religious studies or philosophy) are invited to apply to VCU Department of Art History graduate programs. Applicants who have completed at least 18 undergraduate semester credit hours in art history are preferred.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the Master of Arts in Art History must meet the following requirements:

1. A statement of purpose, 750-1000 words in length, that briefly recounts applicant’s academic background, describes an avenue of inquiry that the applicant expects to explore, notes applicant’s professional goals beyond graduate study and explains why VCU art history is suited to applicant’s interests
2. A research/writing sample that has a clearly articulated thesis statement, identifies and interprets primary and/or secondary sources in support of a well-argued thesis, and offers a coherent, cohesive narrative
3. Three letters of recommendation, at least two of which are from faculty members who can assess the applicant’s preparation and promise for graduate work (Some applicants may choose to solicit the third letter from a museum professional who has supervised the applicant’s professional work in a museum setting.)
4. Official transcripts from schools where applicant completed course work applied toward the baccalaureate degree
5. An official report of GRE scores

Applications are reviewed by full-time faculty members who assess an applicant’s overall package of materials, with particular attention to the statement of interest and writing sample.

See arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/graduate (http://www.arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply/graduate) for specific information regarding the online application process.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete 30 credit hours of course work, variously distributed according to curriculum concentration.

**Curriculum requirements**

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 690</td>
<td>Historiography and Methodology of Art History</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 695</td>
<td>Writing Seminar I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTH 771</td>
<td>Writing Seminar II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Select seven art history seminars ¹ | 21 |
| Total Hours | | 30 |

¹ At least one from among ARTH 721-ARTH 728 and at least one from among ARTH 741-ARTH 749. The remaining five art history seminar courses may be chosen from among the aforementioned courses and/or ARTH 591, ARTH 694, ARTH 791 and ARTH 797, as well as no more than one museum studies class (ARTH 681-ARTH 684, ARTH 691 or ARTH 693).

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30**

Students must earn a minimum grade of B in ARTH 690 in order to enroll in subsequent graduate-level art history courses. Students must also demonstrate an ability to translate art historical scholarship published in a language relevant to their research interests and approved by the departmental graduate committee. The Department of Art History administers language exams, and it offers a course in German for art history.

For more information about the programs of study, go to arts.vcu.edu/arhistory (http://arts.vcu.edu/arhistory).

**Graduate program director**

Margaret A. Lindauer, Ph.D.
Associate professor
malindauer@vcu.edu
(804) 828-2784

Program website: arts.vcu.edu/arthistory (http://arts.vcu.edu/arthistory)

Art History, Master of Arts (M.A.) with a concentration in museum studies

Program goal
The mission of the graduate program in art history is to equip students with requisite knowledge, skills and theoretical foundation to embark on successful careers in academia and/or museums.

The M.A. curriculum concentrations provide students with a general background in the research methods and teachings of art history in preparation for careers in museums, collections care or arts organizations. It also prepares students for the more rigorous research demands of the Ph.D., which is the required degree for academic and curatorial careers.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students apply critical and analytical concepts, frameworks and methods.
2. Students contextualize scholarship in relationship to existing art historical/museological knowledge, discourse and/or debate.
3. Students write effectively for audiences of scholarly and non-specialist readers.
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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

Degree candidacy requirements
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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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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Special requirements
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Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete 30 credit hours of course work, variously distributed according to curriculum concentration.

Curriculum requirements

| ARTH 690 | Historiography and Methodology of Art History | 3 |
| ARTH 693 | Graduate Museum Internship | 3 |
| ARTH 695 | Writing Seminar I | 3 |
| ARTH 771 | Writing Seminar II | 3 |

Select three art history seminars from the following: 9

| ARTH 721 | Seminar in Early Modern Art |
| ARTH 722 | Seminar in 19th-century Art |
| ARTH 723 | Seminar in 20th-century Art |
| ARTH 725 | Seminar in Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture |
| ARTH 727 | Seminar in Latin American Art |
| ARTH 728 | Seminar in Asian Art |
| ARTH 741 | Seminar in Art and Theory |
| ARTH 742 | Seminar in Trans-millennial Art and Ideas |
| ARTH 743 | Seminar in Art and Representation |
| ARTH 749 | Seminar in Diasporic Art |
| ARTH 791 | Special Topics in Art History |
| ARTH 797 | Directed Research Project |

Select three of the following museum studies seminars: 9

| ARTH 681 | Museums and Communities |
| ARTH 682 | The Museum as Educational Institution |
| ARTH 683 | Museum Collections |
| ARTH 684 | Curating Museum Exhibitions |
| ARTH 691 | Special Topics in Museum Studies |

Total Hours 30

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Students must earn a minimum grade of B in ARTH 690 in order to enroll in subsequent graduate-level art history courses. Students must also demonstrate an ability to translate art historical scholarship published in a language relevant to their research interests and approved by the departmental graduate committee. The Department of Art History administers language exams and it offers a course in German for art history.

For more information about the programs of study, go to arts.vcu.edu/arthistory (http://arts.vcu.edu/arthistory).

Graduate program director
Margaret A. Lindauer, Ph.D.
Associate professor
malindauer@vcu.edu
(804) 828-2784

Program website: arts.vcu.edu/arthistory (http://arts.vcu.edu/arthistory)

Department of Communication Arts

TyRuben Ellingson
Assistant professor and chair

arts.vcu.edu/communicationarts

The Department of Communication Arts’ mission is to empower students to create and communicate with insight, vision and voice.

By guiding students to a deeper understanding of past and present artistic practices and methods of visual problem-solving, while concurrently fostering a thoughtful awareness of future technologies and theoretical concerns, the department increases their ability to devise informed design solutions and present them in a refined and professional manner.

The communication arts faculty encourages critical-thinking, discipline and entrepreneurship — abilities critical for success in the fast and ever-changing world in which we live.

The program
Centered on a rigorous investigation of studio methods and practices, the communication arts curriculum additionally explores historical, conceptual and theoretical concerns critical to the development of a well-rounded and informed understanding of image, media, content and context.

With a history richly rooted in drawing, painting and art theory, the communication arts program is effectively tailored to provide students educational opportunities to develop the types of quality skills and meaningful understandings that are relevant and sought after in the expanding universe of communication medias.

It is a curriculum that endeavors to provide a balance between past, present and future, valuing artistic traditions and techniques, while thoughtfully embracing new tools, technologies, opportunities and outcomes.

Woven throughout the program, the study of communication arts is concerned with the powerful and timeless relationship between art and narrative — image and story — which invites each student to embrace, amplify and build upon their unique views and life experience so that they may, in the lifetime beyond university, add to humanity’s ongoing evolution and unfolding.

The communication arts department offers a B.F.A. in Communication Arts as well as a B.F.A. in Communication Arts with a concentration in scientific and preparatory medical illustration.

Department of Craft and Material Studies

Sonya Clark
Fine Arts, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in ceramics

Program accreditation
National Association of Schools of Art and Design

Program goal
The program comprises a community of makers/artists who advance the conceptual, historical, technical and haptic aspects of clay, fiber, glass, metal and wood. The program promotes an artistic practice rooted in the values of craft. Students will investigate craft’s inherent relationship to the world with fearless innovation.

Student learning outcomes
1. Aesthetic and cross-cultural understanding: The students will demonstrate mastery in aesthetic and cross-cultural understanding.
2. Understanding of the contemporary of their field: The curriculum of craft and material studies is designed to provide students with a comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of their field.
3. Critique information interpretation: The students will be able to use knowledge gained from critique to improve creative work.
4. Technique development: The students will demonstrate mastery of advanced craft techniques within their field.
5. Professional practice: The students will demonstrate leadership in their field in teaching and/or studio management.

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.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu.
**Admission requirements**

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<tr>
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<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.F.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special requirements**

- See arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply (http://arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply) for details on the application process.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18) and the School of the Arts admission requirements, applicants in the visual arts must have completed a minimum of 36 credit hours in art at the undergraduate level. Applicants should also present:

1. **Curriculum vitae/resume**: If applicant has a website, please include a link in CV/resume.
2. **Statement of purpose**: Please submit with university application and upload as PDF.
3. **References**: Provide the names and contact information for three references from professional associates such as instructors, supervisors or colleagues who can comment on the applicant’s ability to succeed in a graduate program. Letters of recommendation will be submitted electronically by recommenders.
4. **Portfolio**: Provide 20 still and/or moving images. Present work in reverse chronological order with the newest work first and the oldest work last. Images are reviewed one at a time. Please include any additional information to help reviewers understand the image.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the M.F.A. program requires 60 credit hours, which students usually complete in two years of full-time study. The majority of credit hours are taken in the student’s area of specialization. Graduate seminars, art history courses and other studio/academic electives round out the graduate student’s individualized program. Studio visits and critiques with visiting artists are an important aspect of the program.

Within the studio concentration, emphasis is placed on self-motivation, individual investigation and the development of professional attitudes and skills. Graduate students are expected to demonstrate a serious commitment to their work and to develop mature ideas and forms of expression. Admission to the graduate program is highly selective and competitive.

Graduate students interact formally and informally with the faculty in their areas and with other faculty members in the School of the Arts. Each graduate student works closely with a faculty committee that meets twice a semester for critiques and discussions. At the end of the first year, students present their work to their committee and departmental faculty in a candidacy review. At the successful completion of the 60 credit hours, a thesis exhibition is mounted at the university’s Anderson Gallery or at an alternative venue. A written thesis is also required.

**Curriculum requirements**

Take 30 credits in the following course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Craf 641</td>
<td>Graduate Studies in Clay</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craf 681</td>
<td>Candidacy Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craf 690</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Take six credits in the following course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Craf 641</td>
<td>Graduate Studies in Clay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craf 681</td>
<td>Candidacy Research</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
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</table>

Take six credits in the following course:

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Craf 641</td>
<td>Graduate Studies in Clay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craf 682</td>
<td>Thesis Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craf 690</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 60

1. Art history: any graduate-level (500 to 799) ARTH course
2. Graduate open electives: any 500-level or higher graduate course (Permission of instructor or program may apply.)

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60**

**Suggested course sequence**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Craf 641</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craf 681</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craf 690</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 2</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Craf 641</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craf 681</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craf 690</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate open elective 1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 3</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Craf 641</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craf 682</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Craf 690</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate open history elective 2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 4</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 60

1. Graduate open electives: any 500-level or higher graduate course (Permission of instructor or program may apply.)
2. Art history: any graduate-level (500 to 799) ARTH course

**Graduate program director**

Sonya Y.S. Clark
Chair, Department of Craft and Material Studies
syclark@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1750

**Program website**: arts.vcu.edu/craft (http://arts.vcu.edu/craft)

**Fine Arts, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in fibers**

**Program accreditation**

National Association of Schools of Art and Design
Program goal
The program comprises a community of makers/artists who advance the conceptual, historical, technical and haptic aspects of clay, fiber, glass, metal and wood. The program promotes an artistic practice rooted in the values of craft. Students will investigate craft’s inherent relationship to the world with fearless innovation.

Student learning outcomes
1. Aesthetic and cross-cultural understanding: The students will demonstrate mastery in aesthetic and cross-cultural understanding.
2. Understanding of the contemporary of their field: The curriculum of craft and material studies is designed to provide students with a comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of their field.
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<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<sup>1</sup> Graduate open electives: any 500-level or higher graduate course (Permission of instructor or program may apply.)

<sup>2</sup> Art history: any graduate-level (500 to 799) ARTH course

### Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

### Suggested course sequence

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<th>Semester 2</th>
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**Graduate program director**
Sonya Y.S. Clark
Chair, Department of Craft and Material Studies
syclark@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1750

**Program website:** arts.vcu.edu/craft (http://arts.vcu.edu/craft)

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**Program accreditation**
National Association of Schools of Art and Design

**Program goal**
The program comprises a community of makers/artists who advance the conceptual, historical, technical and haptic aspects of clay, fiber, glass, metal and wood. The program promotes an artistic practice rooted in the values of craft. Students will investigate craft’s inherent relationship to the world with fearless innovation.

**Student learning outcomes**

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Other information

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Admission requirements

| Degree: M.F.A. | Semester(s) of entry: Fall | Deadline dates: Jan 15 | Test requirements: None |

Special requirements

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Curriculum requirements

| Take 30 credits in the following course: | 30 |
| CRAFT 621 Graduate Studies in Wood |
| Take six credits in the following course: | 6 |
| CRAFT 681 Candidacy Research |
| Take six credits in the following course: | 6 |
| CRAFT 682 Thesis Research |
| Take nine credits in the following course: | 9 |
| CRAFT 690 Graduate Seminar |
| Graduate art history elective | 3 |
| Graduate open electives | 6 |
| Total Hours | 60 |

1. Art history: any graduate-level (500 to 799) ARTH course

2. Graduate open electives: any 500-level or higher graduate course (Permission of instructor or program may apply.)

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Suggested course sequence

| Semester 1 | Hours |
| CRAFT 621 Graduate Studies in Wood | 9 |
CRAF 681 Candidacy Research 3
CRAF 690 Graduate Seminar 3

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**Semester 2**

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**Semester 4**

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**Curriculum requirements**

Take 30 credits in the following course:

| CRAFT 651 | Graduate Studies in Glass |

Take six credits in the following course:

| CRAFT 681 | Candidacy Research |

Take six credits in the following course:

| CRAFT 682 | Thesis Research |

Take nine credits in the following course:

| CRAFT 690 | Graduate Seminar |

Graduate art history elective 1 3

Graduate open electives 2 6

Total Hours 60

1. Art history: any graduate-level (500 to 799) ARTH course
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**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRAFT 651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
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<td>CRAFT 682</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Graduate open electives: any 500-level or higher graduate course (Permission of instructor or program may apply.)
2. Art history: any graduate-level (500 to 799) ARTH course

**Graduate program director**

Sonya Y.S. Clark
Chair, Department of Craft and Material Studies
syclark@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1750

**Program website**: arts.vcu.edu/craft (http://arts.vcu.edu/craft)
Fine Arts, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in jewelry/metalworking

Program accreditation
National Association of Schools of Art and Design

Program goal
The program comprises a community of makers/artists who advance the conceptual, historical, technical and haptic aspects of clay, fiber, glass, metal and wood. The program promotes an artistic practice rooted in the values of craft. Students will investigate craft’s inherent relationship to the world with fearless innovation.

Student learning outcomes
1. Aesthetic and cross-cultural understanding: The students will demonstrate mastery in aesthetic and cross-cultural understanding.
2. Understanding of the contemporary of their field: The curriculum of craft and material studies is designed to provide students with a comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of their field.
3. Critique information interpretation: The students will be able to use knowledge gained from critique to improve creative work.
4. Technique development: The students will demonstrate mastery of advanced craft techniques within their field.
5. Professional practice: The students will demonstrate leadership in their field in teaching and/or studio management.

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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.F.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

1. Curriculum vitae/resume: If applicant has a website, please include a link in CV/resume.
2. Statement of purpose: Please submit with university application and upload as PDF.
3. References: Provide the names and contact information for three references from professional associates such as instructors, supervisors or colleagues who can comment on the applicant’s ability to succeed in a graduate program. Letters of recommendation will be submitted electronically by recommenders.
4. Portfolio: Provide 20 still and/or moving images. Present work in reverse chronological order with the newest work first and the oldest work last. Images are reviewed one at a time. Please include any additional information to help reviewers understand the image.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18) and the School of the Arts admission requirements, applicants in the visual arts must have completed a minimum of 36 credit hours in art at the undergraduate level. Applicants should also present:

1. Curriculum vitae/resume: If applicant has a website, please include a link in CV/resume.
2. Statement of purpose: Please submit with university application and upload as PDF.
3. References: Provide the names and contact information for three references from professional associates such as instructors, supervisors or colleagues who can comment on the applicant’s ability to succeed in a graduate program. Letters of recommendation will be submitted electronically by recommenders.
4. Portfolio: Provide 20 still and/or moving images. Present work in reverse chronological order with the newest work first and the oldest work last. Images are reviewed one at a time. Please include any additional information to help reviewers understand the image.

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the M.F.A. program requires 60 credit hours, which students
usually complete in two years of full-time study. The majority of credit hours are taken in the student’s area of specialization. Graduate seminars, art history courses and other studio/academic electives round out the graduate student’s individualized program. Studio visits and critiques with visiting artists are an important aspect of the program.

Within the studio concentration, emphasis is placed on self-motivation, individual investigation and the development of professional attitudes and skills. Graduate students are expected to demonstrate a serious commitment to their work and to develop mature ideas and forms of expression. Admission to the graduate program is highly selective and competitive.

Graduate students interact formally and informally with the faculty in their areas and with other faculty members in the School of the Arts. Each graduate student works closely with a faculty committee that meets twice a semester for critiques and discussions. At the successful completion of the 60 credit hours, a thesis exhibition is mounted at the university’s Anderson Gallery or at an alternative venue. A written thesis is also required.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Take 30 credits in the following course:</th>
<th>30</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRAF 601 Graduate Studies in Metal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take six credits in the following course:</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRAF 681 Candidacy Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take six credits in the following course:</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRAF 682 Thesis Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take nine credits in the following course:</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRAF 690 Graduate Seminar</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate art history elective ¹</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate open electives ²</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Art history: any graduate-level (500 to 799) ARTH course
² Graduate open electives: any 500-level or higher graduate course (Permission of instructor or program may apply.)

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Suggested course sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRAF 601 Graduate Studies in Metal</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRAF 681 Candidacy Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
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</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 2</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRAF 601 Graduate Studies in Metal</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRAF 681 Candidacy Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRAF 690 Graduate Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate open elective ¹</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 3</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRAF 601 Graduate Studies in Metal</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRAF 682 Thesis Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRAF 690 Graduate Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate art history elective ² | 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 4</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRAF 601 Graduate Studies in Metal</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRAF 682 Thesis Research</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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¹ Graduate open electives: any 500-level or higher graduate course (Permission of instructor or program may apply.)
² Art history: any graduate-level (500 to 799) ARTH course

Program website: arts.vcu.edu/craft (http://arts.vcu.edu/craft)
Arts degree and the fashion merchandising concentration leads to a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Both concentrations are extremely time-consuming. Students are expected to put class attendance and study time above other campus activities or employment.

All students are required to have a laptop computer. The department can provide specifications.

Students must take classes in the sequence prescribed by the department and adhere to all prerequisites. Failure to comply can lengthen the number of semesters necessary for completion of degree requirements.

Internships provide not only experience but industry contacts, and are strongly recommended. They may be conducted primarily during the summer semester.

Department of Graphic Design
David Shields
Associate professor and chair
arts.vcu.edu/graphicdesign (http://arts.vcu.edu/graphicdesign)

Graphic design is a creative and analytical process that integrates art and technology to communicate ideas and information. The goal of the Department of Graphic Design at VCU is to educate students to become innovators and leaders in three related areas of professional practice: print design, sequential design and interaction design.

Mission statement
The Department of Graphic Design encourages the exploration of diverse problem-solving methodologies, innovative investigations and creative research in all forms of communication. It is dedicated to excellence in teaching, scholarship, academic and creative research and professional practice. The Department of Graphic Design provides both an undergraduate and graduate education stressing creative and intellectual thinking; awareness of individual, social, cultural and communicative issues; the integration of new technology; and a concern for ethical implications and the natural environment. The program actively contributes to the university, local, state, national and international communities through its scholarly and creative activities, educational programs and service efforts.

- Design, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in visual communications (p. 299)

Design, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in visual communications

Program accreditation
National Association of Schools of Art and Design

Program goal
The graduate program in design with a concentration in visual communications is oriented toward individuals interested in pursuing a career in design education and/or furthering their professional practices, in conducting visual or theoretical research, and in investigating the intersections of function and expression in design problem solving.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will be able to present fluent verbal and written explanations of research and studio activities.
2. Students will develop a personal vocabulary, approach and vision in creative work.
3. Students will demonstrate knowledge of historical, social and cultural perspectives in relation to visual communications and clarify how they influence work.
4. Students will develop the ability to create expressive forms and use them to communicate appropriately.

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.grad.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.F.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Special requirements**

- International applicants should apply by Dec. 15 to ensure that application materials are received by the deadline.
- See arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply (http://arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply) for details on the application process, including portfolio, resume, statement of purpose, letters of reference, transcripts and scores.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have taken 36 undergraduate credit hours in studio art that should include a minimum of 20 credit hours in visual communications and/or related fields. Under special circumstances, these requirements may be waived.

**Interview**

The department will contact selected applicants regarding the interview (may be via Skype, telephone or in person).

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the M.F.A. is an intensive two-year, 60 credit-hour full-time program with courses only scheduled during the day. Courses are often integrated with each other during the semester.

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDES 610</td>
<td>Visual Communications Workshop</td>
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<td>GDES 611</td>
<td>Visual Communications Workshop</td>
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<td>GDES 612</td>
<td>Research Methods in Visual Communications</td>
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</tr>
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<td>GDES 621</td>
<td>Visual Communications Seminar</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDES 698</td>
<td>Research Documentation and Exhibition Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDES 699</td>
<td>Directed Thesis Research in Visual Communications</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate electives</td>
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</table>

**Total Hours:** 60

**Graduate electives**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GDES 593</td>
<td>Visual Communications Internship</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDES 631</td>
<td>Visual Communications Teaching Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GDES 692</td>
<td>Visual Communications Research/Individual Study</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Additional 500-, 600- and/or 700-level graduate electives within the university require approval by the program director.

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
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<td>GDES 699</td>
<td>Directed Thesis Research in Visual Communications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Thesis/creative project review**

**M.F.A. thesis exhibition**

**Oral review**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term Hours:</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours:** 60

1 Additional 500-, 600- and/or 700-level graduate electives within the university require approval by the program director.

**Graduate program director**

Steven L. Hoskins
Associate professor, Department of Graphic Design
gdesmfa@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1709

**Additional contact**

David Shields
Chair, Department of Graphic Design
dwshields@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1709

**Program website:** arts.vcu.edu/graphicdesign/mfa (http://arts.vcu.edu/graphicdesign/mfa)
Department of Interior Design

Christiana Lafazani
Associate professor and chair

arts.vcu.edu/interiordesign (http://arts.vcu.edu/interiordesign)

The Department of Interior Design is accredited by the Council for Interior Design Accreditation. The mission of the department is to provide an intellectually rigorous, studio-based experience grounded in the issues of interior architecture. The department develops in its students an enduring passion and curiosity for their work, a determination to continually seek quality in their endeavors, an ability to reflect constructively upon their actions as individuals and a responsibility for their lifelong education. The department focuses students’ professional activities while encouraging connections between these activities and the larger forum of ideas that enrich their culture and environment. The Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design program prepares students for careers in interior design or entry into programs of advanced study.

The department also offers a Master of Fine Arts in Design with a concentration in interior environments with a professional entry-level option and a post-professional option. These tracks seek to produce competent creative designers whose design solutions are based on human response in the contemporary environment. Mastery of design skills, development of productive habits, knowledge of resources and an awareness of interrelated disciplines equip the student with the tools and expertise necessary to pursue creative design positions.

The department relates with the professional interior design community through a variety of activities. The faculty invites featured speakers to share experiences, participate in the annual ASID EXPO, facilitate mentorships with professional designers and support student internships. An active student chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers provides additional enriching opportunities for student involvement.

The department offers limited accelerated undergraduate preparation for those individuals who lack full preparation. Assessment of the individual candidate’s needs will determine the scope of the preparatory course work. This is an opportunity to gain the skills and design experiences required to qualify for admission to the graduate degree program.

The department has a very comprehensive website with extensive information about the program, interior design in general, faculty, student work and the department newsletter. In advance of scheduling a meeting for department advising or for application to the program, students should review the website at arts.vcu.edu/interiordesign (http://arts.vcu.edu/interiordesign).

- Design, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in interior environments – post-professional option (p. 301)
- Design, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in interior environments – professional entry-level option (p. 303)

Program goal

The mission of the Department of Interior Design in VCU’s School of the Arts is to provide an intellectually rigorous, studio-based experience grounded in the issues of interior architecture. The department develops in its students an enduring passion and curiosity for their work, a determination to continually seek quality in their endeavors, an ability to reflect constructively upon their actions as individuals, and a responsibility for their lifelong education. The department focuses a student’s professional activities while encouraging connections between these activities and a larger forum of ideas that enrich their culture and their environment.

Student learning outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate professional values.
2. Student work will demonstrate advanced design theory.
3. Student work will demonstrate advanced knowledge of interior design.
4. Student work will demonstrate effective communication.
5. Students will demonstrate a foundation in business and professional practices.

Concentration in interior environments – post-professional option

The post-professional option is a subconcentration of the interior environments concentration, one of about 10 available nationally, that allows students who already have undergraduate degrees in interior design or architecture the opportunity to develop an individualized direction in scholarship. Admission is highly selective and open only to students who have demonstrated a high caliber of work at the undergraduate and/or master’s level.

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

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

| Degree: M.F.A. | Semester(s) of entry: Fall | Deadline dates: Feb 1 | Test requirements: TOEFL or IELTS scores for international students only |

Special requirements

- See arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply (http://arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply) for details on the application process and TOEFL score requirements.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. An interview (recommended, but not required)
2. Previous university/college transcripts (one official copy)
3. Three letters of recommendation to be submitted electronically through the online application process
4. Essay: three-to-five page (minimum) sample of academic writing
5. Written personal statement (one to two pages)
6. A resume
7. TOEFL score (international students only) – 600 paper/2500 computer/100 Internet
8. A portfolio with samples of design work (Applicants will be directed to upload portfolio images and/or video after they start the application process.)

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a minimum of 60 credit hours is required within prescribed courses. A research-design project is required to complete the program of study. This project is undertaken and developed in the context of IDES 699 and must consist of the testing of an original idea that is supported by research. This information will be synthesized through the design development process and culminate in an individual creative project of complex scale and scope. Documentation must follow established guidelines and be presented in a form that can be retained by the department and the university. On completion of the thesis, students participate in an oral examination and a graduate exhibition.

Curriculum requirements

| IDES 601 | Graduate Interior Environments Studio | 6 |
| Select one of the following: |
| IDES 623 | Advanced Design Studies | 18 |
| IDES 635 | Teaching Practicum in Interior Environments |
| Open electives |
| Take 12 credits in the following course: |
| IDES 690 | Graduate Seminar in Interior Environments |
| IDES 693 | Interior Design Internship (optional; may substitute additional elective credit hours) | 3-6 |
| IDES 699 | Creative Project - Thesis | 6 |
| Electives | 12 |

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Sample plan of study

| Semester 1 | Hours |
| IDES 601 | Graduate Interior Environments Studio | 6 |
| IDES 690 | Graduate Seminar in Interior Environments | 3 |
| Design/arts electives | 6 |
| Term Hours: | 15 |

Semester 2

| IDES 601 | Graduate Interior Environments Studio | 6 |
| IDES 690 | Graduate Seminar in Interior Environments | 3 |
| Design/arts electives | 6 |
| Candidacy review occurs upon successful completion of the second semester |
| Term Hours: | 15 |

Summer

| IDES 693 | Interior Design Internship (optional; may be substituted for elective credit hours) | 3-6 |
| Term Hours: | 0 |

Semester 3

| IDES 601 | Graduate Interior Environments Studio | 6 |
| IDES 690 | Graduate Seminar in Interior Environments | 3 |
| Select one of the following: | 6 |
| IDES 635 | Teaching Practicum in Interior Environments | 6 |
| IDES 623 | Advanced Design Studies | 6 |
The professional entry-level track is a 60-72 credit-hour program for second-degree seekers who have a proven record of academic excellence in a field other than architecture or interior design and are interested in pursuing a career in interior design. The structure of the track echoes the B.F.A. in Interior Design program in content, but advances the student at an accelerated rate during the first year and summer, bringing students parallel with the curriculum of the post-professional track by the second year.

The curriculum is highly sequenced, and students are admitted to the program for the fall semester only. All incoming students are required to take part in an intensive workshop in the summer that introduces and develops drawing, presentation skills and an understanding of two- and three-dimensional design methods. Students must successfully pass the workshop with a minimum grade of B to begin the professional entry-level track. Applicants who have an art or design background are strongly encouraged to submit a portfolio for review with their application. PowerPoint is the preferred format for the portfolio. Applicants are also required to submit three letters of recommendation and a three-to-five page writing sample.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.** (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.** (p. 37)

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### Program information

**Graduate program director**

Associate professor, graduate director and interim chair, Department of Interior Design
clfazani@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1713

**Additional contact**

Robert D. Smith, M.F.A.
Assistant professor and administrative director
smithrd@vcu.edu
(804) 827-4574

**Program website:** arts.vcu.edu/interiordesign (http://arts.vcu.edu/interiordesign)

### Design, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in interior environments – professional entry-level option

**Program accreditation**

Council for Interior Design Accreditation

**Program goal**

The mission of the Department of Interior Design in VCU’s School of the Arts is to provide an intellectually rigorous, studio-based experience grounded in the issues of interior architecture. The department develops in its students an enduring passion and curiosity for their work, a determination to continually seek quality in their endeavors, an ability to reflect constructively upon their actions as individuals, and a responsibility for their lifelong education. The department focuses a student’s professional activities while encouraging connections between these activities and a larger forum of ideas that enrich their culture and their environment.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Students will demonstrate professional values.
2. Student work will demonstrate advanced design theory.
3. Student work will demonstrate advanced knowledge of interior design.
4. Student work will demonstrate effective communication.
5. Students will demonstrate a foundation in business and professional practices.

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**Open electives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDES 623</td>
<td>Advanced Design Studies (or open electives)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 690</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar in Interior Environments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 699</td>
<td>Creative Project - Thesis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:**

6

**Total Hours:**

15

6

**Total Hours:**

Total 60

---

1 At least 12 credit hours of electives must be studio classes. Electives must be graduate-level and approved by the program director.
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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.F.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>TOEFL or IELTS scores for international students only</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- See arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply (http://arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply) for details on the application process and TOEFL score requirements.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. An interview (recommended, but not required)
2. Previous university/college transcripts (one official copy)
3. Three letters of recommendation to be submitted electronically through the online application process
4. Essay: three-to-five page (minimum) sample of academic writing
5. Written personal statement (one to two pages)
6. A resume
7. TOEFL score (international students only) – 600 paper/2500 computer/100 Internet
8. A portfolio with samples of design work (Applicants will be directed to upload portfolio images and/or video after they start the application process.)

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a minimum of 60 credit hours is required within prescribed courses. A research-design project is required to complete the program of study. This project is undertaken and developed in the context of IDES 699 and must consist of the testing of an original idea that is supported by research. This information will be synthesized through the design development process and culminate in an individual creative project of complex scale and scope. Documentation must follow established guidelines and be presented in a form that can be retained by the department and the university. On completion of the thesis, students participate in an oral examination and a graduate exhibition.

Curriculum requirements

Prerequisite

Students with no art or design background must successfully complete this class with a minimum grade of B as a prerequisite for enrolling in the program.

Take 2-12 credits in the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDES 500</td>
<td>Art and Design Methods Workshop</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDES 501</td>
<td>Introductory Graduate Design Studio I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 502</td>
<td>Introductory Graduate Design Studio II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 511</td>
<td>Introductory Graduate Graphics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 512</td>
<td>Introductory Graduate Graphics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 521</td>
<td>Advanced Material Studies for Interior Environments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 522</td>
<td>Environmental Factors for Interior Environments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 601</td>
<td>Graduate Interior Environments Studio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 611</td>
<td>Advanced Graphics for Interior Environments I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 612</td>
<td>Advanced Graphics for Interior Environments II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 623</td>
<td>Advanced Design Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 624</td>
<td>Advanced Furniture Design (or elective)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 626</td>
<td>Advanced Light and Color for Interior Environments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 631</td>
<td>Ethics and Business Procedures for Interior Environments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 651</td>
<td>History and Theory of Interior Environments I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 652</td>
<td>History and Theory of Interior Environments II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 690</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar in Interior Environments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 693</td>
<td>Interior Design Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDES 699</td>
<td>Creative Project - Thesis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Arts or other graduate-level elective (must be approved by program director)

Total Hours 60-64

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Note: Candidacy/portfolio review occurs upon successful completion of the second semester.

Graduate program director

Associate professor, graduate director and interim chair, Department of Interior Design
clafazani@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1713

Additional contact

Robert D. Smith, M.F.A.
Assistant professor and administrative director
smithrd@vcu.edu
(804) 827-4574
Program website: arts.vcu.edu/interiordesign (http://arts.vcu.edu/interiordesign)

Department of Kinetic Imaging

Pam Turner
Associate professor and chair
arts.vcu.edu/kineticimaging (http://www.arts.vcu.edu/kineticimaging)

The Department of Kinetic Imaging prepares students to use video, animation and sound for the purpose of art-making, self-expression and experimentation. The kinetic imaging programs are designed for students who want to study video art, sound design and experimental two-dimensional and three-dimensional animation. Emphasis is placed on artistic uses of the media.

The department offers an undergraduate curriculum leading to a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Kinetic Imaging as well as a graduate level program that results in a Master of Fine Arts in Fine Arts.

- Fine Arts, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in kinetic imaging (p. 305)

Fine Arts, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in kinetic imaging

Program accreditation
National Association of Schools of Art and Design

Program goals
The Department of Kinetic Imaging is committed to the artistic exploration of video, animation and sound. The M.F.A. program emphasizes the extension of these practices into the arts and their connection to contemporary issues in visual culture.

Graduate students in the M.F.A. program are exposed to a vigorous visiting artist schedule. Through studio reviews, seminars and research, the students are expected to build an awareness of contemporary and historical definitions of art that will influence their creative work. In addition to their own investigations, graduate students participate in and contribute to the undergraduate program.

While the graduate program is generally a two-year, four-semester in-residence program, students are expected to continue pursuits either on campus or at an alternative site throughout the calendar year.

Student learning outcomes
1. Through studio reviews, seminars and research, students are expected to build an awareness of contemporary and historical definitions of art that will influence their creative work.
2. Students will demonstrate critical thinking and conceptual problem-solving, with the ability to contribute to and challenge the rapidly evolving dialogue in media arts.
4. Students will demonstrate the ability to carry their work and critical inquiry to professional platforms such as public exhibitions, performance and/or scholarly publication. This includes knowledge of the various venues available to support and enhance their professional careers and the ability to accurately communicate what their work is addressing and who they are as artists.

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.graduated.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.F.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Curriculum requirements

Take 32 credits in the following course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KINE 600</td>
<td>Graduate Studio ¹</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Take 16 credits in the following course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KINE 692</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar ²</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select 12 credits of approved graduate electives ³ 12

Total Hours 60

¹ An exhibition will be required as a prerequisite for graduation.
² Enrollment in the graduate seminar is mandatory for the duration of the student’s study in the graduate program.
³ Electives may be chosen from among all university courses listed as 500-level or greater and require approval from a faculty adviser.

Special requirements

• See arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply (http://arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply) for details on the application process.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the requirements listed on the website above.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete 60 credit hours total, which includes studio, seminar and elective courses. While seminar and studio courses are offered through the kinetic imaging program, these credit hours can include other courses from within the fine arts degree program with the approval of the graduate program director. Additional elective courses are drawn from approved courses in participating units.

To graduate, degree applicants must achieve an overall grade point average of 3.0 (B) on a 4.0 scale with a grade of C in no more than two courses. The GPA for graduation will be based on all graduate courses attempted after acceptance into the program.

The M.F.A. in Fine Arts with a concentration in kinetic imaging will be a 60-credit hour program consisting of eight credit hours of graduate studio, four credit hours of graduate seminar and three credit hours of electives (15 credit hours) each semester. The program will typically take two years of full-time study to complete.

The M.F.A. in Fine Arts with a concentration in kinetic imaging is consistent with national standards established by the accrediting National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

The curriculum for the M.F.A. in Fine Arts with a concentration in kinetic imaging is built on the understanding that incoming students will exhibit high levels of ability and quickly demonstrate a serious commitment to their work and artistic development. Students accepted into the graduate program will possess a competitive portfolio and a minimum 3.0 grade point average, with a B.A., B.F.A., B.S. or M.A. from an accredited university. Due to the interdisciplinary nature of these media arts disciplines, applicants with degrees in other disciplines will be encouraged to apply. At the end of the first year, students will go through an advanced candidacy review, where they will present and defend their work before their graduate committee, which will be composed of members from the Department of Kinetic Imaging and other fine arts departments, following the current M.F.A. model. During the final semester, graduates will be required to complete a body of work resulting in an M.F.A. exhibition and written thesis, which will serve as the capstone elements of the degree program and be evaluated by the student’s graduate committee.

Curriculum requirements

Take 32 credits in the following course:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KINE 692</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar ²</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select 12 credits of approved graduate electives ³ 12

Total Hours 60

¹ An exhibition will be required as a prerequisite for graduation.
² Enrollment in the graduate seminar is mandatory for the duration of the student’s study in the graduate program.
³ Electives may be chosen from among all university courses listed as 500-level or greater and require approval from a faculty adviser.

Department of Music

James P. Wiznerowicz, D.M.A.
Associate professor and interim chair arts.vcu.edu/music (http://arts.vcu.edu/music)

VCU Music: Educating musicians to shape the stage, the classroom and the world

The Department of Music is committed to the advancement of Western art music and jazz as academic disciplines, as fields of professional endeavor and as significant expressions of culture. Entrance and graduation requirements comply with the National Association of Schools of Music guidelines. The department offers degree programs at the baccalaureate and master’s levels, and each of them is described in detail on individual program pages within the Bulletins website. Students in the VCU Music community are involved in a musically rich environment of studio lessons, small classes, independent study and performances. They hear outstanding professional performers in the classical and jazz traditions and attend on-campus master classes with major touring artists. Student soloists also may appear with regional and university ensembles. Through the Mary Anne Rennolds Chamber Concert Series and other events, the department is one of the region’s major sponsors of music performances. Approximately 300 students choose to major in music, with many other students from throughout the university taking courses and participating in ensembles. There are 25 full-time faculty, more than half of whom hold doctorates, in addition to...
45 part-time instructors. Among the faculty are internationally recognized performers, composers, researchers and teachers — musician-educators who are active in all facets of the professional music world. The faculty includes members and regular performers with ensembles that include the Richmond and Virginia symphonies, the New York Philharmonic, the Virginia Opera, Rhythm and Brass, and the Atlantic Chamber Ensemble. The faculty maintains a high level of recognition through each individual’s publications, recordings, international performances and lectures. The department is housed in two buildings. The principal facility is the W.E. Singleton Center for the Performing Arts, which includes the 502-seat Sonia Vlahcevic Concert Hall, faculty offices, rehearsal rooms and special studios for organ, percussion and piano. The James W. Black Music Center has a 347-seat recital hall, classrooms, practice rooms, rehearsal spaces, faculty offices and studios.

Admission and auditions
An audition and interview are necessary for admission to programs in the Department of Music. Students must also meet the general admission requirements of the university. For audition information contact Virginia Commonwealth University, Department of Music, 922 Park Ave., P.O. Box 842004, Richmond, VA 23284-2004; phone (804) 828-1169 or email apply4music@vcu.edu.

Music education candidacy
In order to achieve candidacy, music education majors must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.8 and must demonstrate satisfactory completion of the Praxis I, ACT or SAT. Music education students who do not achieve candidacy will not be allowed to continue in the music education program, but may continue in one of the other music degree programs provided they meet the requirements.

Courses for non-majors
Students majoring in a field other than music are welcome and encouraged to register for ensembles, private lessons and a variety of classroom courses in music specifically designed for the non-music major. Some courses require an audition.

Grades and achievement levels
All music majors are required to maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.0 and pass at least one applied achievement level within any two-semester period (not including summers) in order to continue as music majors. Jazz studies majors must pass one applied achievement level of classical instrument study per two-semester period (not including summers) and at least one jazz applied music level within the first three semesters in order to maintain a jazz studies concentration. All music students also must pass MHIS 145-MHIS 146 by the end of the fourth semester. Any student who fails to meet or maintain these standards will not be allowed to continue as a music major. A student may audition for readmission into the department as a music major only with permission from the Department of Music.

A cumulative GPA of 2.8 is required for music education students to qualify for student teaching placement. Music education students who do not maintain a cumulative 2.8 GPA will not be allowed to continue in the music education track, but may continue in the Bachelor of Arts program or the Bachelor of Music performance track if they meet the minimum requirements that apply to those respective degree programs.

Electives in music
Students majoring in a field other than music may register for ensembles, private lessons and a variety of classroom courses in music. Classes in music appreciation, African-American music, introduction to writing music, basic music skills and special offerings in music are specifically designed for the non-music major.

Internship in music
Interested students should consult with a faculty member closely associated with the appropriate field. As the student approaches junior academic standing, he or she may apply to the department for participation in APPM 493. Applications will be reviewed on the basis of academic GPA, instructor recommendation(s), professional promise, and demonstrated interest and competence in the area of study. The student must possess a minimum 2.5 overall GPA with a minimum 3.0 GPA in major course work in music. All students (including transfers) must have completed a minimum of 60 credits.

All internships for credit are approved by the Department of Music. The experience may also be coordinated by VCU’s Cooperative Education/Internship Program. The latter office requires completion of an application and resume.

Fees
All students registering for applied lessons (APPL 200) pay an applied lesson fee. Current fee rates for applied lessons (http://www.enrollment.vcu.edu/accounting/%20tuition_fees.html) can be found on the Student Accounting website.

Recital/convocation attendance
All undergraduate majors are required to pass four semesters of recital/convocation attendance for graduation. During each semester of enrollment, the student must attend a minimum number of concerts or recitals plus departmental convocations in order to pass the requirement.

Master class
This requirement consists of participation in weekly master classes in the student’s applied major area. For students in the Bachelor of Music program, enrollment in master class is required for each semester that students enroll for a two-credit lesson on their principal performing instrument. A minimum of eight semesters in the performance concentration (jazz studies majors take four semesters classical and four semesters jazz) and six semesters for the music education concentration are required. Students in the Bachelor of Arts in Music program must also enroll in master class each semester they take a two-credit lesson until they complete a minimum of four semesters of master class on the same instrument.

Ensemble requirements
To ensure consistent skill development in ensemble settings, only one large ensemble credit per semester will be counted toward a student’s large ensemble requirements. Students whose principal instrument is a band or orchestral instrument must satisfy the large ensemble requirement by performing in a large ensemble on that instrument. Students whose principal instrument is voice must satisfy the requirement by performing in a large choral ensemble on voice. Those whose principal instrument is piano must complete four of their six elective credits by playing the piano in ensembles. Jazz studies majors must have ensembles approved in advance by their adviser or program.
director. Bachelor of Arts students must earn six credits in either large or small ensembles.

- Music, Master of (M.M.) with a concentration in music education (p. 308)

**Music, Master of (M.M.) with a concentration in music education**

**Program accreditation**
National Association of Schools of Music

**Program goal**
The Master of Music with a concentration in music education program at VCU is designed to provide the opportunity for advanced, graduate study for the practicing professional music educator. It is the goal of the Department of Music that successful graduates emerge as leaders and innovators in the profession.

The curricular goal of the program is to provide flexibility in addressing the individual pedagogical interests of each student as well as the framework and foundations needed for continued advanced study in music education at the doctoral level. As part of this design, the degree is offered exclusively as a three-summer program, with continuous enrollment required following admittance to degree candidacy (fall and spring semesters prior to third summer). This design provides a “real-world” option for the practicing music educator to enter graduate study.

**Student learning outcomes**
1. Understand research in music education
2. Understand current issues in music education
3. Develop advanced pedagogical skills

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

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**Degree candidacy requirements**
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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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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.

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<th>Deadline dates:</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.M.</td>
<td>Summer only</td>
<td>Apr 1</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Baccalaureate degree in music or music education from an accredited institution
2. Virginia teaching certification in PK-12 music education (or same from a reciprocal state)
3. Written statement of personal philosophy of music education – used to assess thoughtful reflection on larger issues of the profession, ability to express thought in clearly written English and as diagnosis for specific deficiencies in this area
4. Three letters of recommendation – must include letter from persons who have directly observed applicant’s teaching
5. Interview with the director of music education

**Degree requirements**
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the Master of Music program requires a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours. The summer program is intended to be completed in three consecutive summer sessions and is structured into three cognate areas: music education, music pedagogy and professional education. Music education and music pedagogy cognate courses are offered on a rotating basis, with electives in music pedagogy developed and offered on an ongoing basis. This structure permits the student to enter the program at any given point in the sequence. The student will apply for degree candidacy following the completion of 18 credit hours. It is recommended that students enroll in eight to nine credit hours each summer. Final project credit hours are earned through online enrollment during the
fall/spring semester and in residency during the final summer session following admittance to degree candidacy.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Cognate areas**

**Music education**
- MUED 600 Seminar in Music Education 3
- MUED 610 Psychology of Music 3
- MUED 620 Introduction to Research in Music Education 3

Take three credits in the following course:
- MUED 783 Final Project in Music Education 3

**Music pedagogy**

Select a minimum of 12 credit hours from either the instrumental focus or choral focus areas:

**Instrumental focus:**
- MUED 614 Instrumental Conducting Techniques
- MUED 616 Researching the Wind Band: Strategies and Resources
- MUED 618 History and Literature of the Wind Band
- MUED 583 Special Workshop in Music Education (MUED electives)
  or MUED 591 Topics in Music Education
- THEA 601 Advanced Voice and Speech Pedagogy: Shakespeare

**Choral focus:**
- MUED 604 Choral Conducting and Rehearsal Techniques
- MUED 606 Choral Literature and Style
- MUED 608 Teaching the Adolescent Singer
- MUED 583 Special Workshop in Music Education (MUED electives)
  or MUED 591 Topics in Music Education

**Professional education**

A focus on areas of education of interest to student: to be determined by student and adviser, with adviser approval. May include the following:
- EDUS 605 Child and Adolescent Development
- EDUS 607 Advanced Educational Psychology for Elementary Teachers
- EDUS 662 Educational Measurement and Evaluation
- EDUS 673 Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy
- EDUS 701 Urban Education
- ADMS 600 Public School Administration
- ADMS 606 Organizational Behavior and Change in Educational Settings
- ADMS 611 School Law

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30**

**Graduate program director**
David J. Greennagel, Ph.D.
Fine Arts, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in painting

Program accreditation
National Association of Schools of Art and Design

Program goals
The graduate program advances the development of:
1. Individual studio and scholarly talents, interests and philosophies, used creatively to both expand and preserve our cultural heritage
2. Professional studio competence as exemplified by a significant body of work
3. Individuals with the potential to solve contemporary problems in all aspects of the visual arts and to explore and address new questions and issues
4. Professional competence in the dissemination of knowledge, including logical, clear verbal and written presentation of aesthetic ideas in teaching and other contexts
5. Scholarly competence in the organization, evaluation and interpretation of knowledge
6. Technical proficiency in relation to the tools, techniques and materials used in their field and the expertise to visually articulate their ideas
7. Proficiency regarding critical thinking and conceptual problem-solving with particular focus on the context and practice of painting and printmaking

Student learning outcomes
1. Define work in relation to history and practice
2. Engage fully in critical discourse
3. Increase knowledge of materials and techniques
4. Develop professional practice: engage in opportunities that develop the experience required to manage a creative professional career

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

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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.

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Graduation requirements
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Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.F.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

• See arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply (http://arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply) for details on the application process.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the requirements listed on the website above.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the M.F.A. in Fine Arts with a concentration in painting or printmaking requires 60 credit hours and is usually completed in two years of full-time study. Most of these credit hours are in studio areas and are augmented by related courses in specialized academic fields. A graduate seminar meets weekly and addresses topics related to contemporary art and theory. Two required semesters of art and critical theory are presented in a course that surveys the major themes of contemporary art criticism.

Graduate students meet with individual committees composed of three faculty members. Each committee and student conducts an ongoing dialogue and critique. At the end of the second semester students discuss their work at a candidacy critique comprising their committee and additional faculty members. M.F.A. recipients mount
a comprehensive exhibition of their work at the university's Anderson Gallery at the successful conclusion of the program's second year.

The Master of Fine Arts program is based on intensive studio practice at an advanced level in the areas of painting and printmaking. The program is highly selective and is presently limited to 15 participants.

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PAPR 527</td>
<td>Art and Critical Theory</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAPR 528</td>
<td>and Art and Critical Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAPR 591</td>
<td>Topics in Painting and Printmaking (critical issues)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAPR 591</td>
<td>Topics in Painting and Printmaking (professional practices for fine artists)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Take 24 credits in one of the following:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PAPR 605 or PAPR 615 Graduate Painting or Graduate Printmaking</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Take 12 credits in the following:</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PAPR 690 Graduate Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select 12 elective credits from the list below</td>
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**Recommended elective courses**

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<tr>
<td>ARTH 591</td>
<td>Special Topics in Art History</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTS 591</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTS 592</td>
<td>Individual Projects/Fieldwork</td>
<td>1-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>KINE 690</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar (with permission of graduate adviser)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINE 695</td>
<td>Advanced Sound (with permission of instructor)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAPR 615</td>
<td>Graduate Printmaking</td>
<td>3,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTO 690</td>
<td>Seminar in Photography and Film (with permission of instructor)</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60**

**Typical plan of study**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Semester 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAPR 527</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAPR 690</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Semester 2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAPR 528</td>
<td>Art and Critical Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAPR 605 or PAPR 615 Graduate Painting or Graduate Printmaking</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAPR 690</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
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<td>Elective</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Semester 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Graduate program director**

Holly Morrison
Associate professor, Department of Painting and Printmaking
hmorrison@vcu.edu
(804) 827-1697

**Additional contact**

Ron B. Johnson
Assistant professor and administrative director
johnsonrb@vcu.edu
(804) 828-2787

**Program website:** arts.vcu.edu/paintingprintmaking (http://arts.vcu.edu/paintingprintmaking)

**Fine Arts, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in printmaking**

**Program goals**

The graduate program advances the development of:

1. Individual studio and scholarly talents, interests and philosophies, used creatively to both expand and preserve our cultural heritage
2. Professional studio competence as exemplified by a significant body of work
3. Individuals with the potential to solve contemporary problems in all aspects of the visual arts and to explore and address new questions and issues
4. Professional competence in the dissemination of knowledge, including logical, clear verbal and written presentation of aesthetic ideas in teaching and other contexts
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6. Technical proficiency in relation to the tools, techniques and materials used in their field and the expertise to visually articulate their ideas
7. Proficiency regarding critical thinking and conceptual problem-solving with particular focus on the context and practice of painting and printmaking

Student learning outcomes
1. Define work in relation to history and practice
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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

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.

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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.
ARTS 591 Special Topics 1-4
ARTS 592 Individual Projects/Fieldwork 1-6
KINE 690 Graduate Seminar (with permission of graduate adviser) 4
KINE 695 Advanced Sound (with permission of instructor) 3
PAPR 615 Graduate Printmaking 3,6
PHTO 690 Seminar in Photography and Film (with permission of instructor) 3

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Typical plan of study

Semester 1

<table>
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<tbody>
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<td>PAPR 527</td>
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<td>PAPR 605 or PAPR 615</td>
<td>Graduate Painting or Graduate Printmaking</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAPR 690</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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Semester 2

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<tr>
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<td>Art and Critical Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAPR 690</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
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Semester 3

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<td>PAPR 591</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAPR 690</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
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Semester 4

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<th>Course Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>PAPR 605 or PAPR 615</td>
<td>Graduate Painting or Graduate Printmaking</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAPR 690</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic elective</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Studio elective</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 60

Graduate program director
Holly Morrison
Associate professor, Department of Painting and Printmaking
hmorrison@vcu.edu
(804) 827-1697

Additional contact

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Assistant professor and administrative director
johnsonrb@vcu.edu
(804) 828-2787

Program website: arts.vcu.edu/paintingprintmaking (http://arts.vcu.edu/paintingprintmaking)

Department of Photography and Film

Sasha Waters Freyer
Associate professor and chair
arts.vcu.edu/photofilm (http://arts.vcu.edu/photofilm)

The Department of Photography and Film aims to facilitate a comprehensive artistic, technical and intellectual understanding and use of the mediums of photography and film; to provide a rigorous education in the arts, specifically in photographic and moving image media, and a broad education in other academic subjects; to foster a climate that inspires creativity, intellectual curiosity, freedom of expression and critical-thinking. The department fosters a pluralistic approach that allows both faculty and students to expand the traditional boundaries of the respective media and engage in multidisciplinary practice.

The department offers undergraduate concentrations in photography and filmmaking resulting in a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography and Film, as well as a graduate program that leads to a Master of Fine Arts in Fine Arts with a concentration in photography and film.

To promote student development and research of contemporary art practice and theory, the Department of Photography and Film presents a diverse and active visiting artist program. Through lectures, critiques and research courses, students are exposed to the valuable insights of respected international artists, scholars and critics. In addition, the visiting artists teach topics courses exploring the current artistic and conceptual foundations found in their own work. Graduate students are encouraged to establish an individual critical dialogue with the visiting artists and faculty and attain a strong critical and historical basis for their work.

The facilities include several critique and screening rooms; a large black-and-white darkroom; a large state-of-the-art digital photography and film editing lab; a shooting studio; a student checkout center with a wide range of still photography and film cameras, professional lights and sound recording equipment; a professionally staffed graphics lab located in the same building that provides student with digital services on several high-tech imaging devices; and individual graduate M.F.A. studios.

- Fine Arts, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in photography and film (p. 313)

Fine Arts, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in photography and film

Program accreditation
National Association of Schools of Art and Design

Program goal
The mission of the M.F.A. in Fine Arts with a concentration in photography and film is to facilitate a comprehensive, advanced, intellectual and artistic understanding and use of the mediums of...
photography and filmmaking. The specific goals of the program are as follows: to foster a climate that inspires creativity, intellectual curiosity, freedom of expression and critical thinking; to attract and sustain a faculty of the highest quality by providing an environment conducive to their achieving and maintaining national and international stature; and to attract highly artistic and intelligent individuals interested in advanced study of the medium.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will demonstrate a familiarity with contemporary critical theory and an ability to apply and investigate those ideas in their work.
2. Students will gain and display advanced skills in conceptual and technical use of the medium.
3. Students will be able to create photographs and films that display an advanced level of intelligence and artistic vision.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

Degree candidacy requirements
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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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.F.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements
- A portfolio is required for admission to this program.
- See arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply (http://arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply) for details on the application process.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the requirements listed on the website above.

Degree requirements
The advanced study of photography and film is both broad and varied. Therefore, the program’s requirements are flexible and determined by the needs of each student on an individual basis. There are, however, a few definite requirements. In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), on completion of the program, students must have knowledge of contemporary art history, a more in-depth knowledge of the history of their disciplines and an understanding of the critical dialogue that is connected with their medium. Courses are suggested for students to meet these requirements, based on their backgrounds.

Curriculum requirements
Take 24 credits in the following: 24
- PHTO 601 Photographic Studio (3 or 6 credit hours, may be repeated)
Take nine credits in the following: 9
- PHTO 621 Research in Photography and Film (3 or 6 credit hours, may be repeated)
Take 12 credits in the following: 12
- PHTO 690 Seminar in Photography and Film (3 or 6 credit hours, may be repeated)
- PHTO 699 Graduate Exhibition (1 or 3 credit hours, may be repeated)
Select 12 credits in approved electives from the list below: 12
Total Hours: 60

Approved electives
(Other courses may be approved by department upon request)
- ARTS 601 Seminar in Art
- ARTS 602 Seminar in Art
students to take a wide range of courses throughout the university, faculty stress links between art, science, the humanities and the world. As a consequence, sculpture students have rich, productive associations with professors in many fields.

Sculpture students are challenged to exploit their full potential by questioning notions of contemporary art. The goal is to provide students with the vocabulary, the seeds of discernment and the skills of both analysis and synthesis in order to become participants in the dialogue of our time. All of this takes place in an environment of high expectation regarding self-motivation, intellectual capacity and responsibility.

The sculpture program is housed in a state-of-the-art facility. Sculpture majors are provided with semi-private, locked studio spaces and are given time, support and encouragement to pursue their independently determined goals.

• Fine Arts, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in sculpture (p. 315)

Fine Arts, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.)
with a concentration in sculpture

Program accreditation
National Association of Schools of Art and Design

Program goal
Formal and informal contact with faculty is designed into the program. Along with the Department of Sculpture’s faculty, graduate students are exposed to a vigorous visiting artist schedule. Through studio reviews, seminars and research, students are expected to build an awareness of contemporary and historical definitions of art that will influence their creative work. In addition to their own investigations, graduate students participate in and contribute to the undergraduate program.

While the graduate program is generally a two-year, four-semester in-residence program, students are expected to continue studio pursuits either on campus or at an alternative site throughout the calendar year.

Student learning outcomes
1. Define work in relation to history
2. Take full advantage program resources
3. Develop knowledge of equipment and techniques
4. Develop professional practices

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

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Graduation requirements
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Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements
Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
M.F.A. Fall Jan 15 None

Special requirements
- See arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply (http://arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply) for details on the application process.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the requirements listed on the website above. Additionally:

1. Applicants should hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution.
2. It is expected that applicants will have a 3.0 (B) average on the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work.
3. A portfolio review is required. A personal interview is encouraged.
4. Applicants must have completed a minimum of 36 credit hours of art at the undergraduate level.

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the M.F.A. in Fine Arts with a concentration in sculpture requires 60 credit hours and is usually completed in two years of full-time study. Most of these credit hours are in studio areas and are augmented by related courses in specialized academic fields. A graduate seminar meets weekly and addresses topics related to contemporary art and theory. Two required semesters of art and critical theory are presented in a course that surveys the major themes of contemporary art criticism.

Graduate students meet with individual committees composed of three faculty members. Each committee and student conducts an ongoing dialogue and critique. At the end of the second semester, students discuss their work at a candidacy critique comprising their committee and additional faculty members. M.F.A. recipients mount a comprehensive exhibition of their work at the university’s Anderson Gallery at the successful conclusion of the program’s second year.

The Master of Fine Arts program is based on intensive studio practice at an advanced level in the area of sculpture. The program is highly selective and is presently limited to 15 participants.

Curriculum requirements
Take 16 credits in the following course: 16
SCPT 500 Graduate Sculpture
Take 16 credits in the following course: 16
SCPT 600 Graduate Sculpture
Take 16 credits in the following course: 16
SCPT 690 Graduate Seminar 1
Electives 2 12

Total Hours 60

1 Enrollment in the graduate seminar is mandatory for the duration of the student’s study in the program.
2 Students may select any graduate-level course within the university with the approval of their adviser.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Typical plan of study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCPT 500</td>
<td>Graduate Sculpture</td>
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<td>SCPT 600</td>
<td>Graduate Sculpture</td>
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<td>SCPT 690</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective 2</td>
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<td>Term Hours</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Semester 2</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>SCPT 500</td>
<td>Graduate Sculpture</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCPT 500</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCPT 690</td>
<td>Graduate Seminar 1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Theatre, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in costume design

Program accreditation
National Association of Schools of Theatre

Program goal
The M.F.A. in Theatre offers concentrations in stage design/technical theatre and costume design, which comprise the professional option, and in literature and performance, which make up the pedagogy option. Focus areas in pedagogy include movement, performance, and voice and speech.

Student learning outcomes
The M.F.A. degree prepares students to either enter the professional field of design or to teach at the college or university level. Students will demonstrate theoretical and practical knowledge in their areas of focus, as well as in the core courses in history, literature and theory; and in teaching performance or production. They will be evaluated on their ability to teach undergraduates, a final thesis project and approval of a professional-quality design, presentation or publishable article.

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.

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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.

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<tr>
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<td>Feb 15 (suggested)</td>
<td>None</td>
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Special requirements
- See arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply (http://arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply) for details on the application process.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must possess a bachelor’s degree (theatre preferred). Students must present a portfolio of design work (both project and realized designs) as part of their application to the program. Professional experience will be considered. The program provides preparation for early to midcareer professionals to enter the field of either professional design or teaching theatre at the college/university level.

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to take 60 credit hours of graduate-level course work distributed among core courses, area of concentration and electives, including special topics courses. The program is usually completed within two to three years.

Costume design concentration
The costume design concentration’s degree requirements include 12 credit hours in core courses, 12 to 18 credit hours in (level-appropriate) design studio and three to six credit hours of thesis/thesis project. The balance of credit hours will be in approved electives, which may include additional practica, research and production, or professional internships. Students will take practical courses and assist faculty in teaching and design projects. They may be advised to take additional history or drawing courses to ensure that they possess the background required for advanced design projects. Their design skills and professional preparation will be evaluated by the faculty through portfolio presentations and participation at professional conferences.

Curriculum requirements

Core curriculum
- THEA 509 Theatre History 3
- THEA 510 Theatre Historiography 3
- THEA 603 Dramatic Literature and Theory 3

Concentration requirements
Select 12-18 credits from the following:
- THEA 508 Scene Painting
- THEA 593 Professional Internship
- THEA 621 Problems in Costume Design
- THEA 622 Problems in Costume Design
- THEA 630 Production
- THEA 640 Advanced Theatre Projects
- THEA 641 Advanced Theatre Projects

Electives
Select 24-30 credits from the following recommended electives:
- THEA 605 Advanced Studies in Stage Design
- THEA 606 and Advanced Studies in Stage Design
- THEA 651 Individual Study in Graduate Design
- THEA 791 Seminar in Special Issues in Theatre

Thesis or thesis project
- THEA 699 Creative Project Evaluation 3-6
- or THEA 799 Thesis

Total Hours 51-66

Some courses may be repeated with permission of the graduate program director.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Sample plan of study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<td>THEA 509 Theatre History 3 or Theatre Historiography 3 or Dramatic Literature and Theory 3 or Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice 3 or THEA 603 or THEA 604</td>
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<td>THEA 621 Problems in Costume Design 3</td>
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<td>Dramatic Literature and Theory or Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice</td>
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<td>Scene Painting</td>
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<td>Problems in Costume Design</td>
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<td>THEA 651</td>
<td>Individual Study in Graduate Design</td>
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<td>THEA 630</td>
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<td>Professional Internship</td>
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<td>THEA 641</td>
<td>Advanced Theatre Projects</td>
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</tr>
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<td>THEA 699</td>
<td>Creative Project Evaluation</td>
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<td>Individual Study in Graduate Design</td>
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<td></td>
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</table>

**Program goal**
The M.F.A. in Theatre offers concentrations in stage design/technical theatre and costume design, which comprise the professional option, and in literature and performance, which make up the pedagogy option. Focus areas in pedagogy include movement, performance, and voice and speech.

**Student learning outcomes**
The M.F.A. degree prepares students to either enter the professional field of design or to teach at the college or university level. Students will demonstrate theoretical and practical knowledge in their areas of focus, as well as in the core courses in history, literature and theory; and in teaching performance or production. They will be evaluated on their ability to teach undergraduates, a final thesis project and approval of a professional-quality design, presentation or publishable article.

**Program website:** arts.vcu.edu/theatre

**Theatre, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in pedagogy/literature**

**Program accreditation**

**Graduate program director**
Noreen C. Barnes, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Department of Theatre
nbarnesm@vcu.edu
(804) 827-1677

**Additional contacts**
Aaron D. Anderson, Ph.D.
Associate chair, Department of Theatre
adanderson@vcu.edu
(804) 828-2697

Toni-Leslie James
Head of costume design
tljames@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1514

**Program website:** arts.vcu.edu/theatre

**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.

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**Special requirements**

- See arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply (http://arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply) for details on the application process.
- Audition required.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must possess a bachelor’s degree (theatre preferred). Students must present a portfolio of design work (both project and realized designs) as part of their application to the program. Professional experience will be considered. The program provides preparation for early to midcareer professionals to enter the field of either professional design or teaching theatre at the college/university level.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to take 60 credit hours of graduate-level course work distributed among core courses, area of concentration and electives, including special topics courses. Students will also be evaluated on performance projects, production work and teaching. The program is usually completed within two to three years.

**Pedagogy/literature concentration**

Requirements of the pedagogy/literature concentration include 18 credit hours in core courses (including theatre pedagogy and production), 12 credit hours in the focus area and six credit hours of thesis/thesis project. The balance of credit hours will be in approved electives, which may include additional practica, research and production, or teaching internships. Students take four to six courses in their areas of concentration and additional related courses in performance (or in MATX/English courses). Students will take practical courses and assist faculty in teaching. Their teaching effectiveness will be evaluated by area faculty. Students will also have assignments as dramaturges for both departmental and outside productions.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Core curriculum**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEA 509</td>
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**Electives**

Select 24-30 credits from the following recommended electives:

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<tr>
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<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>MATX 601</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 593</td>
<td>Professional Internship</td>
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<td>THEA 623</td>
<td>Advanced Studies in Modern Drama</td>
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<td>THEA 624</td>
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<td>Production</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 791</td>
<td>Seminar in Special Issues in Theatre</td>
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</table>

**Thesis or thesis project**

Select one of the following: 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEA 699</td>
<td>Creative Project Evaluation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 799</td>
<td>Thesis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours 60-69**

Students are encouraged to take electives in all areas of pedagogy, in addition to their focus area. Some courses may be repeated with permission of the graduate program director.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60**

**Sample plan of study**

**Semester 1**

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<td>THEA 604</td>
<td>Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice</td>
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THEA 696  Dramaturgy  3  
Elective  3  

Summer
THEA 619  Theatre Pedagogy (Optional)  3-6  

Term Hours:  3-6

Semester 3
THEA 509  Theatre History  3  
   or  Theatre Historiography
THEA 510  Dramatic Literature and Theory  
   or  Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice
THEA 603  or  THEA 604
THEA 619  Theatre Pedagogy  3  
THEA 693  Colloquium and Practical Training  6  
Elective  3  

Term Hours:  15

Semester 4
THEA 509  Theatre History  3  
   or  Theatre Historiography
THEA 510  or  Dramatic Literature and Theory  
   or  Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice
THEA 603  or  THEA 604
THEA 698  Creative Project  3  
   or  Creative Project Evaluation
THEA 699  or  Thesis
THEA 799
Electives  6  

Term Hours:  12  
Total Hours:  60-63

1 Observation/assisting in undergraduate theatre history/dramatic literature course.

Program goal
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Theatre, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in pedagogy/performance

Program accreditation
National Association of Schools of Theatre
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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.F.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Feb 15 (suggested)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 15 (suggested)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- See arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply (http://arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply) for details on the application process.
- Audition required.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must possess a bachelor’s degree (theatre preferred). Students must present a portfolio of design work (both project and realized designs) as part of their application to the program. Professional experience will be considered. The program provides preparation for early to midcareer professionals to enter the field of either professional design or teaching theatre at the college/university level.

Degree requirements

In addition to general Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to take 60 credit hours of graduate-level course work distributed among core courses, area of concentration and electives, including special topics courses. Students will also be evaluated on performance projects, production work and teaching. The program is usually completed within two to three years.

Pedagogy/performance concentration

Requirements of the pedagogy/performance concentration include 18 credit hours in core courses (including theatre pedagogy and production), 12 to 15 credit hours in a focus area (voice and speech, performance, or movement) and six credit hours of thesis/thesis project. The remainder of the program consists of approved elective courses. Students will take practical courses and assist faculty in teaching. Their teaching effectiveness will be evaluated by area faculty.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core curriculum</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEA 509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 619</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 640</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select 12-15 credits from the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 513 &amp; THEA 514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 517</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 518</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 601</td>
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<td>THEA 602</td>
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<td>THEA 613</td>
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<td>THEA 614</td>
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<td>THEA 617</td>
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<tr>
<td>THEA 618</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 640</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 661 &amp; THEA 662</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 693</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select 24-30 credits from the following recommended electives:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 791</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thesis or thesis project</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 699</td>
</tr>
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<td>THEA 799</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Students are encouraged to take electives in all areas of pedagogy, in addition to their focus area. Some courses may be repeated with permission of the graduate program director.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Sample plan of study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEA 509 or THEA 510 or THEA 603 or THEA 604</td>
<td>Theatre History or Theatre Historiography or Dramatic Literature and Theory or Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THEA 501 or THEA 640</td>
<td>Basic Voice and Speech or Advanced Theatre Projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 2</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEA 501 or THEA 640</td>
<td>Basic Voice and Speech or Advanced Theatre Projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 3</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEA 501 or THEA 640</td>
<td>Basic Voice and Speech or Advanced Theatre Projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 4</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEA 501 or THEA 640</td>
<td>Basic Voice and Speech or Advanced Theatre Projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 5</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEA 501 or THEA 640</td>
<td>Basic Voice and Speech or Advanced Theatre Projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 6</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEA 501 or THEA 640</td>
<td>Basic Voice and Speech or Advanced Theatre Projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 7</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEA 501 or THEA 640</td>
<td>Basic Voice and Speech or Advanced Theatre Projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 8</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>THEA 501 or THEA 640</td>
<td>Basic Voice and Speech or Advanced Theatre Projects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
THEA 693  Colloquium and Practical Training \(^{1}\)  3
Elective  3

**Term Hours:** 15

**Semester 2**

THEA 509  Theatre History  3
or Theatre Historiography
THEA 510  or Dramatic Literature and Theory
THEA 603  or Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice
THEA 604

THEA 502  Basic Voice and Speech  3
THEA 641  Advanced Theatre Projects  3
THEA 693  Colloquium and Practical Training \(^{1}\)  3
Elective  3

**Term Hours:** 15

**Summer**

Select one of the following (optional)  3-6

THEA 619  Theatre Pedagogy  3
Core requirements  3-6

**Term Hours:** 3-6

**Semester 3**

THEA 509  Theatre History  3
or Theatre Historiography
THEA 510  or Dramatic Literature and Theory
THEA 603  or Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice
THEA 604

THEA 601  Advanced Voice and Speech Pedagogy: Shakespeare  3
THEA 619  Theatre Pedagogy  3
Practicum or professional internship  3-6
Elective  3

**Term Hours:** 15-18

**Semester 4**

THEA 509  Theatre History  3
or Theatre Historiography
THEA 510  or Dramatic Literature and Theory
THEA 603  or Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice
THEA 604

THEA 602  Advanced Topics in Voice and Speech Pedagogy  3
THEA 698  Creative Project  3
or Creative Project Evaluation
THEA 699  or Thesis
THEA 799

Elective  3

**Term Hours:** 12

**Total Hours:** 60-66

\(^{1}\) Observation/assisting in undergraduate theatre history/dramatic literature course.

**Graduate program director**
Noreen C. Barnes, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Department of Theatre
nbarnesm@vcu.edu
(804) 827-1677

**Additional contact**
Aaron D. Anderson, Ph.D.
Associate chair, Department of Theatre
adanderson@vcu.edu
(804) 828-2697

**Theatre, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in stage design/technical theatre**

**Program accreditation**
National Association of Schools of Theatre

**Program goal**
The M.F.A. in Theatre offers concentrations in stage design/technical theatre and costume design, which comprise the professional option, and in literature and performance, which make up the pedagogy option. Focus areas in pedagogy include movement, performance, and voice and speech.

**Student learning outcomes**
The M.F.A. degree prepares students to either enter the professional field of design or to teach at the college or university level. Students will demonstrate theoretical and practical knowledge in their areas of focus, as well as in the core courses in history, literature and theory; and in teaching performance or production. They will be evaluated on their ability to teach undergraduates, a final thesis project and approval of a professional-quality design, presentation or publishable article.

**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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.
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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree: M.F.A.</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry: Fall</th>
<th>Deadline dates: Feb 15 (suggested)</th>
<th>Test requirements: None</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Special requirements
- See arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply (http://arts.vcu.edu/admissions/how-to-apply) for details on the application process.

Degree requirements
In addition to general Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to take 60 credit hours of graduate-level course work distributed among core courses, area of concentration and electives, including special topics courses. The program is usually completed within two to three years.

Stage design/technical theatre concentration
The stage design/technical theatre concentration’s degree requirements include 12 credit hours in core courses, 12 to 18 credit hours in (level-appropriate) design studio and three to six credit hours of thesis/thesis project. The balance of credit hours will be in approved electives, which may include additional practica, research and production, or professional internships. Students will take practical courses and assist faculty in teaching and design projects. They may be advised to take additional history or drawing courses to ensure that they possess the background required for advanced design projects. Their design skills and professional preparation will be evaluated by the faculty through portfolio presentations and participation at professional conferences.

Curriculum requirements

Core curriculum
| THEA 509 | Theatre History | 3 |
| THEA 510 | Theatre Historiography | 3 |
| THEA 603 | Dramatic Literature and Theory | 3 |
| THEA 604 | Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice | 3 |

Concentration requirements
Select 12-18 credits from the following:
| THEA 505 & THEA 506 | Advanced Scene Design III & Advanced Scene Design IV |
| THEA 508 | Scene Painting |
| THEA 593 | Professional Internship |
| THEA 605 & THEA 606 | Advanced Studies in Stage Design & Advanced Studies in Stage Design |
| THEA 630 | Production |
| THEA 640 | Advanced Theatre Projects |
| THEA 641 | Advanced Theatre Projects |
| THEA 651 | Individual Study in Graduate Design |

Electives
Select 24-30 of the following recommended electives: ¹
| THEA 621 & THEA 622 | Problems in Costume Design & Problems in Costume Design |
| THEA 651 | Individual Study in Graduate Design |
| THEA 791 | Seminar in Special Issues in Theatre |

Thesis or thesis project
| THEA 699 | Creative Project Evaluation 3-6 |
| or THEA 799 | Thesis |

¹ Some courses may be repeated with permission of the graduate program director.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Sample plan of study

Semester 1
| THEA 509 | Theatre History or Theatre Historiography or Dramatic Literature and Theory or Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice |
| or THEA 510 | |
| or THEA 603 | |
| or THEA 604 | |
| THEA 505 | Advanced Scene Design III |
| THEA 630 | Production |
| Elective | 3 |

Term Hours: 12
Semester 2

THEA 509 or THEA 510 or THEA 603 or THEA 604
Theatre History
or Theatre Historiography
or Dramatic Literature and Theory
or Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice
3

THEA 506 Advanced Scene Design IV 3
THEA 508 Scene Painting 3
THEA 641 Advanced Theatre Projects 3

Term Hours: 12

Semester 3

THEA 509 or THEA 510 or THEA 603 or THEA 604
Theatre History
or Theatre Historiography
or Dramatic Literature and Theory
or Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice
3

THEA 508 Scene Painting 3
THEA 605 Advanced Studies in Stage Design 3
THEA 651 Individual Study in Graduate Design 3

Term Hours: 12

Semester 4

THEA 509 or THEA 510 or THEA 603 or THEA 604
Theatre History
or Theatre Historiography
or Dramatic Literature and Theory
or Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice
3

THEA 508 Scene Painting 3
THEA 606 Advanced Studies in Stage Design 3
THEA 630 Production 3

Term Hours: 12

Semester 5

THEA 640 Advanced Theatre Projects 3
THEA 698 Creative Project 3
Elective (special topics or art history) 3

Term Hours: 9

Semester 6

THEA 593 Professional Internship 3
THEA 641 Advanced Theatre Projects 3
THEA 699 or THEA 799
Creative Project Evaluation
or Thesis
3

Term Hours: 9

Total Hours: 66

Graduate program director
Noreen C. Barnes, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Department of Theatre
nbarnesm@vcu.edu
(804) 827-1677

Additional contacts

Aaron D. Anderson, Ph.D.
Associate chair, Department of Theatre
adanderson@vcu.edu
(804) 828-2697

Ron Keller
Head of design
rkeller@vcu.edu
(804) 827-2445

Program website: arts.vcu.edu/theatre (http://arts.vcu.edu/theatre)

School of the Arts in Qatar

Al Luqta Street
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Fax: (+974) 4402 1489
qatar.vcu.edu (http://www.qatar.vcu.edu)

Funded by the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development

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Associate dean for administration

Greet Provoost
Assistant dean for enrollment and registration services

Valerie Jeremijenko
Assistant dean for student affairs

Meike Kaan
Executive director of communications and external relations

Hissa Al Garni
Director of strategic engagement and business development

Michael John Arrighi
Chief safety officer

Founded in 1998 as a collaboration between the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development and Virginia Commonwealth University School of the Arts, the School of the Arts in Qatar offers the baccalaureate degrees in art history, fashion design, graphic design, interior design, and painting and printmaking, as well as a Master of Fine Art in Design. Its purpose is to provide special educational opportunities preparing graduates for leadership roles in the design professions and art history. Courses emulate those offered on VCU's Monroe Park Campus. Graduates are prepared for exciting careers in these growing fields.

VCU School of the Arts obtained the appropriate approvals from the VCU Board of Visitors and the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia and admitted the first class to what would become VCU School of the Arts in Qatar in fall 1998. SCHEV approved the request in April 2001 and forwarded its recommendation to the governor and General Assembly.
The 2002 General Assembly adopted legislation authorizing VCU to establish a campus in Qatar.

- Design, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in design studies [VCUQatar Campus] (p. 326)

**Design, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in design studies [VCUQatar Campus]**

**Program accreditation**
National Association of Schools of Art and Design

**Mission statement**
The M.F.A. in Design with a concentration in design studies defines and inhabits an area between design disciplines. The purpose of the program is to produce designers who are experts at negotiating and utilizing elements of many different fields to construct new tailored experiences.

Tomorrow’s designers must be able to understand their audiences, collaborators and patrons in original and authentic ways. Global cultures already experience design in a singular fashion. The practices at VCUQ combine graphics, interaction, engineering, systems, architecture, fashion and product design into a merged experience. Designers who are able to work outside their individual discipline will be at an advantage. The designers of the future will need to navigate between forms of practice, combining elements and skills to create new products, visuals, environments and interactions.

VCUQ is looking for creative, motivated, hardworking, self-directed individuals willing to engage with challenging topics. The program sets high demands on its students, requiring them to familiarize and grasp the myriad of variables involved in meaningful design, while simultaneously having the discipline and rigor to formulate their own assessment of what being a designer — in all its guises — entails today.

Students in this program should be able to question; be open to explore and experiment; stay true to ethical foundations; lead and be bold, while being open and flexible to adjust to shifting paradigms. The school strives to expose students to a variety of tools, materials and methods, while providing the theoretical background and research methodologies that will allow each student to develop their own unique ideas.

The M.F.A. in Design with a concentration in design studies celebrates the amorphous notion of what is called “empirical vagueness,” a term that encapsulates the simultaneously analytical, yet intuitive, fashion in which a design endeavor is developed. Students, alumni and faculty all play a role in exploring and fostering this as an essential, if inherently open-ended, calling.

**Program goals**
1. **Creative leadership:** Students will achieve mastery in creative leadership, with the skills and knowledge needed to achieve success as design professionals and entrepreneurs, educators, and researchers, and they will be able to creatively engage with the broad design community to bring added value to the regional economy, society and culture.

2. **Integrated research:** Students will integrate practice and theory to ensure the highest level of critical knowledge and to make meaningful contributions to pedagogy and teaching in the design disciplines. The program provides increased focus and visibility for individual and collaborative research activity that has an applied focus.

3. **Interdisciplinary emphasis:** Students will achieve high levels of creativity, literacy and knowledge across the design disciplines.

4. **Community impact:** Students will engage and raise social awareness.

5. **Career development:** The program will develop graduates with skills and knowledge to make meaningful contributions to pedagogy and teaching in the design disciplines. It also will provide opportunities that encourage students to engage and present their work in connection with the professional world.

**Student learning outcomes**
1. Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate in speech about their research and studio activities.

2. Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate in writing about their research and studio activities.

3. Students will demonstrate the ability to practice lifelong learning by dealing with new forms of design practice and other changes in the discipline.

4. Students will demonstrate the ability to integrate ideas from historical, social and cultural movements; from policies and theories; and from the dynamics of historical, social and cultural change.

5. Students will demonstrate the ability to apply appropriate technologies to projects in their field.

6. Students will demonstrate the ability to synthesize knowledge from different disciplines to solve design problems.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.F.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>TOEFL: 570 (paper-based), 230 (computer-based) or 88 (Internet-based)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must submit the following documentation and meet the following requirements:

1. A brief statement of intent that addresses:
   a. The reason for graduate study in design studies
   b. How previous studies and experiences have prepared the applicant for the M.F.A. program
   c. Career objectives and how the M.F.A. program relates to them
2. A digital portfolio of visual or written work that includes:
   a. Samples of relevant work that show creative thinking, idea development and visualization skills
   b. Works that support the ideas shared in the statement of intent
   c. No more than 20 individual works
3. A prepared presentation (for individuals selected for the interview)
4. A resume that highlights the applicant’s previous experiences and studies as they relate to graduate study at VCUQatar
5. Three letters of recommendation from former professors, teachers, mentors or supervisors familiar with the applicant’s academic and/or professional ability and aptitude toward graduate study

Note: In the VCUQatar portfolio system, applicants are able to send an online form to each recommender. Alternatively, the applicant can deliver a printed recommendation letter to the Admissions Office. Download a recommendation template to use.

6. Official academic transcripts (secondary and postsecondary) for all university studies
   a. Submit officially certified copies of all academic diplomas, certificates, national and other major examination results. Transcripts in languages other than English must also include a certified English translation. Transcript(s) must be properly sealed and stamped by the issuing institution and must be delivered to VCUQatar Admissions Office either by hand or post.
   b. The address on the official online application Confirmation Page will list a Richmond, VA address for supporting materials, but all documents should be sent to the VCUQatar Admissions Office.
7. For applicants whose first language is a language other than English, an English language proficiency test with the following minimum requirements:< >TOEFL: 570 (paper-based), 230 (computer-based) or 88 (Internet-based)IELTS: 6.5
   a. Note: Test scores must be sent electronically by the testing center. The TOEFL code for admission testing to VCUQatar is 5570. There is no code for IELTS.
8. The English language proficiency tests and standardized testing (TOEFL, SAT, ACT and IELTS) can be taken at the QF Test Center in Education City. Please visit the test center’s website to see the latest dates.
9. A legible copy of the applicant’s passports uploaded using the online application
10. A non-refundable application fee of $50 (US) or QAR183 for each M.F.A. application (This can be paid by credit card when submitting the online application form or at the VCUQatar’s Cashier Office.)

Important reminders
1. All admission supporting materials (excluding exam scores and transcripts) must be uploaded electronically using the VCUQatar online application process at https://ssb.vcu.edu.
2. Original, official TOEFL/IELTS score reports must be sent to VCUQatar via courier or delivered in person to the Admissions Office.
3. Applicants must ensure that letters of recommendation reach the office using either the VCUQatar portfolio application system or the downloadable template.
4. Only complete applications will be considered for assessment.

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. Total of 60 credit hours
2. Publication/documentation as specified
3. Qualification for degree candidacy
4. Thesis and final research project, exhibition and oral defense

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DESI 510</td>
<td>Materials and Methods Studio</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESI 511</td>
<td>Studio in Digital Design and Fabrication Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESI 512</td>
<td>Studio in Visual Communications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESI 520</td>
<td>Design Research Methodologies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESI 601</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Design Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESI 605</td>
<td>Design Strategies and Ethics for Business</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Design, Master of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) with a concentration in design studies [VCUQatar Campus]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DESI 611</td>
<td>Design Studio One</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESI 612</td>
<td>Design Studio Two</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESI 613</td>
<td>Design Studio Three</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESI 620</td>
<td>Design Thesis Research and Formulation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESI 621</td>
<td>Design Research Studio: Leadership and Entrepreneurship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESI 630</td>
<td>Teaching Practicum in Design or DESI 631</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESI 690</td>
<td>Thesis Studio</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approved studio electives 1 6

Total Hours 60

1 Approved electives (six credit hours) may be selected from a variety of 500- and 600-level courses offered at VCUQatar and VCU in Richmond. In addition, students are encouraged to enroll in 500- and 600-level elective courses offered by other accredited universities within Hamad bin Khalifa University in Qatar or any other internationally accredited university. Before taking a course outside of VCU, the student must submit a course syllabus to the M.F.A. in Design program director for approval.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Sample plan of study

Probationary course work may be required prior to gaining full admission to the program. The amount and type of undergraduate course work will be determined at the time of application, and no graduate credit hours will be awarded for this probationary course work. The decision to grant full admission will be based upon successful completion of the required course work.

Semester 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DESI 511</td>
<td>Studio in Digital Design and Fabrication Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>DESI 520</td>
<td>Design Research Methodologies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESI 601</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Design Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>DESI 611</td>
<td>Design Studio One</td>
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<td>Term Hours:</td>
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Semester 2

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<td>Materials and Methods Studio</td>
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<tr>
<td>DESI 512</td>
<td>Studio in Visual Communications</td>
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<tr>
<td>DESI 612</td>
<td>Design Studio Two</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Term Hours:</td>
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</table>

Semester 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DESI 605</td>
<td>Design Strategies and Ethics for Business</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESI 613</td>
<td>Design Studio Three</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESI 620</td>
<td>Design Thesis Research and Formulation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Approved studio elective 1</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Term Hours:</td>
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Semester 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DESI 621</td>
<td>Design Research Studio: Leadership and Entrepreneurship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESI 630</td>
<td>Teaching Practicum in Design or DESI 631</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DESI 690</td>
<td>Thesis Studio</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Term Hours: 15

Total Hours: 60

Graduate program director

Assistant professor and acting director
thmodeen@vcu.edu
+974 4402 0739

Additional contact

Rebecca David
Administrative assistant
erebecca@vcu.edu (johnsonrb@vcu.edu)
+974 4402 0735

Program website: qatar.vcu.edu/mfa (http://qatar.vcu.edu/mfa)
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

A close-knit community within a leading urban, public university, the VCU School of Business enrolls 4,000 students in a wide range of bachelor’s, master’s, certificate and doctoral programs. The school ranks in the top 5 percent of business schools worldwide due to its accreditation by AACSB International. From its founding in 1937, the school has developed strong connections with the business community in Richmond and beyond, with students actively engaged in internships, corporate projects and learning from executives.

Strategic plan

In 2015-16, the VCU School of Business launched a bold strategic plan, EPIC, to build on its strengths and ensure that the school’s students are prepared to thrive in a changing world. As the business landscape grows increasingly complex, companies in every industry need creative solutions. Leaders are seeking to hire graduates who have a solid foundation in their chosen business discipline — combined with the ability to bring fresh thinking and a creative approach to solving problems.

Our vision

Drive the future of business through the power of creativity

Our mission

To be a dynamic hub of business education and research, fueled by creativity and a commitment to preparing students to lead in a complex world

EPIC Pillars

Experiential learning, Problem-solving curricula, Impactful research, Creative culture

The School of Business, its programs and faculty have received national recognition from top publications such as U.S. News & World Report, the Princeton Review, Bloomberg Businessweek, The CEO Magazine and Advertising Age. In 2014, the top-ranked VCU Brandcenter joined the School of Business. Graduates from all programs are welcomed into the VCU Business Alumni Society.

Accreditation

The School of Business is accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, which accredits programs of professional education in business at the collegiate level. AACSB International accreditation represents the highest standard of achievement for business schools worldwide. Institutions that earn accreditation confirm their commitment to quality and continuous improvement through a rigorous and comprehensive peer review. AACSB International accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in management education.

The School of Business is the first school of business in the nation to gain accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology for its undergraduate program in information systems.

Financial aid, scholarships and awards

Scholarships and awards

In addition to university scholarships, business students may apply and compete for scholarships awarded through School of Business endowed scholarship funds or through the various School of Business academic programs. For detailed information on scholarships and awards, visit the School of Business website.

Cooperative education and internships

Business students are eligible for the university’s cooperative education program. Qualified students placed with an employer will either alternate one semester of full-time study with one semester of full-time work or combine study with part-time work during the same semester. The School of Business also offers internships, allowing advanced students to pursue part-time work assignments with area employers.

Assistantships

The School of Business offers a limited number of graduate assistantships to full-time students for the academic year. For further information, write to the Graduate Studies in Business Office.

Graduate students also are eligible for funds administered under the National Defense Loan and college work-study programs. For further information, write to Director of Financial Aid, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA 23284-2526.

Graduate information

Graduate programs

The School of Business offers degree programs leading to the Master of Arts in Economics, Master of Accountancy, Master of Business Administration, Master of Business Administration/Master of Science in Information Systems, Master of Science in Business, Master of Science in Information Systems, Master of Taxation, and the Ph.D. in Business and Pharm.D./M.B.A.
Graduate policies

Enrollment in graduate courses

Students may not enroll in any graduate business courses (except SCMA 500) for credit without first being admitted formally to a graduate degree or graduate certificate program.

Exceptions may be granted by the director of graduate studies in business to students with superior academic records. No credit will be given for graduate classes taken prior to acceptance into a graduate degree program in business or economics unless such an exception has been granted. A form to request such an exception is available from the Graduate Studies in Business Office.

A "graduate transient" classification may be granted to a student in good standing in any graduate school accredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business who wishes to enroll in the School of Business for any one semester or summer session. Students will be required to present certificates of graduate standing but will not have to submit the data normally required for an admission decision. A form is available from the Graduate Studies in Business Office to facilitate transient enrollment.

Transfer credit

A maximum of six semester hours of acceptable graduate credit earned in a degree program at an AACSB-accredited institution may be transferred and applied toward the graduate degree. Acceptance of transfer credit is made at the discretion of the director of graduate studies in business.

All transfer work must be at the A or B grade level. Students must be in good standing both at VCU and at the institution from which the credits were earned. Additionally, students must have had full admission during the time these credits were earned at that college or university. Transfer credit shall not be older than seven years at the time the degree is awarded.

Credit to be earned at other institutions after acceptance in the graduate program must be approved in advance, and approval is granted at the discretion of the director of graduate studies in business. Such work is approved only under unusual circumstances such as job transfers or other extenuating circumstances.

Advising program

All students admitted to graduate programs are assigned advisers. Students are expected to work with their advisers to plan their graduate programs. Each student is required to complete an approved program form and file it with the Graduate Studies in Business Office no later than the end of the first semester in which the student is admitted. The curriculum plan described on the form must be approved by both the adviser and the director of graduate studies in business. Courses taken without approval are taken at the student’s own risk.

Students are responsible for knowing and fulfilling all general and specific requirements relating to the completion of their degree programs. Answers to specific questions may be obtained from the Graduate Studies in Business Office, (804) 828-4622.

Change in program or concentrations

Students who wish to change their graduate programs or areas of concentration within the school must make that request in writing to the director of graduate studies in business. The director will advise them of the necessary requirements and whether the change is possible. The student must be in good standing at the time of change.

Notification

The student should notify in writing both the Office of Records and Registration and the Graduate Studies in Business Office, 301 W. Franklin St., P.O. Box 844000, Richmond, VA 23284-4000, of any address changes. Students who do not wish to register in any given semester must notify in writing the Graduate Studies in Business Office of their intent not to register and their plans for continuation in the program.

Student appeals

Appeals for exceptions to policies or academic standards may be made in writing to the Graduate Studies in Business Office, School of Business, Virginia Commonwealth University, 301 W. Franklin St., Richmond, VA 23284-4000.

Individual research projects

Various opportunities exist for students to work closely with faculty on individual research projects. Courses in the School of Business numbered 690, 693 and 697 are suitable for this purpose. No more than one research course may be taken as part of a master’s program.

Registration in all research courses requires approval of both the student’s adviser and the director of graduate studies in business. Forms for this purpose are available upon request from the Graduate Studies in Business Office. Students are expected to seek permission to register in research courses by the end of the semester or summer session preceding the semester or summer session for which registration is desired. The written research report is required to be filed at the Graduate Studies in Business Office no later than the last day of classes of the semester or summer session in which the course is taken.

General requirements for master’s degrees

In addition to the general academic regulations stated in the Graduate study (p. 17) section of this bulletin and the regulations listed earlier in this section, master’s students in the School of Business are subject to the following requirements:

1. A course for which a passing grade was received cannot be repeated without prior written permission of the director of graduate programs in business. An appeal to the School of Business master’s committee is required.

2. Students who satisfy all requirements except the 3.0 average may be allowed to take a maximum of six additional credit hours to raise the average. Students are required to appeal to the School of Business master’s committee for permission.

3. A foundation course may be waived by the director of graduate studies in business, based on satisfactory completion of equivalent undergraduate work prior to acceptance in the program. CLEP credit at the B or higher level may be accepted in lieu of foundation courses with permission. The waiver of courses is at the discretion of the School of Business.

4. A maximum of two one-year extensions may be granted by the director of graduate studies in business in the time allowed to complete a degree if satisfactory progress has been demonstrated on the part of the student requesting an extension. For extensions, write to the director of graduate studies in business.

5. Students are not permitted to take undergraduate courses equivalent to foundation courses once they are admitted to the graduate
program without the written permission of the director of graduate studies in business.

6. Grades received for undergraduate courses are not included in the calculation of the cumulative graduate GPA.

7. All students admitted into a program must have earned a bachelor’s degree or its equivalent. To be accepted in the graduate program, in addition to other requirements, applicants must be in good standing at the college or university they previously attended.

**Business Administration, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)**

**Program accreditation**

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

*Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.*

**Program goal**

The post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Business Administration is designed for professionals with little or no prior business course work who seek an opportunity for advanced study in core business function areas. The certificate provides students the ability to advance their careers while receiving recognition for academic accomplishment in the form of a graduate certificate. By completing the curriculum for the certificate, students will have satisfied the foundation course requirements in the M.B.A. and other master’s programs in business.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. To apply communication skills in new and unfamiliar circumstances in a form that can be readily communicated to entry-level, midlevel and senior-level managers

2. To analyze the ethical dimensions of a business situation, to relate those dimensions to professional ethical standards, and to formulate and defend possible resolutions from the perspective of entry-level managers

3. To select, conceptualize and apply appropriate quantitative techniques or approaches in order to analyze business problems for the purpose of decision-making by entry-level managers

4. To critically evaluate and use accounting and/or other financial information for the purpose of decision-making by entry-level managers

**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://wwwgraduate.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.* (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.* (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.* (p. 40)

**Other information**

School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students).

*Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.*

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jul 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have earned a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university. This program is intended for students with an undergraduate degree in an area other than business management. Other admission requirements include a minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.7 in at least 60 hours of course work. Work experience is preferred.
Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

Degree requirements
In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core courses. In order to be eligible to receive the certificate, a student must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0. Completion of this graduate certificate program requires 21 credit hours beyond the bachelor's degree. The director of graduate studies in the School of Business may waive up to 12 credit hours based upon equivalent course work completed in the past five years with a minimum grades of B presented. Students who have not completed a precalculus math course may take MATH 151 during enrollment in the certificate program. Successful completion of the graduate certificate program does not guarantee admission to a master's-level program. Students interested in applying at a later date to either the M.B.A. or other master's programs must do so through a separate application process.

Curriculum requirements

Required courses

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<td>ACCT 507</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Accounting</td>
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<td>ECON 500</td>
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<td>FIRE 520</td>
<td>Financial Concepts of Management</td>
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</tr>
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<td>INFO 661</td>
<td>Information Systems for Managers</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGMT 641</td>
<td>Leading People and Organizations</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 671</td>
<td>Marketing Management</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 524</td>
<td>Statistical Fundamentals for Business</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Total Hours 21

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 21

Graduate program director
Colleen A. Davis
Senior director, master's programs
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Additional contact
Jana P. McQuaid
Associate dean, master's programs
Email: jpmcquaid@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate/mba.html (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate/mba.html)

Business, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in accounting

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal
The Ph.D. in Business program is designed specifically for individuals intending to fill positions at institutions that require a balance of scholarly training, teaching and practical application of the appropriate field of study. With its small size, the program allows for extensive one-to-one interaction between students and faculty. Three concentrations are offered: accounting, information systems and management. A basic tenet of the Ph.D. in Business program is that the classic trilogy of research, teaching and service typically invoked in university mission statements is synergistic. The program strives to develop graduates who share this perspective and aspire to well-rounded individual roles within universities, colleges and other learning organizations. For this reason, the program provides instruction in both research and teaching.

Instruction in basic and applied research is the cornerstone of the program. To fulfill the requirements for the degree, students must demonstrate successful completion of prerequisite and advanced courses, comprehensive examinations, and completion and defense of a dissertation. The advanced courses provide coverage in basic theories, methodologies and techniques needed to conduct research. The dissertation demonstrates the student's competence in conducting independent research.

Enhancement of teaching skills is emphasized in the program. It provides students with mentoring and teaching experience. Formal instruction designed to augment student teaching skills is also required. Mentoring involves teaming a student with a faculty member with the goal of augmenting student self-awareness and self-confidence in the classroom. Classroom experience is required to insure that the Ph.D. graduate enters the job market with certifiable teaching experience. The formal courses are designed to provide substantive instruction on teaching the adult learner.

A third aspect of the Ph.D. program is its emphasis on practical application in the area of study for students concentrating in accounting. In accounting emphasis is placed on projects based on real-world experience, and students are encouraged to develop papers around topics that address practical application of accounting concepts.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will demonstrate the ability to apply general principles of scientific research and methodologies to critically review published research papers.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to (a) design a research study, (b) select the appropriate methodology and (c) develop the study into a research proposal.
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to identify ethical dilemmas in the major area of study and know how to respond ethically to such issues.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of current knowledge in the major area of study.
5. Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate and teach knowledge in the major area of study.
6. Students will demonstrate the ability to develop and conduct research in the major area of study (i.e., complete an independent doctoral-level research project pertaining to the state of the art of the student's major area).

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

Graduation requirements

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

| Degree: Ph.D. | Semester(s) of entry: Fall | Deadline dates: Jan 1 | Test requirements: GMAT |

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the doctoral program in business must submit an up-to-date resume.

Degree requirements

Upon admission to the Ph.D. program, faculty will evaluate students to determine if they have attained a basic competency level in general business disciplines. Students who have already completed a master’s degree in business will likely have met all foundation/prerequisite requirements.

Students who enter the Ph.D. in Business without an education in business will be expected to meet the foundation requirements for the intended concentration area of study as determined by their advisers.

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), Ph.D. in Business students must complete a minimum of 53 graduate credit hours, including research tools, concentration and elective course work and a minimum of 12 credit hours of dissertation research. Each student must also take GRAD 602, complete a teaching portfolio and take a written comprehensive examination in the concentration area.

Curriculum requirements

Research tools course work

As determined by concentration coordinator 12

Concentration courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 790</td>
<td>Research Methods Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>ACCT 791</td>
<td>Managerial Accounting Seminar</td>
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</tr>
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<td>ACCT 792</td>
<td>Financial Accounting Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 794</td>
<td>Behavioral Research Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 795</td>
<td>Auditing Seminar</td>
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Required course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRAD 602</td>
<td>Teaching and Learning in Higher Education</td>
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</table>

Electives

Four additional courses, as approved by concentration coordinator 12

Dissertation research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 898</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (minimum of 12 credit hours)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 53

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 53

Graduate program director
Jayaraman Vijayakumar, Ph.D.
Associate dean, graduate programs
Email: jvijayak@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Additional contact
Myung S. Park, Ph.D.
Accounting coordinator
Email: mspark@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-3161

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/phd-in-business (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/phd-in-business)
Business, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in information systems

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal
The Ph.D. in Business program is designed specifically for individuals intending to fill positions at institutions that require a balance of scholarly training, teaching and practical application of the appropriate field of study. With its small size, the program allows for extensive one-to-one interaction between students and faculty. Three concentrations are offered: accounting, information systems and management.

A basic tenet of the Ph.D. in Business program is that the classic trilogy of research, teaching and service typically invoked in university mission statements is synergistic. The program strives to develop graduates who share this perspective and aspire to well-rounded individual roles within universities, colleges and other learning organizations. For this reason, the program provides instruction in both research and teaching.

Instruction in basic and applied research is the cornerstone of the program. To fulfill the requirements for the degree, students must demonstrate successful completion of prerequisite and advanced courses, comprehensive examinations, and completion and defense of a dissertation. The advanced courses provide coverage in basic theories, methodologies and techniques needed to conduct research. The dissertation demonstrates the student’s competence in conducting independent research.

Enhancement of teaching skills is emphasized in the program. It provides students with mentoring and teaching experience. Formal instruction designed to augment student teaching skills is also required. Mentoring involves teaming a student with a faculty member with the goal of augmenting student self-awareness and self-confidence in the classroom. Classroom experience is required to insure that the Ph.D. graduate enters the job market with certifiable teaching experience. The formal courses are designed to provide substantive instruction on teaching the adult learner.

A third aspect of the Ph.D. program is its emphasis on practical application in the area of study for students concentrating in information systems. In information systems, students usually work on projects brought in to the Information Systems Research Institute. These projects focus on user applications and emphasize solutions to specific requirements.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will demonstrate the ability to apply general principles of scientific research and methodologies to critically review published research papers.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to
   a. Design a research study
   b. Select the appropriate methodology
   c. Develop the study into a research proposal
3. Students will demonstrate the ability to identify ethical dilemmas in the major area of study and know how to respond ethically to such issues.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of current knowledge in the major area of study.
5. Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate and teach knowledge in the major area of study.
6. Students will demonstrate the ability to develop and conduct research in the major area of study (i.e., complete an independent doctoral-level research project pertaining to the state of the art of the student’s major area).

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs
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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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.

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<tr>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>GMAT or GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the doctoral program in business must submit an up-to-date resume.

Degree requirements

Students should at a minimum possess knowledge equivalent to the core courses in the Master of Science in Information Systems program: INFO 610, INFO 620, INFO 630 and INFO 640. Students who do not have knowledge equivalent to these courses, as assessed by the IS department Ph.D. committee, must take one or more of the courses in which they lack knowledge upon admission into the Ph.D. program.

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), Ph.D. in Business students must complete a minimum of 53 graduate credit hours, including research core, major content core, elective course work and a minimum of 12 credit hours of dissertation research. Each student must also take GRAD 602, complete a teaching portfolio and take a written comprehensive examination in the concentration area.

Curriculum requirements

Research core

| BUSN 700       | Principles of Scientific Inquiry in Business | 3 |
| INFO 701       | Qualitative Research in Information Systems | 3 |
| INFO 702       | Design Science Research and Methods in Information Systems | 3 |
| SCMA 643       | Applied Multivariate Methods (or equivalent course) | 3 |

A course in quantitative research and methods | 3

Concentration courses | 12

Complete four of the following IS doctoral seminars:

| INFO 710       | Database Systems | |
| INFO 720       | Analysis and Design of Systems | |
| INFO 730       | Information Systems Strategy | |
| INFO 740       | Decision Support and Intelligent Systems | |
| INFO 750       | Information Systems Security | |
| INFO 760       | Knowledge Management | |
| INFO 790       | Doctoral Seminar | |

Required course

| GRAD 602       | Teaching and Learning in Higher Education | 2 |

Electives | 12

Dissertation research

| INFO 898       | Dissertation Research in Information Systems (minimum of 12 credit hours) | 12 |

Choose four additional courses, of which up to three may be 600-level courses taught by doctoral (or equivalent) faculty, where the selection of such courses is approved by the department’s Ph.D. committee or the department Ph.D. adviser. All four may be guided studies, but no more than two guided studies may be supervised by the same faculty member.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 53

Graduate program director
Jayaraman Vijayakumar, Ph.D.
Associate dean, graduate programs
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Additional contact
Victoria Y. Yoon, Ph.D.
Information systems coordinator
Email: vyoon@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-0672

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/phd-in-business (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/phd-in-business)

Business, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in management

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal

The Ph.D. in Business program is designed specifically for individuals intending to fill positions at institutions that require a balance of scholarly training, teaching and practical application of the appropriate field of study. With its small size, the program allows for extensive one-to-one interaction between students and faculty. Three concentrations are offered: accounting, information systems and management.

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Instruction in basic and applied research is the cornerstone of the program. To fulfill the requirements for the degree, students must demonstrate successful completion of prerequisite and advanced courses, comprehensive examinations, and completion and defense of a dissertation. The advanced courses provide coverage in basic theories, methodologies and techniques needed to conduct research. The dissertation demonstrates the student’s competence in conducting independent research.

Enhancement of teaching skills is emphasized in the program. It provides students with mentoring and teaching experience. Formal instruction designed to augment student teaching skills is also required.
Mentoring involves teaming a student with a faculty member with the goal of augmenting student self-awareness and self-confidence in the classroom. Classroom experience is required to insure that the Ph.D. graduate enters the job market with certifiable teaching experience. The formal courses are designed to provide substantive instruction on teaching the adult learner.

Student learning outcomes

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to apply general principles of scientific research and methodologies to critically review published research papers.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to
da. Design a research study
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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>GMAT or GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Management majors are admitted for the fall of odd-numbered years.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the doctoral program in business must submit an up-to-date resume.

Degree requirements

Upon admission to the Ph.D. program, faculty will evaluate students to determine if they have attained a basic competency level in general business disciplines. Students who have already completed a master’s degree in business will likely have met all foundation/prerequisite requirements.

Students who enter the Ph.D. in Business without an education in business will be expected to meet the foundation requirements for the intended concentration area of study as determined by their advisers.

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), Ph.D. in Business students must complete a minimum of 56 graduate credit hours, including research tools, concentration and elective course work and a minimum of 12 credit hours of dissertation research. Each student must also take GRAD 602, complete a teaching portfolio and take a written comprehensive examination in the concentration area.

Curriculum requirements

Research tools course work
As determined by concentration coordinator 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration courses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 737 Seminar in Human Resources</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 738 Special Focus in Human Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 743 Organizing Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 746 Cognitive and Emotional Processes in Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 747 Seminar in Human Resources: Macro Foundations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 750 Attitudes and Motivation in Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Required course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRAD 602</td>
<td>Teaching and Learning in Higher Education</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Four additional courses, as approved by concentration coordinator 12

Dissertation research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 898</td>
<td>Dissertation Research in Management (minimum of 12 credit hours)</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 56

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 56

Graduate program director
Jayaraman Vijayakumar, Ph.D.
Associate dean, graduate programs
Email: jvijayak@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Additional contact
Sven Kepes, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Management
Email: skepes@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-7195

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/phd-in-business (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/phd-in-business)

Business, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in decision analytics

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Note: Contact the Graduate Studies in Business office at gsib@vcu.edu or (804) 828-4622 for admission information about this program.

Program goal
The Master of Science in Business with a concentration in decision analytics provides students with knowledge of the statistical, mathematical and scientific skills and experience necessary to utilize advanced methods of data analysis for business decision-making.

Student learning outcomes
1. After examining a situation/problem, students will be able to develop appropriate hypotheses along with a method for testing them and be able to draw logical conclusions and make reasonable decisions based on available information.
2. Students will be able to apply quantitative procedures to obtain solutions for real-world problems.
3. Students will be able to appropriately address the target audience, use proper organization, create clear graphical displays and express ideas with clarity and grammatical correctness.
4. Students will be able to show a clear understanding of the ethical nature of the issue and recommend appropriate action.

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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://wwwGraduate.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students).

Note: Contact the Graduate Studies in Business office at gsib@vcu.edu or (804) 828-4622 for admission information into this program.

Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:  
M.S. Fall Jul 1 GMAT or GRE  
Spring Nov 1  
Summer Mar 1

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the master’s program in business must submit an up-to-date resume.

Note: Contact the Graduate Studies in Business office at gsib@vcu.edu or (804) 828-4622 for admission information into this program.

Degree requirements
The concentration in decision analytics provides students with knowledge of quantitative skills and experience in analyzing problems and using data for decision-making in a business environment. Depending upon individual student interests and adviser approval, the required nucleus is supplemented with relevant elective courses from within the School of Business or from outside departments.

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40):

1. All students must have completed a course in calculus prior to attempting graduate business courses. This prerequisite can be met after admission to the program.
2. Students must complete up to four classes (zero to 12 credit hours) of foundation course work. At the time of application, all undergraduate and graduate transcripts will be reviewed to determine if the following courses may be waived. Waiver of a foundation course may be awarded when a student demonstrates equivalent knowledge, such as completing the required undergraduate equivalent course with minimum grade of C.

Curriculum requirements

Prerequisite

| Calculus | SCMA 212 | Differential Calculus and Optimization for Business | 3 |
|          | or SCMA 500 | Quantitative Foundation for Decision-making |

Foundation courses

| SCMA 524 | Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management | 3 |

Select three of the following:

- ACCT 507 | Fundamentals of Accounting |
- ECON 500 | Concepts in Economics |
- FIRE 520 | Financial Concepts of Management |
- INFO 364 | Database Systems |
- MGMT 540 | Management Theory and Practice |
- MKTG 570 | Concepts and Issues in Marketing |
- SCMA 530 | Fundamentals of the Legal Environment of Business |

Required core courses

| INFO 664 | Information Systems for Business Intelligence | 3 |
| SCMA 632 | Statistical Analysis and Modeling | 3 |
| SCMA 645 | Management Science | 3 |

Additional requirements

Select three of the following:

| INFO 610 | Analysis and Design of Database Systems |
| INFO 614 | Data Mining |
| SCMA 643 | Applied Multivariate Methods |
| SCMA 648 | Analytics for Organizational Decision-making |
| SCMA 669 | Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business |
| SCMA 677 | Quality Management and Six Sigma |

Approved electives

Select four of the following:

| ACCT 608 | Managerial Accounting Concepts |
| ECON 501 | Introduction to Econometrics |
| ECON 610 | Managerial Economics |
| ECON 612 | Econometrics |
| FIRE 629 | Real Estate Investment Analysis |
| FIRE 635 | Investments and Security Analysis |
| INFO 611 | Data Re-engineering |
| INFO 616 | Data Warehousing |
| MGMT 642 | Business Policy and Strategy |
| MGMT 697 | Guided Study in Management |
| MKTG 673 | Marketing Research |
| OPER 528 | Stochastic Simulation |
| OPER/STAT 636 | Machine Learning Algorithms |
| OPER 643 | Decision and Risk Analysis |
| SCMA 675 | Operations Management |

Total Hours

45
Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 45 (30 if prerequisite and all foundation courses are waived)

Graduate program director
Colleen Androvich Davis
Senior director, master’s programs
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Additional contact
Jana P. McQuaid
Associate dean, master’s programs
Email: jpmcquaid@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate/dsba.html (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate/dsba.html)

Business, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in decision analytics – professional track

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Note: Contact the Graduate Studies in Business office at gsib@vcu.edu or (804) 828-4622 for admission information about this program.

Program goal
The M.S. program provides in-depth knowledge of one business discipline and allows students to develop and build technical skills in their specific areas of interest. It is frequently recommended for students with undergraduate business degrees.

Student learning outcomes
1. Database structures and query: Students will have an understanding of basic database structures, be able to query databases and organize data for analysis.
2. Quantitative skills: Students will be able to identify appropriate data analysis approaches to address real-world problems. They will be able to perform the analysis using commercial software.
3. Problem formulation: Students will have the knowledge, skills and practice to taking nonquantitative and perhaps ill-formed problems and issues and determining ways objective analysis can bring organization and insight to them. They will be able to determine data requirements and query available databases.
4. Analytics applications: Students will experience various applications of analytics in real situations.
5. Technical communications: Students will be able to communicate analytical analysis and results effectively to nonquantitative audiences. This includes informal discussions, formal presentations and written reports.
6. Teamwork: Students will develop skills in organizing, interacting and analyzing real problems as members of a team.

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<td>Apr 15</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants should have three years of work experience in an application area. Students without the required work experience may take six credit hours of graduate-level courses in an application area prior to acceptance into the program. Applicants are expected to have successfully completed an undergraduate or graduate course in statistics, and it is preferable that they have programming experience. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the program director.

**Degree requirements**

The Master of Science in Business with a concentration in decision analytics provides students with a breadth of analytical and quantitative skills with experience in analyzing and communicating solutions to problems arising in an organization.

Leading organizations gain competitive advantage through the use of analysis of relevant data to guide and drive strategic and tactical decisions. Increased volumes of data and emphasis on data-driven decision-making create new challenges for decision-makers and provide new employment opportunities for people with deep analytical skills. There is a significant and growing demand for individuals with the ability to work collaboratively within an organization to mine relevant raw data and refine data into a recommended action of value to the enterprise. The decision analytics concentration equips students with the essential skills to be analytically functional in an organization.

Skills, abilities and knowledge necessary for success in analytics:

1. Work in a collaborative environment
2. Translate specific business questions into problems that can be insighted through data analytics
3. Acquire and organize appropriate data so it can be used for analysis
4. Know general principles and common tools and be able to apply them to analyze specific business problems
5. Develop and effectively communicate an actionable solution for specific business questions

The decision analytics concentration focuses on the applications of digital and information technology, decision sciences and statistics to decision-making and problem-solving in organizations. The program will give students the theory, knowledge and skills to:

1. Formulate frequently nonquantitative and ill-formed business issues so they can be insighted through data analytics
2. Retrieve, cleanse and organize data from mega databases (big data)
3. Perform appropriate statistical analysis and interpret the results
4. Explain analytical results to nonquantitative management

The professional track is presented in a concentrated weekend schedule, making the program attractive to midcareer professionals who want to gain or increase their analytics skills without interrupting their careers.

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40) and credit hour requirements, students must complete up to four classes (zero to 12 credit hours) of foundation course work. At the time of application, all undergraduate and graduate transcripts will be reviewed to determine if the following courses may be waived. Waivers of foundation courses only occur when a student has completed the required undergraduate equivalent courses with a minimum grade of C.

**Curriculum requirements**

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<td>DAPT 611 Analysis and Design of Database Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 612 Text Mining and Unstructured Data</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 613 Tools for Business Intelligence</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 614 Advanced SQL</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 615 Emerging Technologies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 621 Statistics for the World of Big Data</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 622 Statistics for the World of Big Data II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 631 Data Mining</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 632 Forecasting Methods and Applications for Managerial Decision-making</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 633 Introduction to Marketing and Customer Analytics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 641 Introduction to Simulation Methods</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 642 Introduction to Risk Analysis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 643 Introduction to Optimization Models</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 651 Personal, Interpersonal and Organizational Awareness</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAPT 652 Professional Presentations: Strategy, Delivery and Technology</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAPT 653 Written Communications: Strategy, Structure and Connection</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 661 Issues and Analytics (one-credit course repeated for three credits total)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 670 Analytics Problem Formulation</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAPT 681 Analytics Practicum I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 682 Analytics Practicum II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33**

There are no electives, substitutions or exemptions.

**Graduate program director**

Colleen A. Davis  
Senior director, master’s programs  
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Students learn skills to effectively analyze, develop and communicate solutions that take into consideration ethical implications.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Graduates will be able to conceptualize and apply quantitative measurement methods, to analyze business problems and to propose solutions.
2. Graduates will be able to analyze a business problem in terms of both quantitative and qualitative aspects, including:
   a. A precise statement of the problem and how it relates to the goals of the firm
   b. A consideration of the ethical, policy and/or practicality limitations on any proposed solution strategy
   c. A statement and consideration of proposed solutions strategies and their implementation within the limitations
   d. A plan for implementation and monitoring of the proposed solution
3. Graduates will be able to analyze the ethical dimensions of a business situation and relate those dimensions to general ethical standards as well as to professional ethical standards.
4. Graduates will be able to express the analytic, quantitative and ethical dimensions of business problems and proposed solutions in a clear and well-organized manner.

**VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students**

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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

**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.

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**Other information**

School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students).

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**Admission requirements**

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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the master’s program in business must submit an up-to-date resume.

**Degree requirements**

The finance concentration prepares students for financial decision-making positions in corporate, investment, financial and governmental
institutions. Courses offered in finance include advanced financial management, investments and security analysis, funds management in financial institutions, international finance, and derivatives.

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40):

1. All students must have completed a course in calculus prior to attempting graduate business courses. This prerequisite can be met after admission to the program.
2. Students must complete up to four classes (zero to 12 credit hours) of foundation course work. At the time of application, all undergraduate and graduate transcripts will be reviewed to determine if the following courses may be waived. Waiver of a foundation course may be awarded when a student demonstrates equivalent knowledge, such as completing the required undergraduate equivalent course with a minimum grade of C.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Prerequisite**

Calculus

SCMA 212 or SCMA 500

Differential Calculus and Optimization for Business

Quantitative Foundation for Decision-making

**Foundation courses**

ACCT 507

Fundamentals of Accounting

3

ECON 500

Concepts in Economics

3

FIRE 520

Financial Concepts of Management

3

SCMA 524

Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management

3

**Required core courses**

FIRE 621

Cases in Financial Management

3

FIRE 622

Financial Management of Financial Institutions

3

FIRE 623

Financial Management

3

FIRE 635

Investments and Security Analysis

3

FIRE 650

Derivatives

3

**Approved electives**

Select four of the following: 12

ACCT 608

Managerial Accounting Concepts

ECON 617

Financial Markets

FIRE 626

Risk Management

FIRE 629

Real Estate Investment Analysis

FIRE 639

International Finance

FIRE 654

Short-term Financial Management

FIRE 675

Current Issues in Investments and Markets

FIRE 658

Real Estate Finance and Investments

FIRE 664

Current Issues in Corporate Finance

FIRE 691

Topics in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate

FIRE 693

Field Project in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate

1

or FIRE 697

Guided Study in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate

1

**Free electives**

Select one of the following: 23

ACCT (any 600-level)

ECON (any 600-level)

FIRE (any 600-level)

INFO 610

Analysis and Design of Database Systems

INFO 611

Data Re-engineering

INFO 614

Data Mining

INFO 632

Business Process Engineering

MGMT 644

International Business Management

MGMT 655

Entrepreneurship

MKTG 656

International Marketing

MKTG 673

Marketing Research

SCMA 632

Statistical Analysis and Modeling

SCMA 643

Applied Multivariate Methods

SCMA 669

Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business

Total Hours 45

1 FIRE 693 is recommended for full-time students. The department will work closely with full-time students and prospective employers in order to achieve this goal. Students may not use both FIRE 693 and FIRE 697 toward degree requirements

2 A student may substitute a free elective for one of the FIRE electives with the approval of the director of the concentration in finance.

3 Students may choose any free elective approved by the director of the M.S. program in finance. Students are encouraged to select accounting, economics, math, or statistics courses. These courses are pre-approved electives and therefore do not require further approval.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 45 (30 if prerequisite and all foundation courses are waived)**

**Graduate program director**

Colleen Androvich Davis

Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu

Phone: (804) 828-4622

**Additional contact**

Austen Gouldman

Program manager

Email: gouldmana@vcu.edu

Phone: (804) 828-6408

**Program website:** business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/ms-in-business-with-a-concentration-in-finance (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/ms-in-business-with-a-concentration-in-finance)

**Business, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in finance with Christ University in Bangalore, India**

**Program accreditation**

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)
Program goal
The goal of the Master of Science in Business with a concentration in finance program is to train students to take on the quantitatively challenging and highly competitive business environment of the financial industry. Students learn skills to effectively analyze, develop and communicate solutions that take into consideration ethical implications.

Student learning outcomes
1. Graduates will be able to conceptualize and apply quantitative measurement methods, to analyze business problems and to propose solutions.
2. Graduates will be able to analyze a business problem in terms of both quantitative and qualitative aspects, including:
   a. A precise statement of the problem and how it relates to the goals of the firm
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3. Graduates will be able to analyze the ethical dimensions of a business situation and relate those dimensions to general ethical standards as well as to professional ethical standards.
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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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.

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<td>Fall</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The VCU School of Business and Christ University in Bangalore, India, have partnered to provide students with an opportunity to study at two universities and earn two degrees. Students who have already been admitted to the Christ University Master of Business Administration program are invited to apply to the VCU Master of Science in Business with a concentration in finance. Students satisfy the master’s foundation course requirements during the first year while in the Christ University M.B.A. program and then complete the 10 required VCU courses needed for the M.S. in Business with a concentration in finance. These courses are taken primarily at the VCU Monroe Park Campus and are designed to be completed in one calendar year.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the master’s program in business must submit an up-to-date resume.

Degree requirements
The finance concentration prepares students for financial decision-making positions in corporate, investment, financial and governmental institutions. Courses offered in finance include advanced financial management, investments and security analysis, funds management in financial institutions, international finance, and derivatives.

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40):

1. All students must have completed a course in calculus prior to attempting graduate business courses. This prerequisite can be met after admission to the program.
2. Students must complete up to four classes (zero to 12 credit hours) of foundation course work. At the time of application, all undergraduate and graduate transcripts will be reviewed to determine if the following courses may be waived. Waiver of a foundation course may be awarded when a student demonstrates equivalent knowledge, such as completing the required undergraduate equivalent course with a minimum grade of C.

**Curriculum requirements**

Prerequisite and foundation course work are taken as part of the M.B.A. program at Christ University.

**Required core courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 621</td>
<td>Cases in Financial Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 622</td>
<td>Financial Management of Financial Institutions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 623</td>
<td>Financial Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 635</td>
<td>Investments and Security Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 650</td>
<td>Derivatives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Approved electives**

Select four of the following: 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE 654</td>
<td>Short-term Financial Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 657</td>
<td>Current Issues in Investments and Markets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Real Estate Finance and Investments</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE 691</td>
<td>Topics in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 693</td>
<td>Field Project in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>or FIRE 697 Guided Study in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate</td>
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</table>

**Free electives**

Select one of the following: 2,3 3

<table>
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<tr>
<td>ACCT (any 600-level)</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE (any 600-level)</td>
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</tr>
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<td>MKTG 656</td>
<td>International Marketing</td>
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<td>MKTG 673</td>
<td>Marketing Research</td>
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<td>Statistical Analysis and Modeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 643</td>
<td>Applied Multivariate Methods</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum)** 30

1. FIRE 693 is recommended for full-time students. The department will work closely with full-time students and prospective employers in order to achieve this goal. Students may not use both FIRE 693 and FIRE 697 toward degree requirements.

2. A student may substitute a free elective for one of the FIRE electives with the approval of the director of the concentration in finance.

3. Students may choose any free elective approved by the director of the M.S. program in finance. Students are encouraged to select accounting, economics, math, or statistics courses. These courses are preapproved electives and therefore do not require further approval.

**Total Hours**

30

1

2

3

**Program website:** business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/ms-in-business-with-a-concentration-in-finance (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/ms-in-business-with-a-concentration-in-finance)

**Business, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in global marketing management**

**Program accreditation**

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

**Program goal**

The Master of Science in Business with a concentration in global marketing management offers students the opportunity to combine their studies in international marketing with contemporary issues in marketing management.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Students will evaluate marketing programs.

2. Students will express the analytic, quantitative and ethical dimensions of business problems and proposed solutions in a clear and well-organized manner.

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

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**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.

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**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.

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**Other information**

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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the master’s program in business must submit an up-to-date resume.

**Degree requirements**

The global marketing management concentration provides the opportunity to focus on conceptual and experiential dimensions of marketing management. Students interested in the increasingly global nature of business will be well-suited for this unique graduate degree program. Core courses provide a framework for understanding the role of marketing in diverse organizations. Electives add knowledge in areas of growing importance to the profession and provide the flexibility for students to consider emerging topics in the global marketing environment. Client projects and global applications prepare students for marketing careers. Study abroad is available and encouraged.

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete up to six classes (zero to 18 credit hours) of foundation course work. At the time of application, all undergraduate and graduate transcripts will be reviewed to determine if the following courses may be waived. Waiver of a foundation course may be awarded when a student demonstrates equivalent knowledge, such as completing the required undergraduate equivalent course with a minimum grade of C.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Foundation courses**

0-18 credits; courses may be waived for demonstrated equivalence.

- ACCT 507: Fundamentals of Accounting
- ECON 500: Concepts in Economics
- FIRE 520: Financial Concepts of Management
- SCMA 524: Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management

Two-course sequence in a foreign language at the undergraduate or graduate level (or demonstrated proficiency) or two approved cross-cultural courses taken at the undergraduate or graduate level

**Core courses**

- MGMT 642: Business Policy and Strategy (to be taken in the last semester)
- MKTG 656: International Marketing
- MKTG 657: International Market Planning Project
- MKTG 671: Marketing Management
- MKTG 672: Marketing Research

**Marketing electives**

Select three of the following: 9

- MKTG 672: Concepts in Consumer Behavior
- MKTG 674: Service Quality Management
- MKTG 675: Digital Marketing
- MKTG 678: Marketing Analytics
- MKTG 691: Topics in Marketing

**Non-marketing electives**

Select two of the following: 6

- ACCT 606: International Accounting
- ECON 609: Advanced International Economics
- FIRE 621: Cases in Financial Management
business, master of science (m.s.) with a concentration in global marketing management with christ university in bangalore, india

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<tr>
<td>INFO 658</td>
<td>Securing the Internet of Things</td>
</tr>
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<td>Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business</td>
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Total Hours: 30

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48 (30 if all foundation courses are waived)

Graduate program director
Colleen Androvich Davis  
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu  
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Additional contact
Austen Gouldman  
Program manager  
Email: gouldmana@vcu.edu  
Phone: (804) 828-6408

Program website: [business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/ms-in-business-with-a-concentration-in-global-marketing-management](http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/ms-in-business-with-a-concentration-in-global-marketing-management)

Business, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in global marketing management with Christ University in Bangalore, India

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal
The Master of Science in Business with a concentration in global marketing management offers students the opportunity to combine their studies in international marketing with contemporary issues in marketing management.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will evaluate marketing programs.  
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</tbody>
</table>

The VCU School of Business and Christ University in Bangalore, India have partnered to provide students with an opportunity to study at two universities and earn two degrees. Students who have already been
admitted to the Christ University Master of Business Administration program are invited to apply to the VCU Master of Science in Business with a concentration in global marketing management. Students satisfy the master’s foundation course requirements during the first year while in the Christ University M.B.A. program and then complete the 10 required VCU courses needed for the Master of Science in Business with a concentration in global marketing management degree. These courses are taken primarily at the VCU Monroe Park Campus and are designed to be completed in one calendar year.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the master’s program in business must submit an up-to-date resume.

Degree requirements
The concentration in global marketing management offers students the opportunity to concentrate their studies in two related areas: marketing management and global business management. Students select foundation, core and/or elective courses in accounting, economics, finance or management to complement marketing courses in the program. Students interested in preparing for the increasingly global nature of business will be well-suited for this unique master’s degree program. All degree candidates are strongly encouraged to participate in an intensive study program in a foreign language and/or a foreign study program.

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete up to seven classes (zero to 21 credit hours) of foundation course work. At the time of application, all undergraduate and graduate transcripts will be reviewed to determine if the following courses may be waived. Waiver of a foundation course may be awarded when a student demonstrates equivalent knowledge, such as completing the required undergraduate equivalent course with a minimum grade of C.

Curriculum requirements
Prerequisite and foundation courses are taken as part of the M.B.A. program at Christ University

### Required marketing and strategy courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 642</td>
<td>Business Policy and Strategy (to be taken in the last semester)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 656</td>
<td>International Marketing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 657</td>
<td>International Market Planning Project</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 671</td>
<td>Marketing Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 673</td>
<td>Marketing Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Marketing electives

Select three of the following: 9

- MKTG 672 Concepts in Consumer Behavior
- MKTG 674 Service Quality Management
- MKTG 691 Topics in Marketing
- MKTG 693 Field Project in Marketing
- MKTG 697 Guided Study in Marketing

### Non-marketing electives

Select two of the following: 6

- ACCT 606 International Accounting
- FIRE 621 Cases in Financial Management
- FIRE 639 International Finance
- MGMT 644 International Business Management

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 655</td>
<td>Entrepreneurship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 632</td>
<td>Statistical Analysis and Modeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 643</td>
<td>Applied Multivariate Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 669</td>
<td>Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 30

* Other electives may be used subject to adviser approval.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Graduate program director
Colleen Androvich Davis
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Additional contact
Austen Gouldman
Program manager
Email: gouldmana@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-6408


Business, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in global marketing management with Fudan University [joint degree]

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal
The Master of Science in Business with a concentration in global marketing management offers students the opportunity to combine their studies in international marketing with contemporary issues in marketing management.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will evaluate marketing programs.
2. Students will express the analytic, quantitative and ethical dimensions of business problems and proposed solutions in a clear and well-organized manner.

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

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established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information
School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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<thead>
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<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the master’s program in business must submit an up-to-date resume.

Degree requirements
Students enrolled in the VCU-Fudan University joint degree program take all required courses at Fudan University in Shanghai and an encouraged practicum course at VCU at the end of the program. The program will be jointly taught by faculty from both VCU and Fudan. The program requires a minimum of 30 credit hours and provides the option to complete a practicum for a total of 33 credits maximum. Upon completion of the requirements, students will receive a Master of Science in Business with a concentration in global marketing management from VCU.

The global marketing management concentration provides the opportunity to focus on conceptual and experiential dimensions of marketing management. Students interested in the increasingly global nature of business will be well-suited for this unique graduate degree program. Core courses provide a framework for understanding the role of marketing in diverse organizations. Electives add knowledge in areas of growing importance to the profession and provide the flexibility for students to consider emerging topics in the global marketing environment. Client projects and global applications prepare students for marketing careers. Study abroad is available and encouraged.

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete up to seven classes (zero to 21 credit hours) of the following preparatory foundation course work taken at Fudan University.

Preparatory foundation courses taken at Fudan University

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concepts and Issues in Marketing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Statistical Elements of Quantitative Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundamentals of Accounting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Concepts of Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concepts of Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-course sequence in a foreign language at the undergraduate or graduate level (or demonstrated proficiency) or two approved cross-cultural courses taken at the undergraduate or graduate level</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>21</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Curriculum requirements

Core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 642</td>
<td>Business Policy and Strategy (to be taken in the last semester)</td>
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<td>MKTG 655</td>
<td>International Marketing</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>MKTG 657</td>
<td>International Market Planning Project</td>
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</tr>
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<td>MKTG 673</td>
<td>Marketing Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Marketing electives

Select three of the following: 9

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 672</td>
<td>Concepts in Consumer Behavior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 674</td>
<td>Service Quality Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 675</td>
<td>Digital Marketing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 678</td>
<td>Marketing Analytics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 691</td>
<td>Topics in Marketing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Non-marketing electives

Select two of the following: 6
Student learning outcomes

1. Graduates will demonstrate the ability to communicate the qualitative and quantitative dimensions of real estate in a clear and well-organized manner.
2. Graduates will be able to select, conceptualize, and apply the appropriate quantitative measurement and analysis to correctly value real estate. Such methods might include economic and financial analysis of commercial real estate investments, alternative financing structures and/or surveys of recent trends in the securitization of commercial real estate debt and equity markets.
3. Graduates will be able to analyze a real estate problem in terms of:
   a. Development of a precise statement of the problem and how it relates to the goals of the firm and/or client
   b. A consideration of ethical, policy, and/or practical limitations on any proposed solution strategy
   c. Statement and consideration of proposed solutions and their implementation
   d. Formulation of a plan for implementation and monitoring of the proposed solution
4. Graduates will be able to analyze the ethical dimensions of a real estate situation and relate those dimensions to professional ethical standards.

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.granduate.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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.

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<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jul 1</td>
<td>GMAT or GRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the master’s program in business must submit an up-to-date resume.

Degree requirements

The real estate concentration satisfies the rigorous educational requirements of the Appraisal Institute’s MAI designation. Students can satisfy most of the Appraisal Institute’s education requirements by completing the concentration. This concentration provides comprehensive education in related disciplines so that graduates’ analytical skills and abilities to communicate with other professionals are greatly enhanced.

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete the following undergraduate prerequisite courses:

Curriculum requirements

Prerequisite undergraduate courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calculus (or demonstrated quantitative ability)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 305</td>
<td>Principles of Real Estate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 425</td>
<td>Real Estate Appraisal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or FIRE 435</td>
<td>Real Estate Finance and Capital Markets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students must also complete up to four classes (zero to 12 credit hours) of foundation course work. At the time of application, all undergraduate and graduate transcripts will be reviewed to determine if the following courses may be waived. Waiver of a foundation course may be awarded when a student demonstrates equivalent knowledge, such as completing the required undergraduate equivalent course with a minimum grade of C.

Curriculum requirements

Foundation courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 507</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 500</td>
<td>Concepts in Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 520</td>
<td>Financial Concepts of Management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<td>Real Estate Appraisal</td>
</tr>
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<td>Real Estate Finance and Capital Markets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Curriculum requirements

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<td>Concepts in Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 520</td>
<td>Financial Concepts of Management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Required core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 627</td>
<td>Real Estate Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 629</td>
<td>Real Estate Investment Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 638</td>
<td>Real Property Investment Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 658</td>
<td>Real Estate Finance and Investments</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

General finance requirement

Select at least three credit hours from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 617</td>
<td>Financial Markets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 621</td>
<td>Cases in Financial Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 623</td>
<td>Financial Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 650</td>
<td>Derivatives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Approved electives

Select 12 credit hours from the following and not used toward general finance requirement above:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 697</td>
<td>Guided Study in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 654</td>
<td>Negotiations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 673</td>
<td>Marketing Research</td>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>SCMA 669</td>
<td>Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 621</td>
<td>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Free elective

Choose three credits approved by faculty adviser. 3

Total Hours

30

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 42 (30 if all foundation courses are waived)

Graduate program director
Colleen A. Davis
Senior director, master’s programs
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Additional contact
Jana P. McQuaid
Associate dean, master’s programs
Email: jpmcquaid@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622


Real Estate and Urban Land Development, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)

Program accreditation
Program goal
The post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Real Estate and Urban Land Development is designed for professionals who seek an opportunity for advanced study in real estate and are more interested in the focused knowledge obtainable than receipt of a graduate degree. The certificate provides students the ability to advance their careers while receiving recognition for their academic accomplishment in the form of a graduate certificate. Many working professionals, especially those with undergraduate majors in the liberal arts, will find this program attractive since they can concentrate their energies on a tightly focused curriculum without enrolling in a large number of prerequisite courses.

Student learning outcomes
1. Graduates will demonstrate the ability to communicate the qualitative and quantitative dimensions of real estate valuation in a clear and well-organized manner.
2. Graduates will be able to select, conceptualize and apply the appropriate quantitative measurement and analysis to correctly value real estate. Such methods might include an economic and financial analysis of commercial real estate investments, alternative financing structures and/or surveys of recent trends in the securitization of commercial real estate debt and equity markets.
3. Graduates will be able to analyze the ethical dimensions of a real estate situation and relate those dimensions to professional ethical standards. Specifically, graduates will have an understanding of the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

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<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Degree requirements
In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), in order to be eligible to receive the certificate, a student must maintain an overall GPA of 3.0. Eighteen credit hours beyond the bachelor’s degree are required for completion of this graduate certificate program. A maximum of one three-hour course taken at another AACSB-accredited institution may be transferred into this program. Students interested in later applying for admission into either the Master of Business Administration program with a concentration in real estate or the Master of Science in Business with a concentration in real estate valuation must do so through a separate application process. Admission is dependent on the applicant having achieved a 3.0 GPA in the graduate certificate and a satisfactory score on the GMAT examination.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 627</td>
<td>Real Estate Development</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<td>FIRE 658</td>
<td>Real Estate Finance and Investments</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The program's innovative, integrated modular structure enables students to approach issues by module topic, which accurately reflects the multidisciplinary demands of the real business world. The program is targeted to rising business executives, entrepreneurs, nonprofit managers and service professionals. It differs from other master's programs at VCU because of its unique modular curriculum, which integrates components of communication, technology, service/quality, globalization and strategy.

The Executive M.B.A. program is a lockstep program that meets alternating weekends, Fridays from 12:30 to 6:15 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. The program can be completed in approximately 20 months.

**Traditional program options**

- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) (p. 353)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) with a concentration in business analytics (p. 355)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) with a concentration in corporate finance (p. 357)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) with a concentration in entrepreneurship and innovation (p. 358)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) with a concentration in global business (p. 360)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) with a concentration in health care management (p. 362)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) with a concentration in information resources management (p. 363)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) with a concentration in investments (p. 365)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) with a concentration in real estate (p. 367)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) with a concentration in supply chain management (p. 368)

**Executive program options**

- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive] (p. 378)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive] with a concentration in business analytics (p. 379)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive] with a concentration in corporate finance (p. 380)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive] with a concentration in entrepreneurship and innovation (p. 382)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive] with a concentration in global business (p. 383)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive] with a concentration in health care management (p. 385)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive] with a concentration in information resources management (p. 386)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive] with a concentration in investments (p. 387)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive] with a concentration in real estate (p. 389)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive] with a concentration in supply chain management (p. 390)

**Combined/dual degree programs**

Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.)/Information Systems, Master of Science (M.S.) [combined] (p. 370)
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<td>ECON 620</td>
<td>The Economics of Industry</td>
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<td>ECON 631</td>
<td>Labor Market Theory and Analysis</td>
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<td>ECON 697</td>
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<td>ENGR 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Engineering</td>
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<td>ENVS 691</td>
<td>Topics in Environmental Studies</td>
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<td>Cases in Financial Management</td>
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<td>FIRE 622</td>
<td>Financial Management of Financial Institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE 625</td>
<td>Group Insurance and Pension Planning</td>
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<td>FIRE 626</td>
<td>Risk Management</td>
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<td>FIRE 627</td>
<td>Real Estate Development</td>
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<td>FIRE 629</td>
<td>Real Estate Investment Analysis</td>
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<td>FIRE 635</td>
<td>Investments and Security Analysis</td>
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<td>FIRE 638</td>
<td>Real Property Investment Law</td>
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<td>FIRE 639</td>
<td>International Finance</td>
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<td>Short-term Financial Management</td>
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<td>FIRE 657</td>
<td>Current Issues in Investments and Markets</td>
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<td>FIRE 658</td>
<td>Real Estate Finance and Investments</td>
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<td>INFO 610</td>
<td>Analysis and Design of Database Systems</td>
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<td>Data Re-engineering</td>
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<td>Business Process Engineering</td>
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<td>Strategic Information Systems Planning</td>
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<td>INFO/CISS 644</td>
<td>Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security</td>
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<td>MGMT 649</td>
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<td>MGMT 655</td>
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<td>MGMT 656</td>
<td>Best Practices in Leadership</td>
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<td>MGMT 680</td>
<td>Health, Safety and Security Administration</td>
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<td>MGMT 682</td>
<td>Human Resource Staffing</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGMT 684</td>
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<td>Marketing Research</td>
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<td>OPER 528</td>
<td>Stochastic Simulation</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCMA 632</td>
<td>Statistical Analysis and Modeling</td>
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<td>SCMA 643</td>
<td>Applied Multivariate Methods (must have completed SCMA 632)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCMA 645</td>
<td>Management Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCMA 669</td>
<td>Developing and Implementing</td>
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<td>SCMA 677</td>
<td>Quality Management and Six Sigma</td>
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Total Hours 45
Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 45

Electives and concentrations
Project courses (693), topics courses (691) and guided studies (697) may be available for use toward concentration electives. These courses must be preapproved by the director of graduate studies.

Courses at the 500- or 600-level taken outside of the School of Business may be used with the permission of the director of graduate studies in business. Students must satisfy the necessary prerequisites for all electives.

Graduate program director
Colleen Androvich Davis
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Additional contact
Robert Clarkson
Program manager
Email: rjmcmquaid@vcu.edu mclarkson@vcu.edu (rmclarkson@vcu.edu)
Phone: (804) 828-1597

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate/mba.html (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate/mba.html)

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Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

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<td>Financial Management</td>
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INFO 661 Information Systems for Managers 3
INFO 664 Information Systems for Business Intelligence 3
MGMT 641 Leading People and Organizations 3
MGMT 642 Business Policy and Strategy 3
MKTG 671 Marketing Management 3
SCMA 524 Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management 3
SCMA 675 Operations Management 3

Electives

Select three of the following: 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 617</td>
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<td>FIRE 621</td>
<td>Cases in Financial Management</td>
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<td>FIRE 622</td>
<td>Financial Management of Financial Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 626</td>
<td>Risk Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE 639</td>
<td>International Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 654</td>
<td>Short-term Financial Management</td>
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Total Hours 45

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 45

Electives and concentrations

Project courses (693), topics courses (691) and guided studies (697) may
be available for use toward concentration electives. These courses must
be preapproved by the director of graduate studies.

Courses at the 500- or 600-level taken outside of the School of Business
may be used with the permission of the director of graduate studies
in business. Students must satisfy the necessary prerequisites for all
electives.

Graduate program director
Colleen Androvich Davis
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Additional contact
Robert Clarkson
Program manager
Email: r (jpmcquaid@vcu.edu)mcclarkson@vcu.edu (rmclarkson@vcu.edu)
Phone: (804) 828-1597

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate/mba.html (http://
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Business Administration, Master
of (M.B.A.) with a concentration in
trepreneurship and innovation

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://
www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal

The purpose of the Master of Business Administration program at VCU
is to prepare individuals for the responsibilities of management. As
students at VCU, individuals will learn the functions and techniques of
effective management. The student also will come to understand the
environmental and economic factors that affect decision-making in organizations. In short, the student will know what to do as future events unfold that affect his/her firm or organization.

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1. Students should be able to demonstrate the capacity to apply business knowledge in new and unfamiliar circumstances.
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Degree requirements
In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the M.B.A. program must complete a minimum of 45 graduate credit hours. In addition, a prerequisite course in precalculus is required. This prerequisite may be waived for students who present satisfactory equivalent preparation. Applicants who have not met this prerequisite may take the course after admission.

Students are expected to enter the program with basic computing proficiency. Specific expectations will be provided by the Graduate
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<tr>
<td>ENGR 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Engineering (when the topic is chemical process design and development)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGMT 655</td>
<td>Entrepreneurship</td>
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<tr>
<td>MKTG 657</td>
<td>International Market Planning Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 693</td>
<td>Field Project in Marketing</td>
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Total Hours 45

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Graduate program director
Colleen Androvich Davis
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

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Other information

School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students.
Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) with a concentration in health care management

Program goal
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Program director
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Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Additional contact
Robert Clarkson
Program manager
Email: r (jmcmquaid@vcu.edu) mclarkson@vcu.edu (rmclarkson@vcu.edu)
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<tr>
<td>FIRE 639</td>
<td>International Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGMT 644</td>
<td>International Business Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 656</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 45

Total Hours 45
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 614</td>
<td>Health Care Management I: National Perspective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 615</td>
<td>Health Care Management II: Employer’s Perspective</td>
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Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) with a concentration in information resources management

Program accreditation
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>SCMA 675</td>
<td>Operations Management</td>
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### Electives

Select three of the following:

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<tr>
<td>INFO 610</td>
<td>Analysis and Design of Database Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 611</td>
<td>Data Re-engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 632</td>
<td>Business Process Engineering</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 641</td>
<td>Strategic Information Systems Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 643</td>
<td>Information Technology Project Management (with permission)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO/CISS 644</td>
<td>Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**: 45

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum)**: 45

### Electives and concentrations

Project courses (693), topics courses (691) and guided studies (697) may be available for use toward concentration electives. These courses must be preapproved by the director of graduate studies.

Courses at the 500- or 600-level taken outside of the School of Business may be used with the permission of the director of graduate studies in business. Students must satisfy the necessary prerequisites for all electives.

### Graduate program director

Colleen Androvich Davis  
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu  
Phone: (804) 828-1597

### Additional contact

Robert Clarkson  
Program manager  
Email: r (jpmcquaid@vcu.edu)jmcclarkson@vcu.edu (rmclarkson@vcu.edu)

Phone: (804) 828-1597

**Program website**: business.vcu.edu/graduate/mba.html (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate/mba.html)

### Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) with a concentration in investments

**Program accreditation**  
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

**Program goal**

The purpose of the Master of Business Administration program at VCU is to prepare individuals for the responsibilities of management. As students at VCU, individuals will learn the functions and techniques of effective management. The student also will come to understand the environmental and economic factors that affect decision-making in organizations. In short, the student will know what to do as future events unfold that affect his/her firm or organization.

An M.B.A. from VCU benefits students at various points in their careers. Individuals who have recently received their baccalaureate degrees may choose to refine their business skills while their undergraduate training is fresh. Individuals with work experience often find that an M.B.A. is the key to rapid promotion or a career change. Finally, an M.B.A. from VCU meets the needs of students who recognize that the best preparation for an uncertain future is continuous learning.

### Student learning outcomes

1. Students should be able to demonstrate the capacity to apply business knowledge in new and unfamiliar circumstances.
2. Students should be able to demonstrate the ability to work in teams and other groups.
3. Students should understand and be able to develop the ethical and social responsibilities of organizations.
4. Students should be able to describe the factors involved in key operation decisions and to apply appropriately techniques that provide insight and structure for management decision-making.
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6. Students should be able to describe the factors involved in key operation decisions and to apply appropriately techniques that provide insight and structure for management decision-making.
7. Graduates of the program should be able to critically evaluate and use accounting and other information for managerial decision-making.
8. Graduates should be able to evaluate marketing programs.
9. Students should be able to think critically and systematically about financial issues in businesses to develop techniques to analyze these issues numerically.
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VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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.

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Other information

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Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).
Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 45

Electives and concentrations
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Graduate program director
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Additional contact
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Program manager
Email: r (jpmcquaid@vcu.edu)jmclarkson@vcu.edu (rmclarkson@vcu.edu)
Phone: (804) 828-1597

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate/mba.html (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate/mba.html)

Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) with a concentration in real estate

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

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Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) with a concentration in supply chain management

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<tr>
<td>SCMA 677</td>
<td>Quality Management and Six Sigma</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGMT 691</td>
<td>Topics in Management (when the topic is supply chain management)</td>
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### Elective

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<td>Topics in Marketing (when the topic is marketing analytics)</td>
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<tr>
<td>or SCMA 669</td>
<td>Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business</td>
<td>3</td>
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Total Hours 45

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 45

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Additional contact

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<tr>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tr>
<td>Colleen Androvich Davis</td>
<td><a href="mailto:androvichcm@vcu.edu">androvichcm@vcu.edu</a></td>
<td>(804) 828-4622</td>
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Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.)/Information Systems, Master of Science (M.S.) [combined]

Program accreditation

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate/mba.html (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate/mba.html)

Program goal

Master of Business Administration

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Master of Science in Information Systems

The Master of Science in Information Systems program is designed to prepare students for specialized roles using information systems to support organizations. The program is intended to provide a graduate-level, business-technology-oriented curriculum that focuses on the design and development of information systems to solve real-world problems. Graduates of the program are expected to be able to take significant roles in planning, organizing, managing, designing, configuring and implementing systems using state-of-the-art technologies within organizations.

Student learning outcomes

For M.B.A. graduates

1. Students should be able to demonstrate the capacity to apply business knowledge in new and unfamiliar circumstances.
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6. Students should be able to describe the factors involved in key operation decisions and to apply appropriately techniques that provide insight and structure for management decision-making.

7. Graduates of the program should be able to critically evaluate and use accounting and other information for managerial decision-making.

8. Graduates should be able to evaluate marketing programs.

9. Students should be able to think critically and systematically about financial issues in businesses to develop techniques to analyze these issues numerically.

10. Graduates of the program should be able to develop an analytical framework for identifying the objectives of the firm and to provide some tools for evaluating the firm’s performance.

For M.S. in Information Sciences graduates

1. Graduates should be capable of communicating and networking effectively within their profession and within their organizations, serving the profession by applying this knowledge broadly and maintaining key technical expertise in order to sustain required levels of competitiveness.

2. Graduates must have an understanding of information technology as it applies to business contexts and the skill to apply this technology effectively in specific circumstances.

3. Graduates must be able to develop efficient and effective IS solutions using appropriate technologies that can deliver competitive advantages to organizations.

4. Graduates must be able to develop and incorporate changes in the planning and management of IS resources based on an increased understanding of the dynamic changes in the organization, IS and global environments.

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

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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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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.

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Other information

School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://wwwgraduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S. and M.B.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jul 1</td>
<td>GMAT or GRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the combined Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Information Systems program must submit an up-to-date resume.

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students can earn both M.B.A. and M.S. in Information Systems degrees by having 12 credit hours counted toward both degrees.

Students in the combined degree program will follow the same schedule as regular M.B.A. students, including the two lockstep semesters. To get both degrees, students will take all foundation courses required for the M.B.A. (unless waived), all nine core courses required for the M.B.A. and nine additional courses in the M.S. in Information Systems program, including INFO 610, INFO 620 and INFO 630. Students whose undergraduate degrees are not in information systems may also be required to take additional undergraduate prerequisite courses before taking the graduate information systems courses, as determined by the program adviser. The INFO 661 course taken for the M.B.A. will substitute for INFO 640, normally required for the M.S. in Information Systems degree, and three of the additional information systems courses also will
count toward the normally required three elective courses in the M.B.A. program.

One of the information systems courses must have substantial global, entrepreneurial and/or experiential components. The six information systems courses to be taken in addition to INFO 661, INFO 664, INFO 610, INFO 620 and INFO 630 must be approved by the program adviser, and would normally be selected to satisfy one of the M.S. in Information Systems concentrations.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Foundation courses (not included in 54 hours required for combined degree program)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 507</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Accounting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 500</td>
<td>Concepts in Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 520</td>
<td>Financial Concepts of Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 540</td>
<td>Management Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 570</td>
<td>Concepts and Issues in Marketing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 524</td>
<td>Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 530</td>
<td>Fundamentals of the Legal Environment of Business</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 21

**M.B.A. course work**

**Advanced courses**

Each student must begin the advanced portion of the program with the courses below in each of the first two semesters. Full-time students will take additional courses from the remainder of the advanced program.

Semester one (to be taken at the same time)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 610</td>
<td>Managerial Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 641</td>
<td>Organizational Leadership and Project Team Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Semester two

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 623</td>
<td>Financial Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Remainder of the advanced program**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 608</td>
<td>Managerial Accounting Concepts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 661</td>
<td>Information Systems for Managers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 664</td>
<td>Information Systems for Business Intelligence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 642</td>
<td>Business Policy and Strategy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 671</td>
<td>Marketing Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 675</td>
<td>Operations Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 27

**M.S. in Information Systems course work**

**Core courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFO 610</td>
<td>Analysis and Design of Database Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 620</td>
<td>Data Communications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 630</td>
<td>Systems Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

Select six of the following: 18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFO 611</td>
<td>Data Re-engineering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 54**

Students in the combined program who wish to have an M.B.A. concentration other than information resources management would need to complete an additional three courses for the concentration area.

**Graduate program director**

Colleen A. Davis  
Senior director, master’s programs  
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu  
Phone: (804) 828-4622

**Additional contact**

Jana P. McQuaid  
Associate dean, master’s programs  
Email: jpmcquaid@vcu.edu  
Phone: (804) 828-4622

**Program website:** [business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/combined-mbams-in-information-systems](http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/combined-mbams-in-information-systems)

**Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.)/Information Systems, Master of Science in (M.S.) with a concentration in information technology management [Executive] [combined]**

**Program accreditation**

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

**Program goal**

Master of Business Administration  
The purpose of the Master of Business Administration program at VCU is to prepare individuals for the responsibilities of management. As
students at VCU, individuals will learn the functions and techniques of effective management. The student also will come to understand the environmental and economic factors that affect decision-making in organizations. In short, the student will know what to do as future events unfold that affect his/her firm or organization.

An M.B.A. from VCU benefits students at various points in their careers. Individuals who have recently received their baccalaureate degrees may choose to refine their business skills while their undergraduate training is fresh. Individuals with work experience often find that an M.B.A. is the key to rapid promotion or a career change. Finally, an M.B.A. from VCU meets the needs of students who recognize that the best preparation for an uncertain future is continuous learning.

Master of Science in Information Systems
The Master of Science in Information Systems program is designed to prepare students for specialized roles in information systems. The program is intended to provide a graduate-level, technically oriented curriculum that focuses on the design and development of information systems to solve real-world problems. The department’s curriculum is focused on the rapidly emerging area known as enterprise information systems. Students may choose a curriculum with no concentration or a concentration in information risk, security and assurance. Graduates of the program are expected to take significant roles in planning, organizing, managing, designing, configuring and implementing EIS systems using state-of-the-art technologies within organizations.

Student learning outcomes
For M.B.A. graduates
1. Students should be capable of communicating and networking effectively within their profession and within their organizations, serving the profession by applying this knowledge broadly and maintaining key technical expertise in order to sustain required levels of competitiveness.
2. Graduates must have an understanding of information technology as it applies to business contexts and the skill to apply this technology effectively in specific circumstances.
3. Graduates must be able to develop efficient and effective IS solutions using appropriate technologies that can deliver competitive advantages to organizations.
4. Graduates must be able to develop and incorporate changes in the planning and management of IS resources based on an increased understanding of the dynamic changes in the organization, IS and global environments.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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.
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<td>Jul 1</td>
<td>GMAT or GRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Spring only</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the combined Master of Business Administration and Executive Master of Science in Information Systems with a concentration in information technology management program must submit an up-to-date resume.

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students can earn both M.B.A. and M.S. in Information Systems degrees by having 12 credit hours counted toward both degrees, thus requiring only 54 credit hours total of advanced course work (not counting foundation courses), rather than the 36 and 30 credit hours normally required for the two degrees.

To obtain both degrees, students will complete the entire 30 credit-hour information system master’s program plus six M.B.A. core courses (ECON 610, FIRE 623, ACCT 608, MGMT 642, SCMA 675 and MKTG 671) plus two elective courses. Students must also complete any designated required courses. The course ISTM 671 will substitute for MGMT 641; ISTM 672 will substitute for INFO 661; and ISTM 677 will substitute for INFO 664. ISTM 673 will count toward one of the three required M.B.A. elective courses.

Curriculum requirements

Foundation courses (Not included in 54 hours required for combined degree program.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 507</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Accounting</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 500</td>
<td>Concepts in Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 520</td>
<td>Financial Concepts of Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 540</td>
<td>Management Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 570</td>
<td>Concepts and Issues in Marketing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 524</td>
<td>Statistical Fundamentals for Business</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 530</td>
<td>Fundamentals of the Legal Environment of</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Business</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Total Hours 31

M.B.A. course work

Advanced core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 608</td>
<td>Managerial Accounting Concepts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 675</td>
<td>Operations Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives (two)</td>
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<td>6</td>
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</table>

Total Hours 24

M.S. in Information Systems course work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 671</td>
<td>Organizational Culture and Team Building</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 672</td>
<td>Information Systems Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 673</td>
<td>Analysis and Decisions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 674</td>
<td>Emerging Technologies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 675</td>
<td>IS Planning and Project Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 676</td>
<td>Information Systems Assurance and Security Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 677</td>
<td>Structuring Information for Decision Making</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 678</td>
<td>IS in the Digital Economy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 679</td>
<td>Enterprise Information Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 691</td>
<td>Topics in IT Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 30

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 54

Students in the combined program who wish to have an M.B.A. concentration other than information resources management would need to complete an additional three courses for the concentration area.

Graduate program director
Colleen A. Davis
Senior director, master’s programs
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Additional contact
Rachel Kaeser
Program coordinator
Email: rekaeser@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-7036

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/combined-mbams-in-information-systems (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/combined-mbams-in-information-systems)

Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.)/Sport Leadership, Master of Education (M.Ed.) [dual degree]

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)
Program goal

The dual-degree M.B.A./M.Ed. in Sport Leadership program will prepare students for leadership positions by combining the business teaching of an M.B.A. program with sport industry-specific knowledge gained in the M.Ed. program. This degree combination recognizes the growing complexity of the sport industry and reinforces the Center for Sport Leadership’s commitment to preparing students for the leadership challenges of the future. The dual degree offers students course work and knowledge they will need to be successful in a business setting combined with the application and networking skills required in today’s sport industry.

The M.B.A. phase of the program will encompass a problem-based learning style, immersing students in collaborative projects and working situations that are commonplace in the business world. Students will learn business concepts in a real-life context and develop skills in communication, collaboration and teamwork that are essential for success, while developing their abilities to be creative, take initiative and accept personal responsibility for their actions.

The M.Ed. program will combine classroom and practical experience to prepare individuals for leadership positions in the sport industry. An interdisciplinary approach gives students the freedom to choose courses of personal interest and build a foundation of knowledge in their desired career fields.

Student learning outcomes

1. Students should be able to demonstrate the capacity to apply business knowledge in new and unfamiliar circumstances.
2. Students should be able to demonstrate the ability to work in teams and other groups.
3. Students should understand and be able to develop the ethical and social responsibilities of organizations.
4. Students should be able to describe the factors involved in key operation decisions and to appropriately apply techniques that provide insight and structure for management decision-making.
5. Students should be able to identify and understand major issues faced by organizations with evolving information technology and investigate issues and challenges faced by managers with changes in information technology.
6. Graduates of the program should be able to critically evaluate and use accounting and other information for managerial decision-making.
7. Graduates should be able to evaluate marketing programs.
8. Students should be able to think critically and systematically about financial issues in businesses and to develop techniques to analyze these issues numerically.
9. Graduates of the program should be able to develop an analytical framework for identifying the objectives of the firm and to provide some tools for evaluating the firm’s performance.

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Degree candidacy requirements

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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.

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<th>Test requirements:</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.B.A. and M.Ed.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td>GMAT or GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applicants must meet all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18).

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students can complete both degrees with two years of study and will
receive both degrees at the conclusion of the entire program. Students may enter the program only in the fall semester.

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 608</td>
<td>Managerial Accounting Concepts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 675</td>
<td>Operations Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 603</td>
<td>Research Methods in Sport</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 608</td>
<td>Sport and Entertainment Event Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 610</td>
<td>Sport and Entertainment Event Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 630</td>
<td>Sociology of Sport</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 632</td>
<td>Sport Business</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 643</td>
<td>Sport Law</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPTL 695</td>
<td>Externship</td>
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</table>

**Electives**

Select four of the following: 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 606</td>
<td>International Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CISS 697</td>
<td>Guided Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 604</td>
<td>Advanced Microeconomic Theory</td>
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<td>Labor Market Theory and Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 641</td>
<td>Econometric Time-series Analysis</td>
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<td>ECON 642</td>
<td>Panel and Nonlinear Methods in Econometrics</td>
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<td>ENGR 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>ENVS 691</td>
<td>Topics in Environmental Studies</td>
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<td>FIRE 621</td>
<td>Cases in Financial Management</td>
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<td>FIRE 622</td>
<td>Financial Management of Financial Institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE 625</td>
<td>Group Insurance and Pension Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE 626</td>
<td>Risk Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE 627</td>
<td>Real Estate Development</td>
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<td>FIRE 629</td>
<td>Real Estate Investment Analysis</td>
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<td>FIRE 635</td>
<td>Investments and Security Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE 638</td>
<td>Real Property Investment Law</td>
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<td>FIRE 639</td>
<td>International Finance</td>
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<td>FIRE 650</td>
<td>Derivatives</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE 654</td>
<td>Short-term Financial Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE 657</td>
<td>Current Issues in Investments and Markets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 658</td>
<td>Real Estate Finance and Investments</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFO 610</td>
<td>Analysis and Design of Database Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFO 611</td>
<td>Data Re-engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFO 614</td>
<td>Data Mining</td>
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<td>INFO 632</td>
<td>Business Process Engineering</td>
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<td>INFO 641</td>
<td>Strategic Information Systems Planning</td>
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<td>INFO/CISS 644</td>
<td>Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security</td>
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<td>INFO 691</td>
<td>Topics in Information Systems</td>
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<td>Guided Study in Information Systems</td>
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<td>MGMT 644</td>
<td>International Business Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGMT 649</td>
<td>Compensation Policy and Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGMT 655</td>
<td>Entrepreneurship</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGMT 656</td>
<td>Best Practices in Leadership</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGMT 680</td>
<td>Health, Safety and Security Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGMT 682</td>
<td>Human Resource Staffing</td>
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<td>MGMT 684</td>
<td>Issues in International Human Resource Management</td>
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<td>MKTG 656</td>
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<td>MKTG 674</td>
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<td>Stochastic Simulation</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCMA 632</td>
<td>Statistical Analysis and Modeling</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCMA 643</td>
<td>Applied Multivariate Methods (must have completed SCMA 632)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCMA 645</td>
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<td>SCMA 646</td>
<td>Legal Foundations of Employment</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCMA 669</td>
<td>Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCMA 677</td>
<td>Quality Management and Six Sigma</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPTL 634</td>
<td>Foundations of Coaching</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 640</td>
<td>Sport Media and Communications</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPTL 644</td>
<td>NCAA Collegiate Coaching</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPTL 645</td>
<td>Sales and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 691</td>
<td>Topics in Sport Leadership</td>
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</table>

**Total Hours** 60
Page 377

Note: MGMT 641, MKTG 671, SPTL 695 and one elective (three credit hours) from either program may be counted toward both the M.B.A. and the M.Ed. degrees.

Sample plan of study

Year one

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 610 Managerial Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 641 Organizational Leadership and Project Team Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 603 Research Methods in Sport</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPTL 643 Sport Law</td>
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<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 623 Financial Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>MKTG 671 Marketing Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 630 Sociology of Sport</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 632 Sport Business</td>
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<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td>SPTL 695 Externship</td>
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<td>One business elective</td>
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<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
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Year two

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall semester</th>
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<td>ACCT 608 Managerial Accounting Concepts</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFO 661 Information Systems for Managers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 608 Sport and Entertainment Event Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One business or SPTL elective from above or other courses with approval</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring semester</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 608 Managerial Accounting Concepts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 661 Information Systems for Managers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 608 Sport and Entertainment Event Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One SPTL elective from above or other courses with approval</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 642 Business Policy and Strategy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>One SPTL elective from above or other courses by approval</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours:** 56-63

Concentrations

M.B.A./M.Ed. students who wish to have a concentration would need to complete an additional three courses.

Graduate program director
Colleen A. Davis
Senior director, master’s programs

Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Additional contact
Carrie LeCrom, Ph.D.
Executive director, Center for Sport Leadership
Email: cwlecrom@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-6443

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/combined-med-in-sport-leadershipmba (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/combined-med-in-sport-leadershipmba)

Pharmacy, Doctor of (Pharm.D.)/Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [combined]

The Pharm.D./M.B.A. program seeks to prepare pharmacists for careers that encompass pharmacy and business theories and principles. The program is designed to take advantage of efficiencies and electives in both the Pharm.D. and M.B.A. programs. Students in the combined program can earn both degrees and save as much as one year or more over the time required for completing the programs separately.

Students may be admitted into the program during the first year of enrollment in the Pharm.D. program. Applicants must be enrolled in the Pharm.D. program, have demonstrated a good academic record and have successfully completed the Graduate Management Admission Test.

To obtain both degrees, students will take all pharmacy courses unless waived, the seven business foundation courses, the nine M.B.A. core courses and three elective courses. The elective M.B.A. courses may be taken from pharmacy administration courses at the 600 level and a combination of a business seminar course and an elective advanced pharmacy practice experience in pharmacy management. The business foundation courses can be taken during the first two years in the pharmacy program with summer session(s). The M.B.A. core courses can be taken during the third and fourth years in the pharmacy program. The business electives can be taken during the fourth and fifth years in the combined program.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Application to Pharm.D./M.B.A. program

Students interested in pursuing the Pharm.D./M.B.A. program must first obtain admission to the Pharm.D. program. Admitted Pharm.D. students who wish to add the M.B.A. degree must then apply to the M.B.A. program. Upon admission to the M.B.A. program, a Pharm.D. student will be considered a dual-degree-seeking student. Students generally will register for a mix of School of Business courses and School of Pharmacy courses in the fourth, fifth and sixth semesters of the pharmacy program.

A student categorized as a Pharm.D. student will be charged tuition and fees from the School of Pharmacy and will be eligible to receive financial aid awards as a Pharm.D. student. Students categorized as M.B.A. students will be charged tuition and fee rates as graduate students and be eligible to receive financial awards as graduate students.

Graduate program director
Colleen Androvich Davis
Senior director, master’s program
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-6684

School of Pharmacy contact
Aron Lichtman, Ph.D.
Associate dean for research and graduate studies, School of Pharmacy
Email: alichtma@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-5233

Program websites: pharmacy.vcu.edu (http://www.pharmacy.vcu.edu) and business.vcu.edu/graduate (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate.html)

Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive]

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal
VCU's School of Business Executive M.B.A. program provides experienced managers in Virginia and surrounding states with the knowledge and skills needed to solve real-world business problems in today's complex global environment. The Executive M.B.A. program accomplishes this purpose by using a curriculum with an integrated, modular, team-oriented, interdisciplinary approach that constantly challenges students to apply knowledge and skills to new and unfamiliar situations by using a conceptual understanding of relevant business disciplines.

Student learning outcomes
1. Demonstrate the capacity from an executive perspective to integrate knowledge-specific information to different business disciplines in helping teams to solve business problems in new and unfamiliar circumstances
2. Demonstrate communication knowledge and skills in both technical and interpersonal areas
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical and social responsibility of business organizations in the U.S. and in other parts of the world
4. Demonstrate analytic skills using new and unfamiliar data sets

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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information
School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students).

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Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.B.A.</td>
<td>Fall only</td>
<td>Feb 15 (for early decision)</td>
<td>Apr 22 (final decisions)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the master’s program in business administration must submit an up-to-date resume.

Degree requirements
The Executive M.B.A. program is designed for students with familiarity with significant work experience. The student’s adviser will review the student’s educational and professional background to determine the extent to which the student has satisfied the prerequisites. Those with outstanding prerequisites will be required to attend one or more training sessions to remove any deficiencies.
In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 39 graduate credit hours. The program consists of 13 courses that are divided into seven integrated modules.

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>FMBA 601</td>
<td>Team Building and Leadership (course 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>FMBA 602</td>
<td>Team Building and Leadership (course 2)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>FMBA 603</td>
<td>Business Foundations (course 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>FMBA 604</td>
<td>Analysis and Decisions (course 1)</td>
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<td>FMBA 605</td>
<td>Analysis and Decisions (course 2)</td>
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<td>FMBA 606</td>
<td>Analysis and Decisions (course 3)</td>
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<td>FMBA 607</td>
<td>Global Challenges (course 1)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>FMBA 608</td>
<td>Organizational Culture (course 1)</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>FMBA 609</td>
<td>Productivity and Innovation (course 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>FMBA 610</td>
<td>Productivity and Innovation (course 2)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>FMBA 611</td>
<td>Strategic Management (course 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>FMBA 612</td>
<td>Strategic Management (course 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>FMBA 613</td>
<td>Strategic Management (course 3)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours: 39**

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 39**

**Graduate program director**

Stacey A. Friedl  
Director, E.M.B.A. program  
Phone: (804) 828-6684

**Additional contact**

Jana P. McQuaid  
Associate dean, master’s programs  
Email: jpmcquaid@vcu.edu  
Phone: (804) 828-4622

**Program website:** business.vcu.edu/graduate/emba.html (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate/emba.html)

**Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive] with a concentration in business analytics**

**Program accreditation**

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

**Program goal**

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<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
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</table>

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In addition to VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students seeking a concentration must complete a minimum of 48 graduate credit hours. The program consists of 13 courses that are divided into seven integrated modules plus the concentration electives.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module 1</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FMBA 601</td>
<td>Team Building and Leadership (course 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>FMBA 602</td>
<td>Team Building and Leadership (course 2)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<td>FMBA 603</td>
<td>Business Foundations (course 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Course</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Analysis and Decisions (course 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
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<td>FMBA 605</td>
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<td>Econometrics</td>
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<td></td>
<td>ECON 617</td>
<td>Financial Markets</td>
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<td>ECON 641</td>
<td>Econometric Time-series Analysis</td>
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<td>ECON 642</td>
<td>Panel and Nonlinear Methods in Econometrics</td>
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<td>Data Mining</td>
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<td>Statistical Analysis and Modeling</td>
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<td>SCMA 643</td>
<td>Applied Multivariate Methods (must have completed SCMA 632)</td>
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<td>SCMA 645</td>
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<td>Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business</td>
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<td>SCMA 677</td>
<td>Quality Management and Six Sigma</td>
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Total Hours 48

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48

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Stacey A. Friedl
Director, E.M.B.A. program
Phone: (804) 828-6684

Additional contact
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Phone: (804) 828-4622

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate/emba.html (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate/emba.html)

Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive] with a concentration in corporate finance

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal
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**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module 1</th>
<th>Team Building and Leadership (course 1)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 601</td>
<td>Team Building and Leadership (course 2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMBA 602</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 2</td>
<td>Business Foundations (course 1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMBA 603</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 3</td>
<td>Analysis and Decisions (course 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMBA 604</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMBA 607</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 5</td>
<td>Organizational Culture (course 1)</td>
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Module 6
Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive] with a concentration in entrepreneurship and innovation

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Electives</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 617</td>
<td>Financial Markets</td>
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<td>FIRE 621</td>
<td>Cases in Financial Management</td>
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<td>FIRE 622</td>
<td>Financial Management of Financial Institutions</td>
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<td>FIRE 626</td>
<td>Risk Management</td>
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<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
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**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48**

**Graduate program director**
Stacey A. Friedl
Director, E.M.B.A. program
Phone: (804) 828-6684

**Additional contact**
Jana P. McQuaid
Associate dean, master’s programs
Email: jpmcquaid@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

**Program website:** business.vcu.edu/graduate/emba.html (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate/emba.html)

**Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive] with a concentration in entrepreneurship and innovation**

**Program accreditation**
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

**Program goal**
VCU’s School of Business Executive M.B.A. program provides experienced managers in Virginia and surrounding states with the knowledge and skills needed to solve real-world business problems in today’s complex global environment. The Executive M.B.A. program accomplishes this purpose by using a curriculum with an integrated, modular, team-oriented, interdisciplinary approach that constantly challenges students to apply knowledge and skills to new and unfamiliar situations by using a conceptual understanding of relevant business disciplines.

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Degree: M.B.A.
Semester(s) of entry: Fall only
Deadline dates: Feb 15 (for early decision)

Test requirements:

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Module 5

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Module 6

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Module 7

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Electives

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<td>ENGR 691</td>
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**Electives**

Select three of the following: 9

- ACCT 606  International Accounting
- ECON 609  Advanced International Economics
- FIRE 639  International Finance
- MGMT 644  International Business Management
- MKTG 656  International Marketing
- MKTG 657  International Market Planning Project

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum)** 48

**Graduate program director**

Stacey A. Friedl

Director, E.M.B.A. program

Phone: (804) 828-6684
**Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive] with a concentration in health care management**

**Program accreditation**  
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

**Program goal**  
VCU's School of Business Executive M.B.A. program provides experienced managers in Virginia and surrounding states with the knowledge and skills needed to solve real-world business problems in today's complex global environment. The Executive M.B.A. program accomplishes this purpose by using a curriculum with an integrated, modular, team-oriented, interdisciplinary approach that constantly challenges students to apply knowledge and skills to new and unfamiliar situations by using a conceptual understanding of relevant business disciplines.

**Student learning outcomes**  
1. Demonstrate the capacity from an executive perspective to integrate knowledge-specific information to different business disciplines in helping teams to solve business problems in new and unfamiliar circumstances  
2. Demonstrate communication knowledge and skills in both technical and interpersonal areas  
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## Curriculum requirements

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- **FMBA 601** Team Building and Leadership (course 1) 3
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- **FMBA 611** Strategic Management (course 1) 3
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### Electives

- **FMBA 614** Health Care Management I: National Perspective 3
- **FMBA 615** Health Care Management II: Employer’s Perspective 3
- **FMBA 616** Health Care Management III: Industry Perspective 3

Total Hours: 48

## Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48

### Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate/emba.html (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate/emba.html)

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**Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive] with a concentration in information resources management**

**Program accreditation**

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

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### Electives
- Select three of the following:
  - **ECON 617** Financial Markets 9
  - **FIRE 622** Financial Management of Financial Institutions
  - **FIRE 635** Investments and Security Analysis
  - **FIRE 650** Derivatives
  - **FIRE 657** Current Issues in Investments and Markets

**Total Hours**

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48**

**Graduate program director**
- Stacey A. Friedl
- Director, E.M.B.A. program
- Phone: (804) 828-6684

**Additional contact**
- Jana P. McQuaid
- Associate dean, master’s programs
- Email: jpmcquaid@vcu.edu
- Phone: (804) 828-4622

**Program website**: business.vcu.edu/graduate/emba.html

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Electives

Select three of the following: 9

FIRE 627 Real Estate Development

FIRE 629 Real Estate Investment Analysis

FIRE 638 Real Property Investment Law

FIRE 658 Real Estate Finance and Investments

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 691</td>
<td>Topics in Management (when the topic is supply chain management)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 677</td>
<td>Quality Management and Six Sigma</td>
<td>3</td>
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Elective

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<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 691</td>
<td>Topics in Marketing (when the topic is marketing analytics)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Executive M.B.A.

Student learning outcomes

1. Demonstrate the capacity from an executive perspective to integrate knowledge-specific information to different business disciplines in

2. Demonstrate communication knowledge and skills in both technical and interpersonal areas

3. Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical and social responsibility of business organizations in the U.S. and in other parts of the world

4. Demonstrate analytic skills using new and unfamiliar data sets

M.S. in Information Systems

Graduates should be able to:

1. Communicate and network effectively within their professions and organizations; serve the profession by applying this knowledge broadly; and maintain key technical expertise in order to sustain required levels of competitiveness

2. Understand information technology as it applies to business contexts and effectively apply this technology in specific circumstances

3. Develop efficient and effective IS solutions using appropriate technologies that can deliver competitive advantages to organizations

4. Develop and incorporate changes in the planning and management of IS resources based on an increased understanding of the dynamic changes in the organization, IS and global environments

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Degree candidacy requirements

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Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree: M.B.A./M.S.</th>
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<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Feb 15 (for early decision)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td></td>
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</table>

Admission notes regarding deadline: Students in the Executive M.B.A. program have the option to continue with the Executive M.S. in Information Systems with a concentration in information technology management program after having completed the requirements for the Executive M.B.A. to earn both degrees.

Applicants must meet all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18).

Degree requirements

In addition to VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 60 hours of graduate course work. Students pursuing this dual-degree option will have four courses in the Executive M.S. program waived. These four courses cover the information systems content of the Executive M.B.A. program.

Curriculum requirements

Module 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 601</td>
<td>Team Building and Leadership (course 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 602</td>
<td>Team Building and Leadership (course 2)</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Module 2

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 603</td>
<td>Business Foundations (course 1)</td>
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Module 3

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<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 604</td>
<td>Analysis and Decisions (course 1)</td>
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FMBA 605 Analysis and Decisions (course 2) 3
FMBA 606 Analysis and Decisions (course 3) 3

Module 4

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<th>Course</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 607</td>
<td>Global Challenges (course 1)</td>
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</table>

Module 5

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Credit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 608</td>
<td>Organizational Culture (course 1)</td>
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Module 6

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<td>FMBA 609</td>
<td>Productivity and Innovation (course 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 610</td>
<td>Productivity and Innovation (course 2)</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Module 7

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 611</td>
<td>Strategic Management (course 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 612</td>
<td>Strategic Management (course 2)</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMBA 613</td>
<td>Strategic Management (course 3)</td>
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Information systems courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 674</td>
<td>Emerging Technologies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISTM 675</td>
<td>IS Planning and Project Management</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 676</td>
<td>Information Systems Assurance and Security Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 677</td>
<td>Structuring Information for Decision Making</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 678</td>
<td>IS in the Digital Economy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>ISTM 679</td>
<td>Enterprise Information Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 691</td>
<td>Topics in IT Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Total Hours 60

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Graduate program director

Stacey A. Friedl
Director, E.M.B.A. program
Email: safriedl@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-6684

Additional contact

William J. Miller
Executive director, business development
Email: wjmille1@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-3491

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate.html (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate.html)

Brandcenter

The VCU Brandcenter offers graduate study in advertising, branding and experience design. The program offers a Master of Science in Business with a concentration in branding, and it is divided into five focus areas (tracks): art direction, copywriting, creative brand management, experience design and strategy.

The Brandcenter program is focused on preparing students for successful careers. The working environment is similar to that of agencies and their clients. Teams of students work together to develop ideas and campaigns that solve business problems strategically and creatively. They also learn how to present those ideas in engaging and persuasive ways.

After their first year, qualified students are offered internships where they gain experience and foster industry relationships. In their second year, students have the opportunity to network with professional mentors,
guest speakers, alumni and recruiters from agencies and organizations around the country. Once students graduate, they become part of a tight-knit alumni network.

Mission
The VCU Brandcenter’s mission is to develop the best creative problem-solvers in the world.

- Business, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in branding/art direction (p. 394)
- Business, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in branding/copywriting (p. 395)
- Business, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in branding/creative brand management (p. 396)
- Business, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in branding/experience design (p. 398)
- Business, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in branding/strategy (p. 399)

Business, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in branding/art direction

Program goals
The VCU Brandcenter offers graduate study in advertising, branding and experience design. The program offers a Master of Science in Business with a concentration in branding, and it is divided into five focus areas (subconcentrations): art direction, copywriting, creative brand management, experience design and strategy.

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After their first year, qualified students are offered internships where they gain experience and foster industry relationships. In their second year, students have the opportunity to network with professional mentors, guest speakers, alumni and recruiters from agencies and organizations around the country. Once students graduate, they become part of a tight-knit alumni network.

Student learning outcomes
1. Presentation skills: Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively present/sell their ideas in a clear, concise and compelling manner.
2. Collaboration: Students will demonstrate their ability to work together in cross-functional teams/groups (e.g., as art directors, copywriters, creative brand managers, experience designers and strategists) to develop viable business/marketing solutions.
3. Creative and critical problem-solving: Students will demonstrate the ability to research consumer culture (via secondary research, syndicated research and qualitative/quantitative research methods) and evaluate consumer media/technology usage habits to develop media-neutral business solutions.
4. Culture: Students will demonstrate an appreciation, interest in and openness for different cultures (both national and international) yielding more relevant, culturally savvy business solutions.

5. Craft: Students will demonstrate the ability to execute specific skills related to their individual subconcentration.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

Degree candidacy requirements
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Graduation requirements
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Admission requirements

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<tr>
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<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 15 (final deadline for international students)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the branding/art direction concentration must have a working knowledge of Photoshop and InDesign and knowledge of layout, design and typography. Applicants must have at least one year of working experience or have taken an undergraduate course or a tutorial in these skills.

Degree requirements

The M.S. in Business with a concentration in branding requires 42 graduate credit hours beyond the baccalaureate degree. Students devote two years of full-time study to complete the degree requirements. In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), all students in the Brandcenter must complete a core curriculum as well as courses required for a specific subconcentration and must present a final major project, in portfolio form, before a committee review panel.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core</th>
<th>BRND 648</th>
<th>Innovation</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BRND 651</td>
<td>Creative Thinking</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BRND 659</td>
<td>Brand Experiences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BRND 677</td>
<td>The Business of Branding</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Branding/art direction</td>
<td>BRND 622</td>
<td>Visual Storytelling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BRND 630</td>
<td>Problem Solving for Art Directors</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BRND 631</td>
<td>Craft</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BRND 633</td>
<td>User Participation Platforms</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BRND 652</td>
<td>Concept Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BRND 653</td>
<td>Portfolio Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BRND 664</td>
<td>Persuasion</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BRND 670</td>
<td>Creative Fusion</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>BRND 673</td>
<td>Experimentation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>BRND 696</td>
<td>Advanced Portfolio</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 42

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 42

Student learning outcomes

1. **Presentation skills:** Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively present/sell their ideas in a clear, concise and compelling manner.
2. **Collaboration:** Students will demonstrate their ability to work together in cross-functional teams/groups (i.e., as art directors, copywriters, creative brand managers, experience designers and strategists) to develop viable business/marketing solutions.
3. **Creative and critical problem-solving:** Students will demonstrate the ability to research consumer culture (via secondary research, syndicated research and qualitative/quantitative research methods) and evaluate consumer media/technology usage habits to develop media-neutral business solutions.
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Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree: Business, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in branding/creative brand management</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the branding/copywriting concentration must have received a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university with demonstrated ability to perform at the graduate level.

Degree requirements

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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>BRND 677 The Business of Branding 3</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branding/copywriting</th>
<th>BRND 622 Visual Storytelling 3</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRND 631 Craft 3</td>
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<td>BRND 638 Brand Engagement 3</td>
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<td>BRND 640 Problem Solving 3</td>
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<td>BRND 652 Concept Development 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 653 Portfolio Development 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 664 Persuasion 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 670 Creative Fusion 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 673 Experimentation 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 696 Advanced Portfolio 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 42

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 42

Graduate program director
Helayne Spivak
Director
Email: hspivak@vcu.edu (asommdahl@vcu.edu)
Phone: (804) 828-8384

Additional contact
Hawley Smyth
Senior admissions counselor
Email: smythh@vcu.edu (asommdahl@vcu.edu)
Phone: (804) 828-8384

Program website: brandcenter.vcu.edu (http://brandcenter.vcu.edu)

Business, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in branding/creative brand management

Program goals

The VCU Brandcenter offers graduate study in advertising, branding and experience design. The program offers a Master of Science in Business with a concentration in branding, and it is divided into five focus
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</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the creative brand management concentration must be proficient in Excel, PowerPoint/Keynote and Pages and must have successfully completed a college math class. The admissions committee is looking for a minimum GRE score of around 300 (current scoring) or 1100 (former scoring) or a minimum GMAT score of around 540.

Degree requirements

The M.S. in Business with a concentration in branding requires 42 graduate credit hours beyond the baccalaureate degree. Students devote two years of full-time study to complete the degree requirements. In
addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), all students in the Brandcenter must complete a core curriculum as well as courses required for a specific subconcentration and must present a final major project, in portfolio form, before a committee review panel.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRND 648</td>
<td>Innovation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 651</td>
<td>Creative Thinking</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 659</td>
<td>Brand Experiences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 677</td>
<td>The Business of Branding</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branding/creative brand management</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRND 608</td>
<td>Accounting for Communication Professionals</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 620</td>
<td>Brand Design for Brand Managers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 629</td>
<td>Strategic Thinking</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 632</td>
<td>Foundations of Brand Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 649</td>
<td>Brand Analytics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRND 662</td>
<td>Research Methodologies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 663</td>
<td>Team Building and Leadership for Brand Managers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 667</td>
<td>Applied Brand Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>BRND 668</td>
<td>Advanced Brand Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 690</td>
<td>Supervised Business Study</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 42

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 42

Graduate program director
Helayne Spivak
Director
Email: hspivak@vcu.edu (asommardahl@vcu.edu)
Phone: (804) 828-8384

Additional contact
Hawley Smyth
Senior admissions counselor
Email: smythh@vcu.edu (asommardahl@vcu.edu)
Phone: (804) 828-8384

Program website: brandcenter.vcu.edu (http://brandcenter.vcu.edu)

Business, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in branding/experience design

Program goals

The VCU Brandcenter offers graduate study in advertising, branding and experience design. The program offers a Master of Science in Business with a concentration in branding, and it is divided into five focus areas (subconcentrations): art direction, copywriting, creative brand management, experience design and strategy.

The Brandcenter program is focused on preparing students for successful careers. The working environment is similar to that of agencies and their clients. Teams of students work together to develop ideas and campaigns that solve business problems strategically and creatively. They also learn how to present those ideas in engaging and persuasive ways.

After their first year, qualified students are offered internships where they gain experience and foster industry relationships. In their second year, students have the opportunity to network with professional mentors, guest speakers, alumni and recruiters from agencies and organizations around the country. Once students graduate, they become part of a tight-knit alumni network.

Student learning outcomes

1. **Presentation skills**: Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively present/sell their ideas in a clear, concise and compelling manner.

2. **Collaboration**: Students will demonstrate their ability to work together in cross-functional teams/groups (i.e., as art directors, copywriters, creative brand managers, experience designers and strategists) to develop viable business/marketing solutions.

3. **Creative and critical problem-solving**: Students will demonstrate the ability to research consumer culture (via secondary research, syndicated research and qualitative/quantitative research methods) and evaluate consumer media/technology usage habits to develop media-neutral business solutions.

4. **Culture**: Students will demonstrate an appreciation, interest in and openness for different cultures (both national and international) yielding more relevant, culturally savvy business solutions.

5. **Craft**: Students will demonstrate the ability to execute specific skills related to their individual subconcentration.

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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information
School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students. Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu), and also complete the VCU Brandcenter application at brandcenter.vcu.edu/admissions (http://brandcenter.vcu.edu/admissions).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
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<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 15 (final deadline for international students)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>May 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have a working knowledge of the Adobe Creative Suite and light HTML/CSS knowledge and have a specialty such as video production, animation, 3-D imaging, design, writing, etc.

Degree requirements
The M.S. in Business with a concentration in branding requires 42 graduate credit hours beyond the baccalaureate degree. Students devote two years of full-time study to complete the degree requirements. In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), all students in the Brandcenter must complete a core curriculum as well as courses required for a specific subconcentration and must present a final major project, in portfolio form, before a committee review panel.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core</th>
<th></th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRND 648</td>
<td>Innovation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>BRND 651</td>
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<td>The Business of Branding</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Business, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in branding/strategy

Program goals
The VCU Brandcenter offers graduate study in advertising, branding and experience design. The program offers a Master of Science in Business with a concentration in branding, and it is divided into five focus areas (subconcentrations): art direction, copywriting, creative brand management, experience design and strategy.

The Brandcenter program is focused on preparing students for successful careers. The working environment is similar to that of agencies and their clients. Teams of students work together to develop ideas and campaigns that solve business problems strategically and creatively. They also learn how to present those ideas in engaging and persuasive ways.

After their first year, qualified students are offered internships where they gain experience and foster industry relationships. In their second year, students have the opportunity to network with professional mentors, guest speakers, alumni and recruiters from agencies and organizations around the country. Once students graduate, they become part of a tight-knit alumni network.

Student learning outcomes
1. Presentation skills: Students will demonstrate the ability to effectively present/sell their ideas in a clear, concise and compelling manner.
2. Collaboration: Students will demonstrate their ability to work together in cross-functional teams/groups (i.e., as art directors, copywriters,
creative brand managers, experience designers and strategists) to develop viable business/marketing solutions.

3. **Creative and critical problem-solving**: Students will demonstrate the ability to research consumer culture (via secondary research, syndicated research and qualitative/quantitative research methods) and evaluate consumer media/technology usage habits to develop media-neutral business solutions.

4. **Culture**: Students will demonstrate an appreciation, interest in and openness for different cultures (both national and international) yielding more relevant, culturally savvy business solutions.

5. **Craft**: Students will demonstrate the ability to execute specific skills related to their individual subconcentration.

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

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

**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.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

**Other information**

School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Degree:</th>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
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</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the branding/strategy concentration must be proficient in Excel, PowerPoint/Keynote and Pages. The admissions committee is looking for a minimum GRE score of around 300 (current scoring) or 1100 (former scoring) or a minimum GMAT score of around 540.

**Degree requirements**

The M.S. in Business with a concentration in branding requires 42 graduate credit hours beyond the baccalaureate degree. Students devote two years of full-time study to complete the degree requirements. In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), all students in the Brandcenter must complete a core curriculum as well as courses required for a specific subconcentration and must present a final major project, in portfolio form, before a committee review panel.

**Curriculum requirements**

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<td>BRND 651</td>
<td>Creative Thinking</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRND 659</td>
<td>Brand Experiences</td>
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<tr>
<td>BRND 677</td>
<td>The Business of Branding</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Branding/strategy</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRND 602</td>
<td>Introduction to Account Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 621</td>
<td>Strategy and Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 625</td>
<td>Comms Planning and UX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 627</td>
<td>Visual Storytelling and Design for Strategists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 629</td>
<td>Strategic Thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 635</td>
<td>Creating Gravitational Pull</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 639</td>
<td>Cultural Impact: Advanced Account Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 647</td>
<td>Insights and Implications: Applied Strategic Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRND 649</td>
<td>Brand Analytics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The future development of the accounting profession depends upon the quality of the educational foundation on which it rests. The Department of Accounting is committed to the support of professional accounting through the delivery of educational experiences directed toward practice and through research that addresses the important policy issues of the day.

The mission of the department is to prepare students for careers in accounting, to interpret and expand accounting knowledge, and to render service to the profession and communities. The department does so by:

1. Providing a learning environment in which students are encouraged to interact with others in identifying and solving accounting and business problems
2. Investigating, developing and sharing knowledge, which has the potential for significant influence on accounting, business and education
3. Interacting with the accounting profession, the business community and the community at large
   - Accountancy, Master of (M.Acc.) (p. 401)
   - Accountancy, Master of (M.Acc.) with a concentration in information systems and analytics (p. 402)

**Accountancy, Master of (M.Acc.)**

**Note:** Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

**Program accreditation**
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

**Program goal**
The purpose of the Master of Accountancy program is to provide the skills and knowledge necessary to be future leaders in the professional business community and the public sector for students who wish to specialize in the areas of accounting/information systems, auditing, financial reporting and accounting/other fields of business.

**Student learning outcomes**
1. Students are expected to demonstrate current knowledge of financial accounting standards, tax laws and regulations, and other professional guidance that affects the profession. In addition, students should be aware of proposed changes to tax laws and regulations, financial accounting standards, and other professional guidance.
2. Students are expected to demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate accounting information in writing and in oral presentations.
3. Students are expected to demonstrate the ability to effectively analyze comprehensive cases, comprehensive problems and other projects that require in-depth accounting knowledge. The analysis should include a brief statement of the issue, facts bearing on the issue, appropriate professional guidance and a proposed solution to the issue.
4. Students are expected to demonstrate the ability to apply accounting knowledge in a variety of contexts and circumstances.
5. Students must be able to demonstrate their ability to apply ethical principles in a variety of accounting contexts and circumstances.

**VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs**
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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

**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.
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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information

School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master's degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students).

Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree: M.Acc.</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<td>Fall</td>
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<td>GMAT or GRE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the Master of Accountancy degree program who do not hold an undergraduate degree in accounting or business may be required to take up to 24 credit hours of business prerequisite courses and 27 credit hours of accounting prerequisite courses. These prerequisite courses may be waived for students who have successfully completed an equivalent course.

Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

Undergraduate prerequisites

Non-accounting business course prerequisites

Students must complete at least eight non-accounting business courses from the following list. (Equivalent 500-level courses may be substituted). These courses may be waived if a student has completed the equivalent course in an undergraduate program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 203 &amp; ACCT 204</td>
<td>Intro to Accounting I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 303</td>
<td>Intermediate Accounting I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 304</td>
<td>Intermediate Accounting II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 305</td>
<td>Intermediate Accounting III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 306</td>
<td>Cost Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 307</td>
<td>Accounting Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 405</td>
<td>Tax Accounting Principles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 406</td>
<td>Auditing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the Master of Accountancy program must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate course work with at least 15 credit hours in graduate accounting course work.

Curriculum requirements

Required accounting courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 604</td>
<td>Advanced Auditing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 606</td>
<td>International Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 610</td>
<td>Forensic Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 662</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Accounting Information Systems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Required tax courses

Select two of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 680</td>
<td>Tax Research and Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 681</td>
<td>Tax Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 682</td>
<td>Corporate Taxation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 684</td>
<td>Partnership Taxation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional course work

Select 12 credit hours from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFO 632</td>
<td>Business Process Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 640</td>
<td>Information Systems Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 664</td>
<td>Information Systems for Business Intelligence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 641</td>
<td>Leading People and Organizations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 655</td>
<td>Entrepreneurship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional contact

Jana P. McQuaid
Associate dean, master’s programs
Email: jpmcquaid@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/master-of-accountancy (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/master-of-accountancy)

Accountancy, Master of (M.Acc.) with a concentration in information systems and analytics

Program accreditation

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)
Program goal
The purpose of the Master of Accountancy program is to provide the skills and knowledge necessary to be future leaders in the professional business community and the public sector for students who wish to specialize in the areas of accounting/information systems, auditing, financial reporting and accounting/others fields of business.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students are expected to demonstrate the ability to effectively analyze comprehensive cases, comprehensive problems and other projects that require in-depth accounting knowledge. The analysis should include a brief statement of the issue, facts bearing on the issue, appropriate professional guidance and a proposed solution to the issue.
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Admission requirements
In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the Master of Accountancy degree program who do not hold an undergraduate degree in accounting or business may be required to take up to 24 credit hours of business prerequisite courses and 27 credit hours of accounting prerequisite courses. These prerequisite courses may be waived for students who have successfully completed an equivalent course.

* May be waived for candidates with an undergraduate or graduate degree from an accredited U.S. institution with a minimum GPA of 3.25

Accounting prerequisites
Candidates must complete at least eight non-accounting business courses from the following list. (Equivalent 500-level courses may be substituted.) These courses may be waived if a student has completed the equivalent course in an undergraduate program.

ACCT 203 Introduction to Accounting I 6
& ACCT 204 or ACCT 205
ACCT 303 Intermediate Accounting I 3
ACCT 304 Intermediate Accounting II 3
ACCT 305 Intermediate Accounting III 3
ACCT 306 Cost Accounting 3
ACCT 307 Accounting Systems 3
ACCT 405 Tax Accounting Principles 3
Degree requirements
In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the Master of Accountancy program must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours of graduate course work with at least 15 credit hours in graduate accounting course work.

Curriculum requirements

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>ACCT 406</td>
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<td>ACCT 662</td>
<td>Advanced Topics in Accounting Information Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 680</td>
<td>Tax Research and Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 648</td>
<td>Analytics for Organizational Decision-making</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Curriculum requirements

Information systems and analytics concentration electives

Select 12 credits from the following:

1. INFO 614 Data Mining
2. INFO 640 Information Systems Management
   or INFO 661 Information Systems for Managers
3. INFO 664 Information Systems for Business Intelligence
4. SCMA 632 Statistical Analysis and Modeling
5. SCMA 643 Applied Multivariate Methods
6. SCMA 645 Management Science
7. SCMA 669 Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business

Business electives

Select one course from the following:

1. FIRE 622 Financial Management of Financial Institutions
2. FIRE 623 Financial Management
3. FIRE 635 Investments and Security Analysis
4. FIRE 639 International Finance
5. FIRE 650 Derivatives
6. FIRE 654 Short-term Financial Management
7. MGMT 637 Advanced Human Resource Management
8. MGMT 641 Leading People and Organizations
9. MGMT 654 Negotiations
10. MGMT 655 Entrepreneurship
11. MKTG 673 Marketing Research
12. SCMA 603 SAP ERP and Supply Chain Management
13. SCMA 606 Supply Chain Innovation

Total Hours 30

Graduate program director
Colleen A. Davis
Senior director, master’s programs
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu

Phone: (804) 828-4622

Additional contact
Jana P. McQuaid
Associate dean, master’s programs
Email: jpmcquaid@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/master-of-accountancy (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/master-of-accountancy)

Department of Economics

Carol Scotese
Associate professor and chair

business.vcu.edu/departments-and-centers/economics (http://business.vcu.edu/departments-and-centers/economics)

The Department of Economics provides instruction for degree programs at the baccalaureate, master’s and doctoral level. The faculty works to develop in students the ability to use economic reasoning to understand and analyze business and economic phenomena and policies — the skills needed for careers in a rapidly changing world. To enhance the educational process and to broaden the frontiers of knowledge, faculty members conduct basic and applied research and provide academic and professional service to the university and professional communities.

- Economics, Master of Arts (M.A.) (p. 404)
- Economics, Master of Arts (M.A.) with a concentration in financial economics (p. 406)
- Economics, Master of Arts (M.A.) with a concentration in health economics (p. 407)
- Economics, Master of Arts (M.A.) with a concentration in statistics (p. 409)

Economics, Master of Arts (M.A.)

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal

The Master of Arts in Economics is designed to enhance the student’s abilities to use economic modeling to conduct applied analytical and econometric research. Students in this program are expected to demonstrate competence over a rigorous and current core curriculum in microeconomic and macroeconomic theory and in econometrics.

Graduates of the program should be well-qualified to conduct applied economic analysis in either a government or corporate research setting. The program also is an excellent preparation for entry into a doctoral program in economics or finance.

Student learning outcomes

1. Students will use optimization techniques to develop demand and cost conditions from specifications of underlying utility and technology. Specifically, given a simple functional form for utility, students will be able to solve for optimal individual demand and, given a production technology, students will be able to solve for the firm’s cost curves.
2. Students will understand and know how to apply quantitative macroeconomic models.
3. Students will critically evaluate the validity of conclusions drawn from econometric models by others who have access to the primary data. In the AACSB classifications, this is a management-specific goal.

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

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students).

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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the Master of Arts in Economics degree program must complete various prerequisite courses as enumerated in the degree requirements section. Prerequisite and/or foundation courses may be taken after admission.

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the M.A. in Economics degree requires a minimum of 30 credit hours including six core courses in economics and four approved electives.

Prerequisite and/or foundation courses may be waived for students who present satisfactory equivalent preparation at either the undergraduate or graduate level. This determination is made by the faculty adviser at the time of admission.

Prerequisite undergraduate course

MATH 200  Calculus with Analytic Geometry  4
or ECON 403  Introduction to Mathematical Economics

Curriculum requirements

Foundation courses

| ECON 500 | Concepts in Economics | 3 |
| ECON 501 | Introduction to Econometrics | 3 |

Required courses

| ECON 604 | Advanced Microeconomic Theory | 3 |
| ECON 607 | Advanced Macroeconomic Theory | 3 |
| ECON 612 | Econometrics | 3 |
| ECON 614 | Mathematical Economics | 3 |
| ECON 641 | Econometric Time-series Analysis | 3 |
| ECON 642 | Panel and Nonlinear Methods in Econometrics | 3 |

Approved electives

| ECON 600:609 |
| ECON 616:699 |
| FIRE 600:699 |
| HADM 602 | Health System Organization, Financing and Performance |
| HADM 610 | Health Analytics and Decision Support |
| HCPR 601 | Introduction to Health Policy |
Economics, Master of Arts (M.A.) with a concentration in financial economics

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal
The Master of Arts in Economics is designed to enhance the student’s abilities to use economic modeling to conduct applied analytical and econometric research. Students in this program are expected to demonstrate competence over a rigorous and current core curriculum in microeconomic and macroeconomic theory and in econometrics.

Graduates of the program should be well-qualified to conduct applied economic analysis in either a government or corporate research setting. The program also is an excellent preparation for entry into a doctoral program in economics or finance.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will use optimization techniques to develop demand and cost conditions from specifications of underlying utility and technology. Specifically, given a simple functional form for utility, students will be able to solve for optimal individual demand and, given a production technology, students will be able to solve for the firm’s cost curves.
2. Students will understand and know how to apply quantitative macroeconomic models.
3. Students will critically evaluate the validity of conclusions drawn from econometric models by others who have access to the primary data. In the AACSB classifications, this is a management-specific goal.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)
Other information

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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the Master of Arts in Economics degree program with a concentration in financial economics must complete various prerequisite courses as enumerated in the degree requirements section. Prerequisite and/or foundation courses may be taken after admission.

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the M.A. in Economics degree with a concentration in financial economics requires a minimum of 30 credit hours of 600-level course work. The 30 hours must include seven core courses and three restricted electives.

Prerequisite undergraduate course

- MATH 200 Calculus with Analytic Geometry 4
- or ECON 403 Introduction to Mathematical Economics

Curriculum requirements

Foundation courses

- ECON 500 Concepts in Economics 3
- ECON 501 Introduction to Econometrics 3
- FIRE 520 Financial Concepts of Management 3

Required courses

- ECON 604 Advanced Microeconomic Theory 3
- ECON 607 Advanced Macroeconomic Theory 3
- ECON 612 Econometrics 3
- ECON 614 Mathematical Economics 3
- ECON 617 Financial Markets 3
- ECON 641 Econometric Time-series Analysis 3
- ECON 642 Panel and Nonlinear Methods in Econometrics 3

Restricted electives

- FIRE 623 Financial Management 3
- FIRE 635 Investments and Security Analysis 3

FIRE 650 Derivatives 3

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30 (39 if all foundation courses are required)

Graduate program director
Colleen Androvich Davis
Senior director, master’s programs
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
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Additional contact
Jana P. McQuaid
Associate dean, master’s programs
Email: jpmcquaid@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/master-of-arts-in-economics (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/master-of-arts-in-economics)

Economics, Master of Arts (M.A.) with a concentration in health economics

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal

Graduates of the Master of Arts in Economics program will have the knowledge and experience to qualify for a wide and rapidly expanding range of analyst positions in the private or public sectors. Graduates will be particularly well-suited for positions requiring modeling skills and substantial experience in the analysis and interpretation of firm-level, industry or macroeconomic data. A unique feature of the program is a three-course core sequence in applied econometrics. These courses emphasize the application of modeling techniques and data analysis though the introduction of cases and projects. Through these courses, students acquire a working knowledge of up-to-date powerful statistical software and broad experience in working with a variety of real data sets. The concentration in health economics will allow students with particular interest in the health sector and in health policy issues to specialize in health economics, a topic currently quite relevant.

Graduates of the M.A. in Economics with a concentration in health economics, in addition to holding highly competitive terminal credentials as analysts, will find the program to be an outstanding bridge to doctoral work in programs such as the Ph.D. in Healthcare Policy and Research offered in the School of Medicine at VCU.

Student learning outcomes

1. Students will be able to convey ideas about macroeconomic analysis effectively in oral and written communications.
2. Students will use optimization techniques to develop demand and cost conditions from specifications of underlying utility and technology. Specifically, given a simple functional form for utility, students will be able to solve for optimal individual demand and, given a production technology, students will be able to solve for the firm’s cost curves.
3. Students will understand and know how to apply quantitative macroeconomic models.
4. Students will critically evaluate the validity of conclusions drawn from econometric models by others who have access to the primary data.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students).

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</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the Master of Arts in Economics degree program with a concentration in health economics must complete various prerequisite courses as enumerated in the degree requirements section. Prerequisite and/or foundation courses may be taken after admission.

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the M.A. in Economics with a concentration in health economics requires 30 credit hours of 600-level courses. The 30 hours must include six core courses and four restricted electives.

Prerequisite undergraduate course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MATH 200</th>
<th>Calculus with Analytic Geometry</th>
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<td>or ECON 403</td>
<td>Introduction to Mathematical Economics</td>
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Curriculum requirements

Foundation courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECON 500</th>
<th>Concepts in Economics</th>
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<td>ECON 501</td>
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Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECON 604</th>
<th>Advanced Microeconomic Theory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 607</td>
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<td>Econometrics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 614</td>
<td>Mathematical Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 641</td>
<td>Econometric Time-series Analysis</td>
</tr>
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<td>ECON 642</td>
<td>Panel and Nonlinear Methods in Econometrics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Restricted electives

Select four of the following: 12

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HADM 602</th>
<th>Health System Organization, Financing and Performance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>HADM 606</td>
<td>Health Care Managerial Accounting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 607</td>
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</tr>
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<td>HADM 615</td>
<td>Health Care Politics and Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM/ECON 624</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
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<td>HCP 601</td>
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Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30 (36 if all foundation courses are required)

Graduate program director
Colleen Androvich Davis
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Additional contact
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Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/master-of-arts-in-economics (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/master-of-arts-in-economics)

Economics, Master of Arts (M.A.) with a concentration in statistics

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal
The Master of Arts in Economics is designed to enhance the student's abilities to use economic modeling to conduct applied analytical and econometric research. Students in this program are expected to demonstrate competence over a rigorous and current core curriculum in microeconomic and macroeconomic theory and in econometrics.

Graduates of the program should be well-qualified to conduct applied economic analysis in either a government or corporate research setting. The program also is an excellent preparation for entry into a doctoral program in economics or finance.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will use optimization techniques to develop demand and cost conditions from specifications of underlying utility and technology. Specifically, given a simple functional form for utility, students will be able to solve for optimal individual demand and, given a production technology, students will be able to solve for the firm's cost curves.
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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the Master of Arts in Economics degree program with a concentration in statistics must complete various prerequisite courses as enumerated in the degree requirements section. Prerequisite and/or foundation courses may be taken after admission.

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the M.A. in Economics degree with a concentration in statistics requires a minimum of 30 credit hours of 500- and 600-level course work. The 30 hours must include eight core courses, one restricted elective and one additional approved elective.

Prerequisite and/or foundation courses may be waived for students who present satisfactory equivalent preparation at either the undergraduate or graduate level. This determination is made by the faculty adviser at the time of admission.

Prerequisite undergraduate course

| MATH 307 | Multivariate Calculus | 4 |

Curriculum requirements

Foundation courses

| ECON 500 | Concepts in Economics | 3 |
| ECON 501 | Introduction to Econometrics | 3 |

Required courses

| ECON 604 | Advanced Microeconomic Theory | 3 |
| ECON 607 | Advanced Macroeconomic Theory | 3 |
| ECON 612 | Econometrics | 3 |
| ECON 614 | Mathematical Economics | 3 |
| ECON 641 | Econometric Time-series Analysis | 3 |
| ECON 642 | Panel and Nonlinear Methods in Econometrics | 3 |
| STAT/BIOS 513 | Mathematical Statistics I | 3 |
| STAT/BIOS 514 | Mathematical Statistics II | 3 |

Statistics elective

Select one course from the list of approved statistics electives below.

| STAT 546 | Linear Models |
| STAT 623 | Discrete Multivariate Analysis |
| STAT 643 | Applied Linear Regression |
| STAT 744 | Regression II |

Design of experiments

| STAT 642 | Design and Analysis of Experiments I |
| STAT 650 | Design and Analysis of Response Surface Experiments |
| STAT 742 | Design and Analysis of Experiments II |

Time series

| STAT 613 | Stochastic Processes |
| STAT 675 | Time Series Analysis I |

Machine learning and big data

| STAT/OPER 636 | Machine Learning Algorithms |
| STAT/OPER 736 | Mathematics of Knowledge and Search Engines |

Bayesian analysis

| STAT 645 | Bayesian Decision Theory |
| STAT 745 | Advanced Bayesian Statistics |

Quality control

| STAT/OPER 648 | Systems Reliability Analysis |
| STAT/OPER 649 | Statistical Quality Control |

Approved elective

Select additional course from the list of approved statistics electives above, or any course from the list of approved electives below.

| ECON 600:609 |
| ECON 612:697 |
| FIRE 600:699 |
| HADM 602 | Health System Organization, Financing and Performance |
| HADM 610 | Health Analytics and Decision Support |
| HCPR 601 | Introduction to Health Policy |
| INFO 614 | Data Mining |
| MKTG 600:699 |
| MGMT 600:699 |
| PADM 601 | Principles of Public Administration |
| PADM 603 | Politics and Economics |
| PADM 609 | Financial Management in Government |
| PADM 622 | Public Sector Budgeting |
| PADM 625 | Public Policy Analysis |
| SCMA 600:699 |

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30 (36 if all foundation courses are required)

Graduate program director
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Additional contact
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Phone: (804) 828-4622

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/master-of-arts-in-economics

Department of Finance, Insurance and Real Estate

Daniel P. Salandro, Ph.D.
The Department of Finance, Insurance and Real Estate delivers knowledge to students in all programs offered by the School of Business and contributes to the expansion of knowledge by engaging in scholarly activity. The department provides core courses as well as majors, minors and concentrations. In addition, the department develops and delivers courses in continuing professional education for practitioners seeking to upgrade their skills and/or attempting to achieve professional certification.

Department of Information Systems

Lemuria Carter, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair

business.vcu.edu/departments-and-centers/information-systems (http://business.vcu.edu/departments-and-centers/information-systems)

The Department of Information Systems provides an innovative, high quality curriculum that is recognized nationally and internationally and maintains the ability to rapidly respond to the dynamic, changing needs of the academic discipline, industry and community.

The department offers degree programs at both the undergraduate and graduate level, as well as continuing education programs that support alumni and the community. Additionally, courses in information systems are offered to meet the needs of students in other curricula offered by the university as well as those who are seeking to enhance their knowledge of information systems.

Departmental faculty offers expertise in information technology and has wide-ranging research and teaching interests. As part of the department, the Information Systems Research Institute provides opportunities for sponsored research, innovative teaching initiatives and faculty development.

Traditional program options

- Computer and Information Systems Security, Master of Science (M.S.) (p. 411)
- Information Systems, Master of Science (M.S.) (p. 413)
- Information Systems, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in health care management (p. 415)
- Information Systems, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in information risk, security and assurance (p. 417)
- Information Systems, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in information risk, security and assurance with Christ University in Bangalore, India (p. 419)

Executive program option

- Information Systems, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in information technology management [Executive] (p. 421)

Combined/dual degree programs

- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.)/Information Systems, Master of Science in (M.S.) with a concentration in information technology management [Executive] [combined] (p. 424)
- Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive]/Information Systems, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in information technology management [Executive] [combined] (p. 426)
- Health Administration, Master of (M.H.A.)/Information Systems, Master of Science (M.S.) [combined] (p. 428)

Computer and Information Systems Security, Master of Science (M.S.) [School of Business]

Program mission

The Master of Science in Computer and Information Systems Security provides for the scholarly and professional needs of several groups who have either accepted or are keen to take on the challenge of protecting information resources of firms and society at large.

Program goal

Graduates of this program are expected to take on leadership positions, including as chief security officer, in computer and information systems security in organizations. VCU’s program takes a broad interdisciplinary approach to computer and information systems security that will help develop the student's ability to see the larger organizational, social, political, ethical and economic aspects of information security.

Student learning outcomes

Graduates of the program will be:

1. Prepared to take leading roles in planning, organizing, managing, designing and configuring security solutions in public and private organizations
2. Familiar with state-of-the-art security technologies and best practices

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

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)
Degree candidacy requirements

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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.

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://wwwgraduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

Degree:  
Semester(s) of entry:  
Deadline dates:  
Test requirements:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jul 1</td>
<td>GRE or GMAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>TOEFL for international students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applicants must meet all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18).

The Master of Science in Computer and Information Systems Security, jointly offered by the Department of Computer Science in the School of Engineering and the Department of Information Systems in the School of Business, is designed primarily for students interested in professional roles in business, industry or government. Program graduates will serve as leaders within the computer and information systems security community and as strategic partners within the enterprises in which they work. They will stay attuned to, and anticipate changes in, the computer and information systems security environment and ensure that security solutions create a sound, competitive, cost-effective advantage for the enterprise.

Graduates of the program will be prepared to take leading roles in planning, organizing, managing, designing and configuring security solutions in public and private organizations and will be familiar with state-of-the-art security technologies and best practices. The program takes a broad interdisciplinary approach to computer and information systems security that will help students develop the ability to see the larger organization and social, political, ethical and economic aspects of information security, as well as offering a unique graduate-level curriculum that is both technically and managerially oriented.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the M.S. in Computer and Information Systems Security requires 30 graduate credit hours, including a core curricular component and an elective component. The elective component consists of three courses chosen by the student and selected from CISS course offerings or, with the approval of the program co-directors, from courses offered by the departments of Computer Science, Information Systems, Criminal Justice and Forensic Science.

Curriculum requirements

Students with an accredited bachelor’s degree or post-baccalaureate certificate in fields such as computer science or information systems should be adequately prepared for the graduate curriculum. Students from other academic backgrounds may need to complete undergraduate prerequisite courses. Prerequisites are determined by the faculty adviser at the time of admission.

Prerequisite courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 312</td>
<td>Introduction to Operating Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 355</td>
<td>Software Engineering: Specification and Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 401</td>
<td>Algorithm Analysis with Advanced Data Structures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 508</td>
<td>Database Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 211</td>
<td>Mathematical Structures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 212</td>
<td>Concepts of Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Curriculum

Core component

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CISS/CMSC 618</td>
<td>Database and Application Security</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CISS/CMSC 622</td>
<td>Network and Operating Systems Security</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CISS 624/CMSC 620</td>
<td>Applied Cryptography</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CISS 634</td>
<td>Ethical, Social and Legal Issues in Computer and Information Systems Security</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CISS/INFO 644</td>
<td>Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 646</td>
<td>Security Policy Formulation and Implementation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective component

Choose four of the following courses. Students must select a minimum of one CMSC and one INFO course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 502</td>
<td>Parallel Algorithms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 506</td>
<td>Computer Networks and Communications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 525</td>
<td>Introduction to Software Analysis, Testing and Verification</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student learning outcomes

1. Graduates should be capable of communicating and networking effectively within their profession and within their organizations, serving the profession by applying this knowledge broadly and maintaining key technical expertise in order to sustain required levels of competitiveness.

2. Graduates must have an understanding of information technology as it applies to business contexts and the skill to apply this technology effectively in specific circumstances.

3. Graduates must be able to develop efficient and effective IS solutions using appropriate technologies that can deliver competitive advantages to organizations.

4. Graduates must be able to develop and incorporate changes in the planning and management of IS resources based on an increased understanding of the dynamic changes in the organization, IS and global environments.

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Other information
School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
M.S. Fall Jul 1 GMAT or GRE
Spring Nov 1
Summer Mar 1

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the master’s program in business administration must submit an up-to-date resume.

Degree requirements

Students applying to the Master of Science in Information Systems must show evidence of competence in selected prerequisite areas of information systems including: application programming, systems analysis and design, database, telecommunications and hardware/software. Evidence of this competence may include formal course work, comparable training within a work environment or significant, relevant and recent work experience in the field. Students enrolled as majors in the program who do not have a formal background or equivalent training must take the appropriate undergraduate courses to satisfy the prerequisites prior to taking master’s program courses. Students without an accredited bachelor’s degree or post-baccalaureate certificate in fields such as computer science or information systems will likely need to complete several undergraduate prerequisite courses. Prerequisites are determined by the faculty adviser at the time of admission.

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students who do not have a business degree must complete a minimum of two 500-level foundation courses (6 credit hours). Foundation courses may be waived for students who present satisfactory equivalent preparation at either the undergraduate or graduate level. Students who are required to take foundation courses may do so after admission. The foundation courses required will vary depending upon the student’s background, career interests and the chosen area of specialization. Students applying to the program should consult with the master’s program adviser to determine the foundation courses required for a particular area.

Prerequisite undergraduate courses

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<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFO 202</td>
<td>Introduction to E-business Technologies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 300</td>
<td>Information Technology Infrastructure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 350</td>
<td>Intermediate Programming</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 361</td>
<td>Systems Analysis and Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 364</td>
<td>Database Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 370</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Data Communications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 211</td>
<td>Mathematical Structures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A course in calculus

Curriculum requirements

Foundation courses

- 0-6 credits; may be waived for demonstrated equivalency.
- ACCT 507 Fundamentals of Accounting
- or ECON 500 Concepts in Economics
- or FIRE 520 Financial Concepts of Management
- SCMA 524 Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management

Core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFO 610</td>
<td>Analysis and Design of Database Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 620</td>
<td>Data Communications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 630</td>
<td>Systems Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 640</td>
<td>Information Systems Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Information system electives

Select four to six of the following: 12-18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CISS 634</td>
<td>Ethical, Social and Legal Issues in Computer and Information Systems Security</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 609</td>
<td>Data-centric Re-engineering Analysis/ Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 611</td>
<td>Data Re-engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 614</td>
<td>Data Mining</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO/CISS 616</td>
<td>Data Warehousing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 632</td>
<td>Business Process Engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 641</td>
<td>Strategic Information Systems Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 642</td>
<td>Decision Support and Intelligent Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 643</td>
<td>Information Technology Project Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO/CISS 644</td>
<td>Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 646</td>
<td>Security Policy Formulation and Implementation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 658</td>
<td>Securing the Internet of Things</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 664</td>
<td>Information Systems for Business Intelligence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 691</td>
<td>Topics in Information Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 693</td>
<td>Field Project in Information Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 697</td>
<td>Guided Study in Information Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other approved electives

A maximum of two non-INF electives may be completed from the preapproved list below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 603</td>
<td>SAP ERP and Supply Chain Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 632</td>
<td>Statistical Analysis and Modeling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 643</td>
<td>Applied Multivariate Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 648</td>
<td>Analytics for Organizational Decision-making</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30 (36 if all foundation courses are taken)

Graduate program director
Colleen Andorich Davis
Senior director, master’s programs
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Additional contact
Jana P. McQuaid
Associate dean, master’s programs
Email: jpmcquaid@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/ms-in-information-systems (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/ms-in-information-systems)

Information Systems, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in health care management

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal
The Master of Science in Information Systems program is designed to prepare students for specialized roles using information systems to support organizations. The program is intended to provide a graduate-level, business-technology-oriented curriculum that focuses on the design and development of information systems to solve real-world problems. Graduates of the program are expected to be able to take significant roles in planning, organizing, managing, designing, configuring and implementing systems using state-of-the-art technologies within organizations.

Student learning outcomes
1. Graduates should be capable of communicating and networking effectively within their profession and within their organizations, serving the profession by applying this knowledge broadly and maintaining key technical expertise in order to sustain required levels of competitiveness.
2. Graduates must have an understanding of information technology as it applies to business contexts and the skill to apply this technology effectively in specific circumstances.
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Semester(s) of entry: 
Deadline dates: 
Test requirements:

M.S. 
Fall 
Jul 1 
GMAT or GRE 

Spring 
Nov 1 

Summer 
Mar 1 

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A course in calculus

Curriculum requirements

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<td>Fundamentals of Accounting</td>
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</tr>
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<td>or ECON 500</td>
<td>Concepts in Economics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or FIRE 520</td>
<td>Financial Concepts of Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MATH 300</td>
<td>Calculus</td>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFO 524</td>
<td>Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management</td>
<td></td>
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Information system electives

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 641</td>
<td>Strategic Information Systems Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFO 642</td>
<td>Decision Support and Intelligent Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 643</td>
<td>Information Technology Project Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO/CISS 644</td>
<td>Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 646</td>
<td>Security Policy Formulation and Implementation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 658</td>
<td>Securing the Internet of Things</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 664</td>
<td>Information Systems for Business Intelligence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 691</td>
<td>Topics in Information Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 693</td>
<td>Field Project in Information Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 697</td>
<td>Guided Study in Information Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other approved electives

A maximum of two non-INFO electives may be completed from the preapproved list below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 603</td>
<td>SAP ERP and Supply Chain Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 632</td>
<td>Statistical Analysis and Modeling</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>SCMA 643</td>
<td>Applied Multivariate Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 648</td>
<td>Analytics for Organizational Decision-making</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 669</td>
<td>Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business</td>
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Required concentration courses

<table>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 614</td>
<td>Health Care Management I: National Perspective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 615</td>
<td>Health Care Management II: Employer’s Perspective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 616</td>
<td>Health Care Management III: Industry Perspective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Information Systems, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in information risk, security and assurance

Program goal
The Master of Science in Information Systems program is designed to prepare students for specialized roles using information systems to support organizations. The program is intended to provide a graduate-level, business-technology-oriented curriculum that focuses on the design and development of information systems to solve real-world problems. Graduates of the program are expected to be able to take significant roles in planning, organizing, managing, designing, configuring and implementing systems using state-of-the-art technologies within organizations.

The information risk, security and assurance concentration within the degree is designed primarily for students interested in professional roles in business, industry or government. Program graduates will serve as leaders within the risk, security and assurance community and as strategic partners with the enterprise in which they work. They will stay attuned to and anticipate changes in the risk, security and assurance environment and ensure that security solutions create a sound, competitive and cost-effective advantage for the enterprise.

Student learning outcomes
1. Graduates should be capable of communicating and networking effectively within their profession and within their organizations, serving the profession by applying this knowledge broadly and maintaining key technical expertise in order to sustain required levels of competitiveness.
2. Graduates must have an understanding of information technology as it applies to business contexts and the skill to apply this technology effectively in specific circumstances.
3. Graduates must be able to develop efficient and effective IS solutions using appropriate technologies that can deliver competitive advantages to organizations.
4. Graduates must be able to develop and incorporate changes in the planning and management of IS resources based on an increased understanding of the dynamic changes in the organization, IS and global environments.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/
Information Systems, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in information risk, security and assurance

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jul 1</td>
<td>GMAT or GRE</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the master’s program in business administration must submit an up-to-date resume.

Degree requirements

Students applying to the Master of Science in Information Systems must show evidence of competence in selected prerequisite areas of information systems including: application programming, systems analysis and design, database, telecommunications and hardware/software. Evidence of this competence may include formal course work, comparable training within a work environment or significant, relevant and recent work experience in the field. Students enrolled as majors in the program who do not have a formal background or equivalent training must take the appropriate undergraduate courses to satisfy the prerequisites prior to taking master’s program courses. Students without an accredited bachelor's degree or post-baccalaureate certificate in fields such as computer science or information systems will likely need to complete several undergraduate prerequisite courses. Prerequisites are determined by the faculty adviser at the time of admission.

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students who do not have a business degree must complete a minimum of two 500-level foundation courses (6 credit hours). Foundation courses may be waived for students who present satisfactory equivalent preparation at either the undergraduate or graduate level. Students who are required to take foundation courses may do so after admission. The foundation courses required will vary depending upon the student’s background, career interests and the chosen area of specialization. Students applying to the program should consult with the master’s program adviser to determine the foundation courses required for a particular area.

Prerequisite undergraduate courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFO 202</td>
<td>Introduction to E-business Technologies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 300</td>
<td>Information Technology Infrastructure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 350</td>
<td>Intermediate Programming</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 361</td>
<td>Systems Analysis and Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 364</td>
<td>Database Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 370</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Data Communications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 211</td>
<td>Mathematical Structures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A course in calculus

Curriculum requirements

Foundation courses

0-6 credits; may be waived for demonstrated equivalence.

Core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFO 610</td>
<td>Analysis and Design of Database Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 620</td>
<td>Data Communications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 630</td>
<td>Systems Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 640</td>
<td>Information Systems Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concentration courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CISS 634</td>
<td>Ethical, Social and Legal Issues in Computer and Information Security</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 614</td>
<td>Data Mining</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO/CISS 644</td>
<td>Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 646</td>
<td>Security Policy Formulation and Implementation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 658</td>
<td>Securing the Internet of Things</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Approved elective

Select one of the following: 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFO 609</td>
<td>Data-centric Re-engineering Analysis/Planning</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 611</td>
<td>Data Re-engineering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO/CISS 616</td>
<td>Data Warehousing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 632</td>
<td>Business Process Engineering</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 641</td>
<td>Strategic Information Systems Planning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 642</td>
<td>Decision Support and Intelligent Systems</td>
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<td>Information Technology Project Management</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Analytics for Organizational Decision-making</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 669</td>
<td>Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 30

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30 (36 if all foundation courses are taken)

Graduate program director
Colleen Androvich Davis
Senior director, master’s programs
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Information Systems, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in information risk, security and assurance with Christ University in Bangalore, India

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal
The Master of Science in Information Systems program is designed to prepare students for specialized roles in information systems. The program is intended to provide a graduate-level, technically oriented curriculum that focuses on the design and development of information systems to solve real-world problems. The department’s curriculum is focused on the rapidly emerging area known as enterprise information systems. Students may choose a curriculum with no concentration or a concentration in information risk, security and assurance. Graduates of the program are expected to be able to take significant roles in planning, organizing, managing, designing, configuring and implementing EIS systems using state-of-the-art technologies within organizations.

The information risk, security and assurance concentration within the degree is designed primarily for students interested in professional roles in business, industry or government. Program graduates will serve as leaders within the risk, security and assurance community and as strategic partners with the enterprise in which they work. They will stay attuned to and anticipate changes in the risk, security and assurance environment and ensure that security solutions create a sound, competitive and cost-effective advantage for the enterprise.

Student learning outcomes
1. Graduates should be capable of communicating and networking effectively within their profession and within their organizations, serving the profession by applying this knowledge broadly and maintaining key technical expertise in order to sustain required levels of competitiveness.
2. Graduates must have an understanding of information technology as it applies to business contexts and the skill to apply this technology effectively in specific circumstances.
3. Graduates must be able to develop efficient and effective IS solutions using appropriate technologies that can deliver competitive advantages to organizations.
4. Graduates must be able to develop and incorporate changes in the planning and management of IS resources based on an increased understanding of the dynamic changes in the organization, IS and global environments.

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.vcu.edu/graduate) 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Additional contact
Jana P. McQuaid
Associate dean, master’s programs
Email: jpmcquaid@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/ms-in-information-systems (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/ms-in-information-systems)
Admission requirements

The VCU School of Business and Christ University in Bangalore, India have partnered to provide students with an opportunity to study at two universities and earn two degrees. Students who have already been admitted to the Christ University Master of Business Administration program are invited to apply to the VCU Master of Science in Information Systems with a concentration in information risk, security and assurance.

Students satisfy the master's foundation course requirements during the first year while in the Christ University M.B.A. program and then complete the 10 required VCU courses needed for the Master of Science in Information Systems with a concentration in information risk, security and assurance. These courses are taken primarily at the VCU Monroe Park Campus and are designed to be completed in one calendar year.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the master's program in business administration must submit an up-to-date resume.

Degree requirements

Students applying to the Master of Science in Information Systems must show evidence of competence in selected prerequisite areas of information systems including: application programming, systems analysis and design, database, telecommunications and hardware/software. Evidence of this competence may include formal course work, comparable training within a work environment or significant, relevant and recent work experience in the field. Students enrolled as majors in the program who do not have a formal background or equivalent training must take the appropriate undergraduate courses to satisfy the prerequisites prior to taking master's program courses. The required undergraduate courses are:

- INFO 300 Information Technology Infrastructure 3
- INFO 350 Intermediate Programming 3
- INFO 360 Business Information Systems 3
- INFO 361 Systems Analysis and Design 3
- INFO 370 Fundamentals of Data Communications 3
- INFO 364 Database Systems 3

A course in calculus

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students who do not have a business degree must complete a minimum of four 500-level foundation courses (12 credit hours). Foundation courses may be waived for students who present satisfactory equivalent preparation at either the undergraduate or graduate level. Students who are required to take foundation courses may do so after admission. The foundation courses required will vary depending upon the student's background, career interests and the chosen area of specialization. Students applying to the program should consult with the master's program adviser to determine the foundation courses required for a particular area.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core courses</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFO 610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 640</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CISS 634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO/CISS 644</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFO 646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 658</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Approved elective</th>
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<tr>
<td>Select one from the following:</td>
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<td>INFO 609</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 611</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFO/CISS 616</td>
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<td>SCMA 643</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 648</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 669</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 30

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Graduate program director
Colleen Androvich Davis
Senior director, master's programs
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Additional contact
Jana P. McQuaid
Associate dean, master's programs
Information Systems, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in information technology management [Executive]

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal
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Student learning outcomes
1. Graduates should be capable of communicating and networking effectively within their profession and within their organizations, serving the profession by applying this knowledge broadly and maintaining key technical expertise in order to sustain required levels of competitiveness.
2. Graduates must have an understanding of information technology as it applies to business contexts and the skill to apply this technology effectively in specific circumstances.
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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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students).

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Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the master’s program in information systems must submit an up-to-date resume.

Degree requirements
In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours.

The Executive Master of Science in Information Systems with a concentration in information technology management provides an opportunity for current information technology professionals and
business managers to receive the necessary preparation to move into IT management roles. Participants gain a wide range of new skills and knowledge by combining course work with their day-to-day professional activities. The program is targeted to rising business executives, entrepreneurs and information systems professionals. The program differs from the regular M.S. in Information Systems program in that it is offered in a weekend format, with students meeting for classes on alternate weekends throughout the calendar year. The lockstep program consists of 10 required courses.

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 671</td>
<td>Organizational Culture and Team Building</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>ISTM 672</td>
<td>Information Systems Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 673</td>
<td>Analysis and Decisions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 674</td>
<td>Emerging Technologies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 675</td>
<td>IS Planning and Project Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 676</td>
<td>Information Systems Assurance and Security Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 677</td>
<td>Structuring Information for Decision Making</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 678</td>
<td>IS in the Digital Economy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 679</td>
<td>Enterprise Information Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 691</td>
<td>Topics in IT Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 30

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30**

**Graduate program director**
Rachel Kaeser  
Email: rekaeser@vcu.edu  
Phone: (804) 828-7036

**Additional contact**
Jana P. McQuaid  
Executive director, master’s programs  
Email: jpmcquaid@vcu.edu  
Phone: (804) 828-4622

**Program website**: business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/executive-ms-in-is—IT-management (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/executive-ms-in-is—IT-management)

**Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.)/Information Systems, Master of Science (M.S.) [combined]**

**Program accreditation**
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

**Program goal**

**Master of Business Administration**

The purpose of the Master of Business Administration program at VCU is to prepare individuals for the responsibilities of management. As students at VCU, individuals will learn the functions and techniques of effective management. The student also will come to understand the environmental and economic factors that affect decision-making in organizations. In short, the student will know what to do as future events unfold that affect his/her firm or organization.

An M.B.A. from VCU benefits students at various points in their careers. Individuals who have recently received their baccalaureate degrees may choose to refine their business skills while their undergraduate training is fresh. Individuals with work experience often find that an M.B.A. is the key to rapid promotion or a career change. Finally, an M.B.A. from VCU meets the needs of students who recognize that the best preparation for an uncertain future is continuous learning.

**Master of Science in Information Systems**

The Master of Science in Information Systems program is designed to prepare students for specialized roles using information systems to support organizations. The program is intended to provide a graduate-level, business-technology-oriented curriculum that focuses on the design and development of information systems to solve real-world problems. Graduates of the program are expected to be able to take significant roles in planning, organizing, managing, designing, configuring and implementing systems using state-of-the-art technologies within organizations.

**Student learning outcomes**

**For M.B.A. graduates**

1. Students should be able to demonstrate the capacity to apply business knowledge in new and unfamiliar circumstances.
2. Students should be able to demonstrate the ability to work in teams and other groups.
3. Students should understand and be able to develop the ethical and social responsibilities of organizations.
4. Students should be able to describe the factors involved in key operation decisions and to apply appropriately techniques that provide insight and structure for management decision-making.
5. Students should be able to identify and understand major issues faced by organizations with evolving information technology and investigate issues and challenges faced by managers with changes in information technology.
6. Students should be able to describe the factors involved in key operation decisions and to apply appropriately techniques that provide insight and structure for management decision-making.
7. Graduates of the program should be able to critically evaluate and use accounting and other information for managerial decision-making.
8. Graduates should be able to evaluate marketing programs.
9. Students should be able to think critically and systematically about financial issues in businesses to develop techniques to analyze these issues numerically.
10. Graduates of the program should be able to develop an analytical framework for identifying the objectives of the firm and to provide some tools for evaluating the firm’s performance.

**For M.S. in Information Sciences graduates**

1. Graduates should be capable of communicating and networking effectively within their profession and within their organizations, serving the profession by applying this knowledge broadly and maintaining key technical expertise in order to sustain required levels of competitiveness.
2. Graduates must have an understanding of information technology as it applies to business contexts and the skill to apply this technology effectively in specific circumstances.

3. Graduates must be able to develop efficient and effective IS solutions using appropriate technologies that can deliver competitive advantages to organizations.

4. Graduates must be able to develop and incorporate changes in the planning and management of IS resources based on an increased understanding of the dynamic changes in the organization, IS and global environments.

### 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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

### 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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

### 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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

### Other information

School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

### Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S. and M.B.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jul 1</td>
<td>GMAT or GRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the combined Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Information Systems program must submit an up-to-date resume.

### Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students can earn both M.B.A. and M.S. in Information Systems degrees by having 12 credit hours counted toward both degrees.

Students in the combined degree program will follow the same schedule as regular M.B.A. students, including the two lockstep semesters. To get both degrees, students will take all foundation courses required for the M.B.A. (unless waived), all nine core courses required for the M.B.A. and nine additional courses in the M.S. in Information Systems program, including INFO 610, INFO 620 and INFO 630. Students whose undergraduate degrees are not in information systems may also be required to take additional undergraduate prerequisite courses before taking the graduate information systems courses, as determined by the program adviser. The INFO 661 course taken for the M.B.A. will substitute for INFO 640, normally required for the M.S. in Information Systems degree, and three of the additional information systems courses also will count toward the normally required three elective courses in the M.B.A. program.

One of the information systems courses must have substantial global, entrepreneurial and/or experiential components. The six information systems courses required for the combined degree program are in addition to the VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic regulations for all graduate programs at the university.

### Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation courses (not included in 54 hours required for combined degree program)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 507</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Accounting 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 500</td>
<td>Concepts in Economics 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 520</td>
<td>Financial Concepts of Management 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 540</td>
<td>Management Theory and Practice 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 570</td>
<td>Concepts and Issues in Marketing 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 524</td>
<td>Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

---
SCMA 530  Fundamentals of the Legal Environment of Business  3

Total Hours  21

**M.B.A. course work**

**Advanced courses**

Each student must begin the advanced portion of the program with the courses below in each of the first two semesters. Full-time students will take additional courses from the remainder of the advanced program.

**Semester one (to be taken at the same time)**

- ECON 610  Managerial Economics  3
- MGMT 641  Organizational Leadership and Project Team Management  3

**Semester two**

- FIRE 623  Financial Management  3

**Remainder of the advanced program**

- ACCT 608  Managerial Accounting Concepts  3
- INFO 661  Information Systems for Managers  3
- INFO 664  Information Systems for Business Intelligence  3
- MGMT 642  Business Policy and Strategy  3
- MKTG 671  Marketing Management  3
- SCMA 675  Operations Management  3

Total Hours  27

**M.S. in Information Systems course work**

**Core courses**

- INFO 610  Analysis and Design of Database Systems  3
- INFO 620  Data Communications  3
- INFO 630  Systems Development  3

**Electives**

Select six of the following:  18

- INFO 611  Data Re-engineering
- INFO 614  Data Mining
- INFO/CISS 616  Data Warehousing
- INFO 622  Internet Security Management
- INFO 632  Business Process Engineering
- INFO 641  Strategic Information Systems Planning
- INFO 642  Decision Support and Intelligent Systems
- INFO 643  Information Technology Project Management
- INFO/CISS 644  Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security
- INFO 646  Security Policy Formulation and Implementation
- INFO 654  Systems Interface Design
- INFO 658  Securing the Internet of Things
- INFO 691  Topics in Information Systems
- INFO 693  Field Project in Information Systems

Total Hours  27

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 54**

Students in the combined program who wish to have an M.B.A. concentration other than information resources management would need to complete an additional three courses for the concentration area.

**Graduate program director**

Colleen A. Davis
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Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

**Additional contact**

Jana P. McQuaid
Associate dean, master’s programs
Email: jpmcquaid@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

**Program website:** business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/combined-mbams-in-information-systems (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/combined-mbams-in-information-systems)

**Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.)/Information Systems, Master of Science in (M.S.) with a concentration in information technology management [Executive] [combined]**

**Program accreditation**

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

**Program goal**

**Master of Business Administration**

The purpose of the Master of Business Administration program at VCU is to prepare individuals for the responsibilities of management. As students at VCU, individuals will learn the functions and techniques of effective management. The student also will come to understand the environmental and economic factors that affect decision-making in organizations. In short, the student will know what to do as future events unfold that affect his/her firm or organization.

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**Master of Science in Information Systems**

The Master of Science in Information Systems program is designed to prepare students for specialized roles in information systems. The program is intended to provide a graduate-level, technically oriented curriculum that focuses on the design and development of information systems to solve real-world problems. The department’s curriculum is focused on the rapidly emerging area known as enterprise information
systems. Students may choose a curriculum with no concentration or a concentration in information risk, security and assurance. Graduates of the program are expected to be able to take significant roles in planning, organizing, managing, designing, configuring and implementing EIS systems using state-of-the-art technologies within organizations.

Student learning outcomes

For M.B.A. graduates
1. Students should be able to demonstrate the capacity to apply business knowledge in new and unfamiliar circumstances.
2. Students should be able to demonstrate the ability to work in teams and other groups.
3. Students should understand and be able to develop the ethical and social responsibilities of organizations.
4. Students should be able to describe the factors involved in key operation decisions and to apply appropriately techniques that provide insight and structure for management decision-making.
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10. Graduates of the program should be able to develop an analytical framework for identifying the objectives of the firm and to provide some tools for evaluating the firm’s performance.

For M.S. in Information Sciences graduates
1. Graduates should be capable of communicating and networking effectively within their profession and within their organizations, serving the profession by applying this knowledge broadly and maintaining key technical expertise in order to sustain required levels of competitiveness.
2. Graduates must have an understanding of information technology as it applies to business contexts and the skill to apply this technology effectively in specific circumstances.
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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information

School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at [business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students](http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students).

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<td>GMAT or GRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Spring only</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the combined Master of Business Administration and Executive Master of Science in Information Systems with a concentration in information technology management program must submit an up-to-date resume.

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students can earn both M.B.A. and M.S. in Information Systems degrees by having 12 credit hours counted toward both degrees, thus requiring only 54 credit hours total of advanced course work (not counting foundation courses), rather than the 36 and 30 credit hours normally required for the two degrees.

To obtain both degrees, students will complete the entire 30 credit-hour information system master’s program plus six M.B.A. core courses (ECON 610, FIRE 623, ACCT 608, MGMT 642, SCMA 675 and MKTG 671) plus two elective courses. Students must also complete any designated required courses. The course ISTM 671 will substitute for MGMT 641; ISTM 672 will substitute for INFO 661; and ISTM 677 will substitute for INFO 664. ISTM 673 will count toward one of the three required M.B.A. elective courses.

Curriculum requirements

Foundation courses (Not included in 54 hours required for combined degree program.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 507</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Accounting</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 500</td>
<td>Concepts in Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 520</td>
<td>Financial Concepts of Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 540</td>
<td>Management Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>MKTG 570</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 524</td>
<td>Statistical Fundamentals for Business</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 530</td>
<td>Fundamentals of the Legal Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
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Total Hours 21

M.B.A. course work

Advanced core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tr>
<td>ACCT 608</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECON 610</td>
<td>Managerial Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>FIRE 623</td>
<td>Financial Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>MGMT 642</td>
<td>Business Policy and Strategy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>MKTG 671</td>
<td>Marketing Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 675</td>
<td>Operations Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electives (two)</td>
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Total Hours 24

M.S. in Information Systems course work

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>ISTM 671</td>
<td>Organizational Culture and Team Building</td>
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<td>ISTM 672</td>
<td>Information Systems Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISTM 673</td>
<td>Analysis and Decisions</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISTM 674</td>
<td>Emerging Technologies</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISTM 675</td>
<td>IS Planning and Project Management</td>
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<td>ISTM 676</td>
<td>Information Systems Assurance and Security Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>ISTM 677</td>
<td>Structuring Information for Decision Making</td>
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<td>ISTM 678</td>
<td>IS in the Digital Economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISTM 679</td>
<td>Enterprise Information Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 691</td>
<td>Topics in IT Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 30

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 54

Students in the combined program who wish to have an M.B.A. concentration other than information resources management would need to complete an additional three courses for the concentration area.

Graduate program director

Colleen A. Davis
Senior director, master’s programs
Email: androvcm@vcu.edu
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Additional contact

Rachel KAESER
Program coordinator
Email: rekaeser@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-7036

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/combined-mbams-in-information-systems (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/combined-mbams-in-information-systems)

Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.) [Executive]/Information Systems, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in information technology management [Executive] [combined]

Program accreditation

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal

Executive M.B.A.

VCU’s School of Business Executive M.B.A. program provides experienced managers in Virginia and surrounding states with the knowledge and skills needed to solve real-world business problems in today’s complex global environment. The Executive M.B.A. program accomplishes this purpose by using a curriculum with an integrated, modular, team-oriented, interdisciplinary approach that constantly challenges students to apply knowledge and skills to new and unfamiliar
situations by using a conceptual understanding of relevant business disciplines.

M.S. in Information Systems
The Master of Science in Information Systems program is designed to prepare students for specialized roles in information systems. The program is intended to provide a graduate-level, technically oriented curriculum that focuses on the design and development of information systems to solve real-world problems. The department’s curriculum is focused on the rapidly emerging area known as enterprise information systems. Graduates of the program are expected to be able to take significant roles in planning, organizing, managing, designing, configuring and implementing EIS using state-of-the-art technologies within organizations.

Student learning outcomes
Executive M.B.A.
1. Demonstrate the capacity from an executive perspective to integrate knowledge-specific information to different business disciplines in helping teams to solve business problems in new and unfamiliar circumstances
2. Demonstrate communication knowledge and skills in both technical and interpersonal areas
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical and social responsibility of business organizations in the U.S. and in other parts of the world
4. Demonstrate analytic skills using new and unfamiliar data sets

M.S. in Information Systems
Graduates should be able to:
1. Communicate and network effectively within their professions and organizations; serve the profession by applying this knowledge broadly; and maintain key technical expertise in order to sustain required levels of competitiveness
2. Understand information technology as it applies to business contexts and effectively apply this technology in specific circumstances
3. Develop efficient and effective IS solutions using appropriate technologies that can deliver competitive advantages to organizations
4. Develop and incorporate changes in the planning and management of IS resources based on an increased understanding of the dynamic changes in the organization, IS and global environments

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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.

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Other information
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<tbody>
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<td>M.B.A./M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Feb 15 (for early decision)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Apr 22 (final decision)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Admission notes regarding deadline: Students in the Executive M.B.A. program have the option to continue with the Executive M.S. in Information Systems with a concentration in information technology management program after having completed the requirements for the Executive M.B.A. to earn both degrees.

Applicants must meet all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18).
Degree requirements
In addition to VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 60 hours of graduate coursework. Students pursuing this dual-degree option will have four courses in the Executive M.S. program waived. These four courses cover the information systems content of the Executive M.B.A. program.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module 1</th>
<th>Team Building and Leadership (course 1)</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 601</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 602</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 2</td>
<td>Business Foundations (course 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 603</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 3</td>
<td>Analysis and Decisions (course 1)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 604</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 4</td>
<td>Analysis and Decisions (course 2)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 605</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 5</td>
<td>Analysis and Decisions (course 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FMBA 606</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Information systems courses</th>
<th>Emerging Technologies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 674</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 675</td>
<td>IS Planning and Project Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 676</td>
<td>Information Systems Assurance and Security Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 677</td>
<td>Structuring Information for Decision Making</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 678</td>
<td>IS in the Digital Economy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 679</td>
<td>Enterprise Information Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ISTM 691</td>
<td>Topics in IT Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate.html (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate.html)

Health Administration, Master of (M.H.A.)/Information Systems, Master of Science (M.S.) [combined]

Advanced study in health administration and information systems is available through combined degree programs co-sponsored by the Department of Health Administration in the School of Allied Health Professions and the Department of Information Systems in the School of Business.

The combined M.H.A./M.S. program allows students interested in the fields of health management and information technology to earn two highly ranked and relevant master’s degrees in just three years, which is the time it usually takes to complete just one of the degrees. The combined degree program is ideal for students who are pursuing careers in health IT management, health IT business consulting or working in the health IT vendor industry.

Applicants for this program are required to meet the admission requirements of each program. For information regarding the dual-degree program, contact the director of the program.

The proposed curriculum allows students to earn both the M.H.A. and the M.S. in Information Systems with a total of 78 credit hours rather than the 89 credit hours that would be required to obtain the degrees separately. The dual-degree option offers this credit-hour efficiency by taking advantage of curricular similarities in the two programs and allowing some courses to count toward both sets of requirements. A total of 12 credit hours will count toward both degrees and the M.H.A. foundation courses will be substituted for the business school foundation course requirements for combined degree students. Students in the combined degree program will follow the same schedule as regular M.H.A. students, including the two lockstep years.

Students will take 51 credit hours of health administration courses required for the M.H.A. and nine additional courses (27 credit hours) in the M.S. in Information Systems program, including INFO 610, INFO 620 and INFO 630. Students whose undergraduate degrees are not in information systems may also be required to take additional undergraduate prerequisite courses before taking the graduate information systems courses, as determined by the program adviser. The HADM 612 course taken for the M.H.A. will substitute for INFO 640, normally required for the M.S. in Information Systems degree, and one of the additional information systems courses will also count toward the elective courses in the M.H.A. program. A three-credit-hour, 10-week internship is required and must have substantial global, entrepreneurial and/or experiential components related to both degrees. The six information systems courses to be taken in addition to INFO 610, INFO 620 and INFO 630, must be approved by the program adviser and would normally be selected to satisfy one of the M.S. in Information Systems concentrations.

Courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HADM 602</td>
<td>Health System Organization, Financing and Performance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 606</td>
<td>Health Care Managerial Accounting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 607</td>
<td>Financial Management in Health Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 78

Information systems focus areas
Students must declare a focus in two of the following areas and take the classes offered for each of those two areas for a total of 12 credit hours.

**Business engineering**
- INFO 611 Data Re-engineering 3
- INFO 632 Business Process Engineering 3

**Information assurance**
- INFO 622 Internet Security Management 3
- INFO 644 Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security 3

**Information technology management**
- INFO 641 Strategic Information Systems Planning 3
- INFO 643 Information Technology Project Management 3

**Knowledge engineering**
- INFO 614 Data Mining 3
- INFO 616 Data Warehousing 3

Sample M.H.A./M.S. in Information Systems plan of study

### Year one

#### Fall semester
- HADM 602 Health System Organization, Financing and Performance 3
- HADM 606 Health Care Managerial Accounting 3
- HADM 609 Managerial Epidemiology 2
- HADM 646 Health Care Organization and Leadership 3
- HADM 681 Clinical Concepts and Relationships 2
- HADM 682 Executive Skills I 1
- Prerequisite HADM or INFO courses if needed

**Term Hours:** 14

#### Spring semester
- HADM 607 Financial Management in Health Organizations 3
- HADM 610 Health Analytics and Decision Support 3
- HADM 624 Health Economics or Health Economics ECON 624 3
- HADM 647 Management of Health Care Organizations 3
- Prerequisite HADM or INFO courses if needed

**Term Hours:** 12

#### Summer semester
- HADM 693 Internship in Health Administration 3

**Term Hours:** 0

### Year two

#### Fall semester
- HADM 608 Seminar in Health Care Finance 3
- HADM 612 Information Systems for Health Care Management 3
- HADM 615 Health Care Politics and Policy 3
- HADM 683 Executive Skills II 1
- INFO course (elective or focus area course from above) 3
- Prerequisite INFO courses, if needed

**Term Hours:** 13

#### Spring semester
- HADM 611 Health Care Law and Bioethics 3
- HADM 614 Health Care Marketing 3
- HADM 648 Strategic Management in Health Care Organizations 3
- HADM 649 Human Resources Management in Health Care 3

**Term Hours:** 12

#### Summer semester
- HADM 693 Internship in Health Administration 3

**Term Hours:** 3

### Year three

#### Fall semester
- INFO 610 Analysis and Design of Database Systems 3
- INFO 620 Data Communications 3
- INFO 630 Systems Development 3
INFO focus area course (from above) 3

Term Hours: 12

Spring semester
INFO elective 3
INFO focus area courses (from above) 9

Term Hours: 12

Total Hours: 78

Graduate program director
Dolores G. Clement, Ph.D., FACHE
Professor and director, dual-degree programs
Email: dclement@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-0719

Additional contact
Suzanne C. Havasy
Coordinator, M.H.A. program
Email: shavasy@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-0719

Program website: had.vcu.edu/prospective/mha (http://sahp.vcu.edu/departments/ha/mha/prospective-students)

Department of Management
S. Douglas Pugh, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair


The Department of Management offers a Bachelor of Science in Business with concentrations in human resource management, management/business administration, management/entrepreneurship and management/international management. The department also offers a human resource management minor and a certificate in international management studies, as well as a doctoral degree in business with a concentration in management.

Department of Marketing
Wayne M. Slough, Ph.D.
Assistant professor and interim chair

business.vcu.edu/departments-and-centers/marketing (http://business.vcu.edu/departments-and-centers/marketing)

The Department of Marketing provides students with a comprehensive introduction to the many topics and concepts that make up today’s marketing professions. Additionally students have the opportunity to participate in high quality learning experiences that broaden traditional ideas of the classroom in projects, exercises and internship experiences that involve a variety of business organizations as well as state and local government agencies.

Department of Supply Chain Management and Analytics
Jeffery Smith, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair


Faculty in the Department of Supply Chain Management and Analytics are passionate about providing impeccable academic instruction and research that advances knowledge related to production, product development and the information systems needed to direct these endeavors. The department’s undergraduate and graduate programs prepare students to immediately take important positions related to supply chain management and business analytics. The department remains involved with the corporate community through a partnership with the Commonwealth Center for Advanced Logistics Systems.

Students interested in production, distribution, and the engineering and finances supporting large-scale operations will be prepared by VCU’s programs in supply chain management and analytics to enter an exciting field with plentiful job opportunities. For additional information contact the department by emailing scma@vcu.edu.

• Decision Analytics, Master of (M.D.A.) (p. 430)
• Decision Analytics, Master of (M.D.A.) – professional track (p. 432)
• Decision Analytics, Master of (M.D.A.) with a concentration in health care management (p. 434)
• Decision Analytics, Master of (M.D.A.) with a concentration in health care management – professional track (p. 435)
• Supply Chain Management, Master of (M.S.C.M.) (p. 437)

Decision Analytics, Master of (M.D.A.)

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal
The Master of Decision Analytics provides students with knowledge of the statistical, mathematical and scientific skills and experience necessary to utilize advanced methods of data analysis for business decision-making.

Student learning outcomes
1. After examining a situation/problem, students will be able to develop appropriate hypotheses along with a method for testing them and be able to draw logical conclusions and make reasonable decisions based on available information.
2. Students will be able to apply quantitative procedures to obtain solutions for real-world problems.
3. Students will be able to appropriately address the target audience, use proper organization, create clear graphical displays and express ideas with clarity and grammatical correctness.
4. Students will be able to show a clear understanding of the ethical nature of the issue and recommend appropriate action.

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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

Degree candidacy requirements
A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, dissertation, or thesis, 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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information
School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students and http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://wwwgraduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.D.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jul 1</td>
<td>GMAT or GRE</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the master’s program in business must submit an up-to-date resume.

Degree requirements
The decision analytics degree provides students with knowledge of quantitative skills and experience in analyzing problems and using data for decision-making in a business environment. Depending upon individual student interests and adviser approval, the required nucleus is supplemented with relevant elective courses from within the School of Business or from outside departments.

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40):

1. All students must have completed a course in calculus and database systems. Students must also be proficient at an intermediate level with a spreadsheet. These prerequisites can be met after admission to the program.
2. At the time of application, all undergraduate and graduate transcripts will be reviewed to determine if the following prerequisite courses and/or foundation course may be waived. A waiver may be awarded when a student demonstrates equivalent knowledge, such as completing the required undergraduate equivalent course to the satisfaction of the admission committee.

Prerequisites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFO 364</td>
<td>Database Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 212</td>
<td>Differential Calculus and Optimization for Business</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or MATH 200</td>
<td>Calculus with Analytic Geometry</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 524</td>
<td>Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Required core courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFO 610</td>
<td>Analysis and Design of Database Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 632</td>
<td>Statistical Analysis and Modeling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 645</td>
<td>Management Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 648</td>
<td>Analytics for Organizational Decision-making</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 669</td>
<td>Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business</td>
<td>3</td>
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Approved electives

Select 15 credits from:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 608</td>
<td>Managerial Accounting Concepts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Econometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 612</td>
<td>Econometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 614</td>
<td>Mathematical Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 629</td>
<td>Real Estate Investment Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 635</td>
<td>Investments and Security Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 609</td>
<td>Data-centric Re-engineering Analysis/Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 611</td>
<td>Data Re-engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 614</td>
<td>Data Mining</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Decision Analytics, Master of (M.D.A.) – professional track

#### Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

#### Program goal
The M.D.A. program provides in-depth knowledge of one business discipline and allows students to develop and build technical skills in their specific areas of interest. It is frequently recommended for students with undergraduate business degrees.

#### Student learning outcomes
1. **Database structures and query:** Students will have an understanding of basic database structures, be able to query databases and organize data for analysis.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFO 616</td>
<td>Data Warehousing</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFO 632</td>
<td>Business Process Engineering</td>
</tr>
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<td>INFO 664</td>
<td>Information Systems for Business Intelligence</td>
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<td>MGMT 642</td>
<td>Business Policy and Strategy</td>
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<tr>
<td>MKTG 673</td>
<td>Marketing Research</td>
</tr>
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<td>MKTG 678</td>
<td>Marketing Analytics</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPER 528</td>
<td>Stochastic Simulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER/STAT 636</td>
<td>Machine Learning Algorithms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 643</td>
<td>Decision and Risk Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 647</td>
<td>Multiobjective Decision Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 602</td>
<td>Global Supply Chain Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 603</td>
<td>SAP ERP and Supply Chain Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 606</td>
<td>Supply Chain Innovation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 643</td>
<td>Applied Multivariate Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 675</td>
<td>Operations Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 677</td>
<td>Quality Management and Six Sigma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 697</td>
<td>Guided Study in Supply Chain Management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours:** 33

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33 (30 if foundation course is waived)**

#### Graduate program director
Colleen Androvich Davis  
Senior director, master’s programs  
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu  
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Additional contact  
Jana P. McQuaid  
Associate dean, master’s programs  
Email: jpmcquaid@vcu.edu  
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate/dsba.html (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate/dsba.html)

#### Decision Analytics, Master of (M.D.A.) – professional track

2. **Quantitative skills:** Students will be able to identify appropriate data analysis approaches to address real-world problems. They will be able to perform the analysis using commercial software.

3. **Problem formulation:** Students will have the knowledge, skills and practice to take nonquantitative and perhaps ill-formed problems and issues and determine ways objective analysis can bring organization and insight to them. They will be able to determine data requirements and query available databases.

4. **Analytics applications:** Students will experience various applications of analytics in real situations.

5. **Technical communications:** Students will be able to communicate analytical analysis and results effectively to nonquantitative audiences. This includes informal discussions, formal presentations and written reports.

6. **Teamwork:** Students will develop skills in organizing, interacting and analyzing real problems as members of a team.

#### 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 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.

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#### 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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

#### 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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.**

**Other information**

School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students. Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.D.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants should have three years of work experience in an application area. Students without the required work experience may take six credit hours of graduate-level courses in an application area prior to acceptance into the program. Applicants are expected to have successfully completed an undergraduate or graduate course in statistics, and it is preferable that they have programming experience. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the program director.

**Degree requirements**

The Master of Decision Analytics provides students with a breadth of analytical and quantitative skills with experience in analyzing and communicating solutions to problems arising in an organization.

Leading organizations gain competitive advantage through the use of analysis of relevant data to guide and drive strategic and tactical decisions. Increased volumes of data and emphasis on data-driven decision-making create new challenges for decision-makers and provide new employment opportunities for people with deep analytical skills. There is a significant and growing demand for individuals with the ability to work collaboratively within an organization to mine relevant raw data and refine data into a recommended action of value to the enterprise. The decision analytics degree equips students with the essential skills to be analytically functional in an organization.

Skills, abilities and knowledge necessary for success in analytics:

1. Work in a collaborative environment
2. Translate specific business questions into problems that can be insighted through data analysis
3. Acquire and organize appropriate data so it can be used for analysis
4. Know general principles and common tools and be able to apply them to analyze specific business problems
5. Develop and effectively communicate an actionable solution for specific business questions

The decision analytics degree focuses on the applications of digital and information technology, decision sciences and statistics to decision-making and problem-solving in organizations. The program will give students the theory, knowledge and skills to:

1. Formulate frequently nonquantitative and ill-formed business issues so they can be insighted through data analytics
2. Retrieve, cleanse and organize data from mega databases (big data)
3. Perform appropriate statistical analysis and interpret the results
4. Explain analytical results to nonquantitative management

The professional track is presented in a concentrated weekend schedule, making the program attractive to midcareer professionals who want to gain or increase their analytics skills without interrupting their careers.

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40) and credit hour requirements, students must complete up to four classes (zero to 12 credit hours) of foundation course work. At the time of application, all undergraduate and graduate transcripts will be reviewed to determine if the following courses may be waived. Waivers of foundation courses only occur when a student has completed the required undergraduate equivalent courses with a minimum grade of C.

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 611 Analysis and Design of Database Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 612 Text Mining and Unstructured Data</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 613 Tools for Business Intelligence</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 614 Advanced SQL</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 615 Emerging Technologies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 621 Statistics for the World of Big Data</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 622 Statistics for the World of Big Data II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 631 Data Mining</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 632 Forecasting Methods and Applications for Managerial Decision-making</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 633 Introduction to Marketing and Customer Analytics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 641 Introduction to Simulation Methods</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 642 Introduction to Risk Analysis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 643 Introduction to Optimization Models</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 651 Personal, Interpersonal and Organizational Awareness</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 652 Professional Presentations: Strategy, Delivery and Technology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 653 Written Communications: Strategy, Structure and Connection</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 661 Issues and Analytics (one-credit course repeated for three credits total)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 670 Analytics Problem Formation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 681 Analytics Practicum I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 682 Analytics Practicum II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33**

There are no electives, substitutions or exemptions.

**Graduate program director**

Colleen A. Davis  
Senior director, master’s programs  
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu  
Phone: (804) 828-4622
Decision Analytics, Master of (M.D.A.) with a concentration in health care management

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal
The Master of Decision Analytics provides students with knowledge of the statistical, mathematical and scientific skills and experience necessary to utilize advanced methods of data analysis for business decision-making.

Student learning outcomes
1. After examining a situation/problem, students will be able to develop appropriate hypotheses along with a method for testing them and be able to draw logical conclusions and make reasonable decisions based on available information.
2. Students will be able to apply quantitative procedures to obtain solutions for real-world problems.
3. Students will be able to appropriately address the target audience, use proper organization, create clear graphical displays and express ideas with clarity and grammatical correctness.
4. Students will be able to show a clear understanding of the ethical nature of the issue and recommend appropriate action.

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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information
School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.D.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jul 1</td>
<td>GMAT or GRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Mar 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the master’s program in business must submit an up-to-date resume.

Degree requirements
The decision analytics degree provides students with knowledge of quantitative skills and experience in analyzing problems and using data for decision-making in a business environment. Depending upon individual student interests and adviser approval, the required nucleus is supplemented with relevant elective courses from within the School of Business or from outside departments.

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40):
1. All students must have completed a course in calculus prior to attempting graduate business courses. This prerequisite can be met after admission to the program.

2. Students must complete up to four classes (zero to 12 credit hours) of foundation course work. At the time of application, all undergraduate and graduate transcripts will be reviewed to determine if the following courses may be waived. Waiver of a foundation course may be awarded when a student demonstrates equivalent knowledge, such as completing the required undergraduate equivalent course with minimum grade of C.

The concentration in health care administration requires an additional nine credit hours beyond the minimum 30-credit hours required for the degree.

### Curriculum requirements

#### Prerequisite

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Calculus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 212</td>
<td>Differential Calculus and Optimization for Business</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SCMA 500</td>
<td>Quantitative Foundation for Decision-making</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Foundation courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 524</td>
<td>Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Select three of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 507</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Accounting</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 500</td>
<td>Concepts in Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 520</td>
<td>Financial Concepts of Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 540</td>
<td>Management Theory and Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 570</td>
<td>Concepts and Issues in Marketing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 530</td>
<td>Fundamentals of the Legal Environment of Business</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

#### Required core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INFO 614</td>
<td>Data Mining</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 664</td>
<td>Information Systems for Business Intelligence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 632</td>
<td>Statistical Analysis and Modeling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 645</td>
<td>Management Science</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 648</td>
<td>Analytics for Organizational Decision-making</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

#### Approved electives

Select 15 credits from:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 608</td>
<td>Managerial Accounting Concepts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Econometrics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 610</td>
<td>Managerial Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 612</td>
<td>Econometrics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 629</td>
<td>Real Estate Investment Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 635</td>
<td>Investments and Security Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 610</td>
<td>Analysis and Design of Database Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 611</td>
<td>Data Re-engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 616</td>
<td>Data Warehousing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 642</td>
<td>Business Policy and Strategy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 697</td>
<td>Guided Study in Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MKTG 673</td>
<td>Marketing Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPER 528</td>
<td>Stochastic Simulation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER/STAT 636</td>
<td>Machine Learning Algorithms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER 643</td>
<td>Decision and Risk Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 643</td>
<td>Applied Multivariate Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 669</td>
<td>Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 675</td>
<td>Operations Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Health care management concentration required courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 614</td>
<td>Health Care Management I: National Perspective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 615</td>
<td>Health Care Management II: Employer’s Perspective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 616</td>
<td>Health Care Management III: Industry Perspective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**: 54

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum)**: 54 (39 if prerequisite and all foundation courses are waived)

#### Graduate program director

Colleen Androvich Davis
Senior director, master’s programs
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

#### Additional contact

Jana P. McQuaid
Associate dean, master’s programs
Email: jpmcquaid@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

#### Program website

business.vcu.edu/graduate/dsba.html

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### Decision Analytics, Master of (M.D.A.) with a concentration in health care management – professional track

#### Program accreditation

Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

#### Program goal

The M.D.A. program provides in-depth knowledge of one business discipline and allows students to develop and build technical skills in their specific areas of interest. It is frequently recommended for students with undergraduate business degrees.

#### Student learning outcomes

1. **Database structures and query**: Students will have an understanding of basic database structures, be able to query databases and organize data for analysis.

2. **Quantitative skills**: Students will be able to identify appropriate data analysis approaches to address real-world problems. They will be able to perform the analysis using commercial software.

3. **Problem formulation**: Students will have the knowledge, skills and practice to taking nonquantitative and perhaps ill-formed problems and issues and determining ways objective analysis can bring
organization and insight to them. They will be able to determine data requirements and query available databases.

4. Analytics applications: Students will experience various applications of analytics in real situations.

5. Technical communications: Students will be able to communicate analytical analysis and results effectively to nonquantitative audiences. This includes informal discussions, formal presentations and written reports.

6. Teamwork: Students will develop skills in organizing, interacting and analyzing real problems as members of a team.

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

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### Degree candidacy requirements

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

### 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.

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### Other information

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### Admission requirements

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.D.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants should have three years of work experience in an application area. Students without the required work experience may take six credit hours of graduate-level courses in an application area prior to acceptance into the program. Applicants are expected to have successfully completed an undergraduate or graduate course in statistics, and it is preferable that they have programming experience. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the program director.

### Degree requirements

The Master of Decision Analytics provides students with a breadth of analytical and quantitative skills with experience in analyzing and communicating solutions to problems arising in an organization.

Leading organizations gain competitive advantage through the use of analysis of relevant data to guide and drive strategic and tactical decisions. Increased volumes of data and emphasis on data-driven decision-making create new challenges for decision-makers and provide new employment opportunities for people with deep analytical skills. There is a significant and growing demand for individuals with the ability to work collaboratively within an organization to mine relevant raw data and refine data into a recommended action of value to the enterprise. The decision analytics degree equips students with the essential skills to be analytically functional in an organization.

Skills, abilities and knowledge necessary for success in analytics:

1. Work in a collaborative environment
2. Translate specific business questions into problems that can be insighted through data analysis
3. Acquire and organize appropriate data so it can be used for analysis
4. Know general principles and common tools and be able to apply them to analyze specific business problems
5. Develop and effectively communicate an actionable solution for specific business questions

The decision analytics degree focuses on the applications of digital and information technology, decision sciences and statistics to decision-making and problem-solving in organizations. The program will give students the theory, knowledge and skills to:

1. Formulate frequently nonquantitative and ill-formed business issues so they can be insighted through data analytics
2. Retrieve, cleanse and organize data from mega databases (big data)
3. Perform appropriate statistical analysis and interpret the results
4. Explain analytical results to nonquantitative management
The professional track is presented in a concentrated weekend schedule, making the program attractive to midcareer professionals who want to gain or increase their analytics skills without interrupting their careers.

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40) and credit hour requirements, students must complete up to four classes (zero to 12 credit hours) of foundation course work. At the time of application, all undergraduate and graduate transcripts will be reviewed to determine if the following courses may be waived. Waivers of foundation courses only occur when a student has completed the required undergraduate equivalent courses with a minimum grade of C.

The concentration in health care management will require an additional nine credit hours beyond the minimum 33-credit hours required for the degree.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 611 Analysis and Design of Database Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 612 Text Mining and Unstructured Data</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 613 Tools for Business Intelligence</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 614 Advanced SQL</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 615 Emerging Technologies</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 621 Statistics for the World of Big Data</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 622 Statistics for the World of Big Data II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 631 Data Mining</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 632 Forecasting Methods and Applications for Managerial Decision-making</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 633 Introduction to Marketing and Customer Analytics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 641 Introduction to Simulation Methods</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 642 Introduction to Risk Analysis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 643 Introduction to Optimization Models</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 651 Personal, Interpersonal and Organizational Awareness</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 652 Professional Presentations: Strategy, Delivery and Technology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 653 Written Communications: Strategy, Structure and Connection</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 661 Issues and Analytics (one-credit course repeated for three credits total)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 670 Analytics Problem Formation</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>DAPT 681 Analytics Practicum I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAPT 682 Analytics Practicum II</td>
<td>2</td>
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</table>

Required concentration courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Courses</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 614 Health Care Management I: National Perspective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 615 Health Care Management II: Employer’s Perspective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMBA 616 Health Care Management III: Industry Perspective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 42

There are no electives, substitutions or exemptions.

Graduate program director
Colleen A. Davis
Senior director, master’s programs
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Additional contact
Jana P. McQuaid
Associate dean, master’s programs
Email: jpmcquaid@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate/analytics.html (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate/analytics.html)

Supply Chain Management, Master of (M.S.C.M.)

Program accreditation
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business

Program goal
The Master of Supply Chain Management program will educate students on the theory, skills and practices necessary to manage the daily challenges in managing global supply chains. Students will be introduced to supply management and logistics systems, international logistics, transportation management, enterprise resource planning and innovation processes. In addition, students will learn how to identify problems, gather information, analyze data, interpret solutions, establish contingencies and effectively present results.

Although developed in collaboration with the U.S. Army, the intent of the program is to provide an opportunity for both military officers and civilians to earn a master’s degree in supply chain management.

Student learning outcomes
Students in the Master of Supply Chain Management program will be able to:

1. Demonstrate how to manage the complexities present in global supply chains
2. Demonstrate the ability to add value in global supply chains
3. Demonstrate how to design, plan and control organizational processes using information technology
4. Demonstrate how to manage data and uncertainty in supply chains
5. Apply cross-disciplinary skills to foster innovative solutions to supply chain challenges and opportunities
6. Develop research and communications skills

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Other information**

School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students (http://business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students).

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<td>Jul 1</td>
<td>GRE or GMAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

- Curriculum vitae and personal statement
- Personal interview if requested by the graduate program director

**Degree requirements**

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours. These credit hours consist of six core courses (18 credit hours), two analytics courses (six credit hours) and two elective courses (six credit hours).

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation course</th>
<th>SCMA 524</th>
<th>Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management ¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Core courses</td>
<td>SCMA 602</td>
<td>Global Supply Chain Management 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SCMA 603</td>
<td>SAP ERP and Supply Chain Management 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SCMA 606</td>
<td>Supply Chain Innovation 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SCMA 645</td>
<td>Management Science 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SCMA 675</td>
<td>Operations Management 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SCMA 697</td>
<td>Guided Study in Supply Chain Management 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Analytics courses**

Select two from the following:

- ECON 501 Introduction to Econometrics
- ECON 612 Econometrics
- OPER/STAT 649 Statistical Quality Control
- SCMA 632 Statistical Analysis and Modeling
- SCMA 648 Analytics for Organizational Decision-making
- SCMA 669 Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business
- SCMA 677 Quality Management and Six Sigma

**Electives**

Select two approved electives which may include the following (and courses not used toward analytics requirement above):

- ACCT 608 Managerial Accounting Concepts
- INFO 620 Data Communications
- INFO 632 Business Process Engineering
- INFO 661 Information Systems for Managers
- INFO 664 Information Systems for Business Intelligence
- MGMT 654 Negotiations
- MGMT 655 Entrepreneurship
- MGMT 656 Best Practices in Leadership
- MKTG 671 Marketing Management
- MKTG 673 Marketing Research
- MKTG 674 Service Quality Management
- MKTG 675 Digital Marketing
- MKTG 678 Marketing Analytics
- SCMA 643 Applied Multivariate Methods

Total Hours: 30

¹ Course may be waived for demonstrated equivalence.
Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30 (33 if foundation course is required)

Graduate program director
George Zsidisin, Ph.D., C.P.M.
Professor, Department of Supply Chain Management and Analytics
Email: gazsidisin@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1488

Additional contact
Colleen A. Davis
Senior director, master’s programs
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Program website business.vcu.edu/graduate/mastersupplychain.html
(http://business.vcu.edu/graduate/mastersupplychain.html)
The School of Dentistry was created in 1893 when the University College of Medicine opened with a dental department as one of its original divisions. The Medical College of Virginia inaugurated a dental education program in 1897, and in 1913 the two schools were merged to form the MCV School of Dentistry.

In 1968, by an act of the Virginia General Assembly, MCV was merged with Richmond Professional Institute to form Virginia Commonwealth University. The School of Dentistry is located on VCU’s MCV Campus.

The facilities of the School of Dentistry are housed in the Wood Memorial, Lyons and Perkinson buildings and contain clinical facilities, research facilities, classrooms, student laboratories, departmental offices and a computer-learning laboratory.

The school provides opportunities for selected, qualified individuals to study dentistry under the most favorable conditions and in accordance with the standards established by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

The degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) is awarded to graduates of the school’s professional program and the Bachelor of Science degree to graduates of the Dental Hygiene Program within the Department of Oral Health Promotion and Community Outreach.

Graduates of the advanced dental education programs in endodontics, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry and periodontics are awarded the Master of Science in Dentistry degree.

Administration

520 North 12th Street
P.O. Box 980566
Richmond, Virginia 23298-0566
Phone: (804) 828-9184
Fax: (804) 828-6072
dentistry.vcu.edu (http://www.dentistry.vcu.edu)

David C. Sarrett, D.M.D.
Dean

Richard D. Archer, D.D.S.
Associate dean, Clinical Dental Education

B. Ellen Byrne, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Senior associate dean

Laurie C. Carter, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Director, Advanced Dental Education Programs

Riki Gottlieb, D.M.D.
Assistant dean, Admissions

Michael Healy, D.D.S.
Senior associate dean, Student Services

Rebecca Pousson
Executive associate dean

Harvey A. Schenkein, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Assistant dean, Research

Accreditation

Dental hygiene (bachelor’s degree)
Commission on Dental Accreditation

Dentistry (D.D.S.)
Commission on Dental Accreditation

Advanced Dental Education Programs*
Commission on Dental Accreditation

*(includes endodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry, periodontics and Advanced Education in General Dentistry)

Mission

The mission of the VCU School of Dentistry:

- Education of highly qualified dental professionals
- Research that advances the understanding of oral health, disease and effective treatment
- Service to the community
- Improved oral and general health of our patients and the general population

Philips Institute for Oral Health Research

Iain M. Morgan, Ph.D.
Director

The mission of the Philips Institute for Oral Health Research is to serve the university and the commonwealth of Virginia as a center of educational and research excellence focused on infectious, neoplastic and genetic diseases of the oral cavity, head and neck.

Dentistry, Master of Science in (M.S.D.) with a concentration in endodontics

Program accreditation
Commission of Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association

Program goal
The advanced dental specialty education program in endodontics offers the resident a comprehensive 24-month course of study in clinical and didactic endodontics. The program is designed to educate qualified individuals to pursue careers as practicing clinical dental specialists in endodontics. The program meets the educational requirements for limitation of practice to the specialty of endodontics and prepares the student for examination by the American Board of Endodontics.

Students completing the program earn a specialty Certificate in Endodontics and a Master of Science in Dentistry degree. The program conforms to the Standards for Advanced Specialty Education in Endodontics and carries a full approval status from the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

Student learning outcomes
Graduates of this program will:
1. Formulate and conduct a relevant research project as evidenced in the completion of a master’s thesis in a publishable format for a refereed journal
2. Be equipped to practice evidence-based endodontics
3. Have demonstrated the ability to communicate with patients, colleagues in general dentistry, dental specialties, medicine and other health care practitioners in the provision of ethical and informed patient care
4. Be proficient in:
   a. Diagnosis, treatment planning and prognosis of pulpal and periradicular disease
   b. Provision of nonsurgical endodontics, retreatment and surgical endodontics
   c. Outcome assessment
   d. Diagnostic imaging technologies
   e. Management of medically compromised patients
   f. Emergency management of endodontic conditions
   g. Management of orofacial pain and dental anxiety
   h. Use of magnification technologies
   i. Use of emerging techniques of endodontic treatment
   j. Management of traumatic dental injuries
5. Be eligible to sit for the Diplomate Boards of the American Board of Endodontists

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

For a current copy of the program handbook, contact the VCU School of Dentistry’s Department of Endodontics.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.D.</td>
<td>Fall (Jul 1 start date)</td>
<td>Aug 15</td>
<td>National Dental Boards, part 1 and 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- Applicants from countries where English is not the primary and official language must complete the TOEFL with a minimum score of 100.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Graduation from an accredited university or its equivalent, with a Doctor of Dental Surgery or Doctor of Medicine in Dentistry or the international equivalent
2. For international students, an external credential evaluation of all international transcripts to complete the application (WES, ECE, and AACRAO are some of the recommended NACES-approved providers.)
3. One “dean’s letter” from the academic institution from which the individual received the dental degree that gives class rank, GPA and overall academic recommendation
4. Two letters of recommendation from individuals who are in a position to judge the applicant’s ability to engage in graduate study and pursue advanced dental training
5. A written letter of professional intent or biographical statement that reflects the candidate’s desire to pursue the specialty and the intent upon receipt of the degree and certificate
6. A resume or curriculum vitae
7. An administrative application fee made payable to the Department of Endodontics, School of Dentistry (See website for details. This fee is in addition to the application fee that has to be paid with the submission of the graduate application. One year of an AEGD, GPR or the private practice equivalent is preferred but not required.)

Admission to the advanced dental specialty program in endodontics is through American Dental Education Association Postdoctoral Application Support Service. PASS historically opens to receive applications mid-May of the year prior to the year for which the candidate wishes to enroll and is open until Aug. 15. Please refer to the VCU School of Dentistry website, Department of Endodontics postgraduate information or ADEA PASS for specific yearly dates of the application period.

Candidates are required to interview in person. Invitations to interview followed by an invitation to accept a position in the residency are extended by the program director in the fall at the close of the application period. For example, the candidate will submit an application through ADEA PASS during the application period (May through August). An invitation will be extended to interview with the advanced dental specialty program in endodontics admission committee in August or September. The candidate will be informed of selection or nonselection by Nov. 15. The resident will start the clinical program the following June and the academic program the following September.

Admission to the Master of Science in Dentistry degree program is made after the candidate has accepted a residency position in the advanced dental specialty program in endodontics.

Degree requirements

All course work must be completed within the 24-month timeframe for the program. Any extension of the 24-months is at the discretion of the program director. Extensions are approved only in extenuating circumstances.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a cumulative GPA of 3.0 must be maintained. Residents must receive a minimum grade of B for all required courses. A student with a grade of C in a required course may be required to repeat the course. A second grade of C in a required course may result in dismissal from the program. At the discretion of the program director, a resident retaking a required course may still be eligible to take the comprehensive written and oral examinations and to start the thesis research process prior to successful completion of the repeat of the course.

In the last semester of the second year the resident will take a written and an oral comprehensive examination designed to evaluate the resident’s ability to integrate the didactic and clinical course material, demonstrate critical-thinking skills and demonstrate command of evidence-based endodontics. Both the written and oral examinations must be successfully completed to receive the specialty Certificate in Endodontics.

The Certificate of Endodontics, conferred by the School of Dentistry, is only conferred upon completion and awarding of the Master of Science in Dentistry.

The residents must formulate, complete and defend a research project. The resident will prepare a manuscript in a thesis format or in the publishable format of a refereed journal. The project must be completed, defended and presented in a research forum in order for the resident to qualify for receipt of the Master of Science in Dentistry.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DENS 550</td>
<td>Update in Practice Administration</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 580</td>
<td>Biostatistics and Research Design in Dentistry (two credits taken twice)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 660</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Care Conference (0.5 credits earned twice)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 699</td>
<td>Thesis Guidance (two credits taken four times)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 700</td>
<td>Basic Sciences and Graduate Dentistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENDO 522</td>
<td>Introduction: Specialty of Endodontics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENDO 530</td>
<td>Advanced Oral Pathology (one credit taken twice)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENDO 532</td>
<td>Management of Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office (one credit taken twice)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENDO 560</td>
<td>Endodontic Therapy Lectures</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENDO 650</td>
<td>Endodontic Topic Literature Review (3.5 credits taken four times)</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENDO 652</td>
<td>Endodontic Clinical Seminars (1.5 credits taken four times)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENDO 654</td>
<td>Endodontic Management of the Medically Compromised Patient (one credit taken twice)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENDO 656</td>
<td>Endodontic Current Literature Review (one credit taken four times)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENDO 680</td>
<td>Clinical Endodontics (five credits taken four times)</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 72.5

1. Students register for .5 credits for both fall and spring semesters for both years of the program. They receive a continuing grade in the fall semester and a pass/fail grade at the end of the spring semester for the entire year. Students take the class four times for .5 credits each time, but they are only graded for two .5 credit classes.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 72.5

Plan of study

The following illustrates how the course requirements are met during the 24 months of the program. No additional class work or course work is required other than the required courses listed below.

Year one

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DENS 580</td>
<td>Biostatistics and Research Design in Dentistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 660</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Care Conference (no credits earned in fall; continuing course)</td>
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<td>Endodontic Clinical Seminars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENDO 656</td>
<td>Endodontic Current Literature Review</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Graduate program director
Garry L. Myers, D.D.S.
Email: gmyers3@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-2903

Additional contact
Jennifer S. Gay

Administrative assistant, curriculum and advanced education
Email: jgay3@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-2027

Program website: endodontics.vcu.edu/postgrad (http://www.endodontics.vcu.edu/postgrad)

**Dentistry, Master of Science in (M.S.D.)**

**with a concentration in endodontics**

**Program accreditation**
Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association

**Program goal**
The Department of Endodontics offers a 24-month advanced education Master of Science in Dentistry program. The program teaches the latest in clinical care in an environment modeled after private orthodontic practice. The curriculum is composed of seminars and small-group instruction with emphasis on critical thinking and problem-solving. Contemporary concepts of endodontic treatment are reviewed for substantive and scientific content. Also included are regularly scheduled orthognathic surgery conferences and seminars with other dental and medical specialists.

The postgraduate program is designed to develop skilled practitioners who are prepared to grow with the future and manage busy orthodontic practices. Our goal is not only to familiarize future orthodontists with contemporary techniques but also to teach them how to interpret cutting-edge scientific information and use it to approach clinical challenges logically and practically.

The program’s clinical experience consists of a wide variety of orthodontic patients, including complex cases requiring orthognathic surgery and patients with facial clefts and other craniofacial abnormalities. An original research experience is an integral part of our program with each project intended to produce results suitable for publication in a nationally circulated orthodontic journal. The successful completion of a research project is required. All senior residents present their research at the Virginia Association of Orthodontists’ meeting. The program makes students educationally qualified to take the written portion of the American Board of Orthodontics (http://www.americanboardortho.com) examination in the senior year. Residents are required to pass the written portion of the examination prior to graduation and are encouraged to continue and complete the board certification process. This exam is given prior to the American Association of Orthodontists’ meeting.

Students completing the program earn a specialty Certificate in Endodontics and Master of Science in Dentistry degree. Students must complete the requirements for the master’s degree prior to being awarded the specialty certificate.

The program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

**Student learning outcomes**
Graduates of this program will:

1. Formulate and conduct a relevant research project as evidenced in the completion of a master's thesis in a publishable format for a refereed journal
2. Be equipped to practice evidence-based orthodontics
3. Have demonstrated the ability to communicate with patients, colleagues in general dentistry, dental specialties, medicine and other health care practitioners in the provision of ethical and informed patient care

4. Be proficient in:
   a. Diagnosis, treatment planning, treatment, retention and prognosis of dental malocclusions and
   b. dento-facial disharmony
   c. Outcome assessment
   d. Diagnostic imaging technologies
   e. Management of patients with craniofacial deformities
   f. Management of combined orthodontic and surgical cases
   g. Use of various fixed and removable appliances, aligner technology
   h. Use of temporary anchorage devices and soft tissue laser
   i. Use of digital technology for records taking and treatments with aligners

5. Be eligible to sit for the Diplomate Boards of the American Board of Orthodontists

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
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<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.D.</td>
<td>Fall (Jul 1 start date)</td>
<td>Sep 2</td>
<td>NBDE, GRE, TOEFL or IELTS if international</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Agreement to participate in the Postdoctoral Dental Matching Program
2. Agreement to participate in the American Dental Education Association Postdoctoral Application Support Service
3. Graduation or anticipated graduation from dental school
4. Eligibility to obtain a Virginia temporary resident's license from the Virginia Board of Dentistry
5. Completion of National Boards Part I and anticipated completion of Part II
6. Completion of GRE
7. Completion of TOEFL or IELTS (for students whose native language is not English)
8. Application to the orthodontic graduate program through the ADEA PASS program. The PASS application should include the following items:
   a. Online application form
   b. Essay/personal statement: Please tell us about your personal history that led you to apply for an educational program in orthodontics. Include your plans for the future and any factors you believe are important for us to know in reviewing your application. Please limit your comments to one page.
   c. Curriculum vitae/resume: Include a curriculum vitae/resume to give us more information about yourself. Include your education and work experiences, awards, honors, research experiences, and personal interests.
   d. Undergraduate college transcripts: Include official transcripts from all colleges or universities you have attended before dental school.
   e. Dental school transcripts
   f. Institution Evaluation Form (completed by the dean of your dental school)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)
Degree requirements

1. The 24-month certificate program in orthodontics begins July 1 with two weeks of classes to familiarize students with concepts of growth and development, diagnosis and treatment planning, and basic biomechanical principles. First-year residents see new patients in the clinic in mid-July. In August, first-year residents begin a full clinic schedule that includes a morning and afternoon clinic session on most days.

2. Didactic course work in the department consists primarily of small-group seminar sessions for an average of two hours each day.

3. Clinical work simulates a private-practice environment. Each team consists of one junior and one senior orthodontic resident and a dental assistant whose time is dedicated to that team. The orthodontic clinic has its own business manager, practice manager and receptionist. Patient records are computerized, and billing, scheduling and record storage are accomplished using a commercial orthodontic office management system. The objective is to maximize clinical efficiency so residents fully develop the thought processes necessary to master orthodontic principles and treatment techniques. Graduates are prepared to enter into a successful and busy orthodontic practice.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DENS 550</td>
<td>Update in Practice Administration</td>
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<tr>
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<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 630</td>
<td>Orthodontic-Periodontic-AEGD Conference (0.5 credits taken four times)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 660</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Care Conference (0.5 credits earned twice)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 699</td>
<td>Thesis Guidance (two credits taken four times)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 700</td>
<td>Basic Sciences and Graduate Dentistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORTH 532</td>
<td>Biomechanics: Theoretical Basis for Tooth Movement</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORTH 650</td>
<td>Literature Review (two credits taken four times)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORTH 652</td>
<td>Growth and Development (two credits taken four times)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORTH 654</td>
<td>Orthodontic Diagnosis and Treatment Planning (two credits taken four times)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORTH 656</td>
<td>Current Literature (two credits taken four times)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORTH 658</td>
<td>Analysis of Orthodontic Treatment (1.5 credits taken four times)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORTH 660</td>
<td>Orthognathic Conference (one credit taken four times)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORTH 662</td>
<td>Craniofacial Anomalies (one credit taken four times)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORTH 680</td>
<td>Orthodontic Clinic (6.5 credits taken four times)</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 92

1. Students register for .5 credits for both fall and spring semesters for both years of the program. They receive a continuing grade in the fall semester and a pass/fail grade at the end of the spring semester for the entire year. Students take the class four times for .5 credits each time, but they are only graded for two .5 credit classes.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 92

Plan of study

Year one

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>DENS 580</td>
<td>Biostatistics and Research Design in Dentistry</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DENS 630</td>
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<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DENS 660</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Care Conference (no credits earned in fall; continuing course)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DENS 699</td>
<td>Thesis Guidance</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ORTH 532</td>
<td>Biomechanics: Theoretical Basis for Tooth Movement</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dentistry, Master of Science in (M.S.D.) with a concentration in pediatric dentistry

Program goals and objectives

The didactic requirements of the Master of Science in Dentistry are combined with the goals of the M.S.D. program to provide the student with a strong clinical background that is supported by a strong background in research methodology.

Program goals

1. To provide an academic environment for inquiry in which expertise and knowledge in basic sciences and clinical pediatric dentistry can be achieved
2. To provide a sound background in medicine as it applies to the pediatric/adolescent patient and to patients with special health care needs
3. To provide a sound background in oral pathology
4. To be able to interpret, critique and apply literature associated with the field of pediatric dentistry
5. To develop sound diagnostic, clinical, nonsurgical and surgical skills in the clinic and in the operating room
6. To provide didactic instruction and clinical training in the area of nonpharmacologic and pharmacologic behavior management
7. To provide instruction and training in growth and development to include clinical interceptive orthodontic care
Graduates of this program will be competent in:

**Program objectives**

1. To be exposed to the basic sciences and be able to apply concepts to clinical pediatric dentistry
2. To be able to critically critique and interpret the old and new literature
3. To have an understanding of oral pathology and medicine as it applies to management of the pediatric/adolescent patient and patients with special health care needs
4. To have residents become exposed to and proficient in multiple nonsurgical and surgical treatment modalities to include treatment of patients under general anesthesia
5. To become competent in diagnosis and treatment planning
6. To obtain competency and certification in moderate conscious sedation
7. To complete research, M.S.D. and prepare a paper for presentation and publication
8. To prepare the student to successfully complete Part I and II of the ABPD examination
9. To develop communication and presentation skills and lifelong learners

**Student learning outcomes**

Graduates of this program will be competent in:

**Knowledge – concepts, facts and information**

1. Knowledge and skills in the areas of pediatric medicine and oral medicine, as well as the delivery of dental care and oral surgery for compromised children and adolescents
2. In-depth knowledge and skills in the use of pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic behavior management techniques
3. Knowledge of hospital protocol, policies, rules, regulations and the ability to treat pediatric dental patients in the hospital environment
4. Ability to evaluate the dental literature and its research findings to the benefit of patients and to engage in scholarly activity which results in completion of a master’s degree thesis suitable for publication
5. Knowledge of preventive and corrective dental procedures relating to general and oral health and to growth and development of the stomatognathic system
6. Knowledge and skill in oral and maxillofacial radiology specific to the needs of the child and adolescent
7. Preparation for managing a contemporary pediatric dental practice relative to practice administration, efficient auxiliary utilization and marketing
8. Understanding of the biomedical sciences related to the practice of contemporary pediatric dentistry: biostatistics/epidemiology, pharmacology, microbiology, embryology, genetics, anatomy and oral and medical pathology
9. In-depth knowledge of the physical, psychological and social development of children
10. In-depth knowledge of oral and perioral lesions and anomalies in the pediatric dental patient
11. In-depth knowledge of the management of dental and medical emergencies in the dental setting
12. Understanding of normal and abnormal language development
13. Understanding of jurisprudence, risk management and biomedical ethics
14. Understanding office and practice management including the use of contemporary technologies

**Clinical competency**

1. Ability to appropriately manage and guide the behavior of the child patient to accept needed treatment and to provide advice or guidance to the parent to enhance the child’s acceptance
2. Expertise in managing and rendering optimal dental care for the medically, emotionally or physically challenged pediatric dental patient
3. Ability to perform evaluations of the physical status of children and adolescents
4. Ability to transform didactic/learned information into appropriate clinical situations
5. Skill in the use of pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic methods for the comprehensive control of pain and anxiety
6. Ability to recognize, refer and treat children who have sustained abuse and neglect
7. Expertise in dental surgical procedures for the restoration of the dentition
8. Skill/dexterity in performing procedures of periodontal, mucocutaneous and associated hard tissues of the oral-maxillofacial region, including in-depth knowledge of biopsy and adjunctive diagnostic tests
9. Appropriate management of orofacial injuries

**Diagnostic skills**

1. Ability to recognize the early signs of child abuse and neglect
2. Ability to diagnose dental trauma
3. Skill in the diagnosis, prevention and treatment planning of pediatric disease in the primary and permanent dentition and periodontal, mucocutaneous and associated hard tissues of the oral-maxillofacial region
4. Application and understanding of patient monitoring

**Communication skills**

1. Competence in the skills required to instruct and motivate children and their caretakers in methods of achieving and maintaining optimum oral health
2. Ability to prepare patients and caretakers for procedures
3. Ability to interact meaningfully with dental and nondental health care providers
4. Ability to work cooperatively with consultants and clinicians of other specialties and health-related fields

**Organizational skills and documentation**
1. Coordination of tasks such that diagnosis, case analysis, treatment planning and clinical management of oral-facial health problems of the pediatric dental patient occur in a logical, efficient manner
2. Ability to present an organized treatment plan to the patient, parent, attending and front desk
3. Ability to manage time and tasks and to work effectively with people

Research
1. Coordination and implementation of a research project
2. Successful completion of a research project, thesis preparation and thesis defense

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.D.</td>
<td>Fall (Jul 1 start date)</td>
<td>Sep 15</td>
<td>National Dental Boards, Part 1 and 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- Applicants from countries where English is not the primary and official language must complete the TOEFL.
- Upon acceptance in the specialty certificate program in pediatric dentistry, applicants must apply to the Graduate School for the M.S.D.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. D.D.S. or D.M.D. from an American Dental Association-accredited dental school
2. Successful completion of Part I of the National Dental Board Exam at the time of application and completion of Part II by the time of matriculation
3. Minimum grade point average of 3.0 (4.0 scale) or equivalent
4. Ranking in the top 50 percent of the class of the dental school attended
5. Personal interview
6. An externship in pediatric dentistry of at least one week in duration while attending dental school (highly encouraged)
7. Participation status with American Dental Education Association Postdoctoral Application Support Service and the Postdoctoral Dental Matching Program
8. Agreement to participate in the Postdoctoral Dental Matching Program
9. Agreement to participate in the ADEA PASS
10. Graduation or anticipated graduation from a CODA-accredited U.S. or Canadian dental school
11. Eligibility to obtain a Virginia Temporary Resident’s License from the Virginia Board of Dentistry
12. Completion of GRE
13. Completion of TOEFL or IELTS for students whose native language is not English
14. Application to the pediatric graduate program is accepted through the ADEA PASS program. The PASS application should include the following items:
   a. Online application form
   b. Essay/personal statement: Please tell us about your personal history that led you to apply for an educational program in pediatrics. Include your plans for the future and any factors you believe are important for us to know in reviewing your application. Please limit your comments to one page.
Special admission requirements
International applicants must complete the following requirements and documentation. Permanent U.S. residents and international students are advised to contact VCU International Admissions (http://international.admissions.vcu.edu) to ensure eligibility.

1. D.D.S. or D.M.D. from an international dental school program
2. Provide all information in items 1 through 7 above
3. Test of English as a Foreign Language (http://www.ets.org/toefl) (minimum score of 600 on paper-based test and 100 on Internet-based test)
4. International English Language Testing System (http://www.ielts.org) (score of 6.5 or greater acceptable; test must be taken within two years of application date)

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a cumulative GPA of 3.0 must be maintained. Students must receive a minimum grade of B for all required courses. Students will take written and oral examinations and must obtain a minimum grade of B or a passing grade. If either is not obtained then the examination must be retaken. For research the student must have a thesis defense and present a poster by mid-April of their second year. Extensions may be approved but at the students own expense.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DENS 550</td>
<td>Update in Practice Administration</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 580</td>
<td>Biostatistics and Research Design in Dentistry</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 660</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Care Conference (0.5 credits earned twice)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 699</td>
<td>Thesis Guidance (two credits taken four times)</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>DENS 700</td>
<td>Basic Sciences and Graduate Dentistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORTH 620</td>
<td>Orthodontic Clinic for Non-orthodontic Graduate Students (one credit taken four times)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEDD 511</td>
<td>General Anesthesia Rotation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEDD 512</td>
<td>Growth and Development</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEDD 514</td>
<td>Introduction to Pediatric Dentistry</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEDD 572</td>
<td>Pediatric Dental Emergency Service</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEDD 612</td>
<td>Seminar Series: Pediatric Dentistry and Medicine (two credits taken two times)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEDD 620</td>
<td>Pediatric Medicine Rotation</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEDD 640</td>
<td>Clinical Teaching (two credits taken three times)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEDD 650</td>
<td>Literature Teaching (two credits taken two times)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEDD 654</td>
<td>Treatment Planning Seminar (one credit taken four times)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PEDD 656</td>
<td>Current Literature Review (one credit taken two times)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEDD 680</td>
<td>Pediatric Dental Clinic (four credits taken four times)</td>
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</table>

Total Hours: 69.5

Notes:
1. Students register for .5 credits for both fall and spring semesters for both years of the program. They receive a continuing grade in the fall semester and a pass/fail grade at the end of the spring semester for the entire year. Students take the class four times for .5 credits each time, but they are only graded for two .5-credit classes.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 69.5

Plan of study

Year one

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>DENS 580</td>
<td>Biostatistics and Research Design in Dentistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 660</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Care Conference (no credit earned in fall; continuing course)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 699</td>
<td>Thesis Guidance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORTH 620</td>
<td>Orthodontic Clinic for Non-orthodontic Graduate Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEDD 514</td>
<td>Introduction to Pediatric Dentistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEDD 572</td>
<td>Pediatric Dental Emergency Service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEDD 612</td>
<td>Seminar Series: Pediatric Dentistry and Medicine</td>
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<td>PEDD 620</td>
<td>Pediatric Medicine Rotation</td>
</tr>
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<td>PEDD 645</td>
<td>Treatment Planning Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEDD 656</td>
<td>Current Literature Review</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PEDD 680</td>
<td>Pediatric Dental Clinic</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Term Hours: 19

Spring semester                  |       |
| DENS 580 | Biostatistics and Research Design in Dentistry | 2 |
| DENS 660 | Interdisciplinary Care Conference              | 0.5 |
| DENS 699 | Thesis Guidance                                | 2 |
| DENS 700 | Basic Sciences and Graduate Dentistry          | 3 |
| ORTH 620 | Orthodontic Clinic for Non-orthodontic Graduate Students | 1 |
| PEDD 511 | General Anesthesia Rotation                    | 3 |

Term Hours: 11
### Program Objectives

1. To be exposed to the basic sciences and be able to apply concepts to clinical periodontics
2. To be able to critically critique and interpret the old and new literature
3. To have an understanding of oral pathology and medicine as it applies to management of the periodontal patient
4. To have residents become exposed to and proficient in multiple nonsurgical and surgical treatment modalities
5. To become competent in the treatment planning, site preparation, surgical placement and maintenance of dental implants
6. To obtain competency and certification in enteral and parental conscious sedation
7. To complete research, M.S.D. and prepare a paper for presentation and publication
8. To prepare the student to successfully complete Part I and II of the American Board of Periodontology examination
9. To develop communication and presentation skills and lifelong learners

---

**Dentistry, Master of Science in (M.S.D.) with a concentration in periodontics**

#### Program Goals and Objectives

The didactic requirements of the M.S.D. are combined with the goals of the M.S.D. program to provide the student with a strong clinical background which is supported by a strong background in research methodology.

#### Program Goals

1. To provide an academic environment for inquiry in which expertise and knowledge in basic sciences and clinical periodontics can be achieved
2. To provide a sound background in medicine as it applies to the periodontal patient
3. To provide a sound background in oral pathology
4. To be able to interpret, critique and apply periodontal and associated literature
5. To develop sound diagnostic, clinical, nonsurgical and surgical skills
6. To provide didactic instruction and clinical training in the area of dental implants
7. To provide methods of pain and anxiety control, including ADA certification in intravenous conscious sedation
8. To provide an environment for the interpretation and implementation of research
9. Enable successful completion of the American Board of Periodontology exam
10. To develop sound lifelong didactic and clinical learning skills
11. To provide specialists in periodontics for community health care, professional service and dental education

#### Program Objectives

1. To be exposed to the basic sciences and be able to apply concepts to clinical periodontics
2. To be able to critically critique and interpret the old and new literature
3. To have an understanding of oral pathology and medicine as it applies to management of the periodontal patient
4. To have residents become exposed to and proficient in multiple nonsurgical and surgical treatment modalities
5. To become competent in the treatment planning, site preparation, surgical placement and maintenance of dental implants
6. To obtain competency and certification in enteral and parental conscious sedation
7. To complete research, M.S.D. and prepare a paper for presentation and publication
8. To prepare the student to successfully complete Part I and II of the American Board of Periodontology examination
9. To develop communication and presentation skills and lifelong learners


Student learning outcomes

1. To provide an academic environment for inquiry in which expertise and knowledge in basic sciences and clinical periodontics are achieved
2. To provide a sound background in medicine as it applies to the periodontal patient
3. To provide a sound background in oral pathology with a 100 percent completion of oral pathology rotation
4. To be able to interpret, critique and apply periodontal and associated literature with a 100 percent completion of periodontal courses measured
5. To develop sound diagnostic clinic, nonsurgical and surgical skills
6. To provide didactic instruction and clinical training in the area of dental implants
7. To provide methods of pain and anxiety control, including ADA certification in intravenous conscious sedation
8. To provide an environment for the interpretation and implementation of research with a 100 percent successful completion of biostatistics and research design in dentistry course
9. Enable successful completion of the American Board of Periodontology written and oral examinations
10. To develop sound lifelong didactic and clinical learning skills
11. To provide specialists in periodontics for community health care, professional service and dental education with a 100 percent graduate participation in specialty clinical practice

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.D.</td>
<td>Fall (Jul 1 start date)</td>
<td>Jul 1, a year previous to entry</td>
<td>National Dental Boards, Part 1 and 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- Applicants from countries where English is not the primary and official language must complete the TOEFL with a score of 100 or higher.
- International applicants must include an external credential evaluation of all international transcripts to complete the application. WES, ECE and AACRAO are some of the recommended NACES-approved providers.
- Upon acceptance in the specialty certificate program in periodontics, applicants must apply to the Graduate School for the M.S.D.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. D.D.S. or D.M.D. degree from U.S. or Canadian dental school
2. Part I of the National Dental Board at the time of application and Part II by time of matriculation (official report or certified copy)
3. Transcripts in a sealed envelope from each college/university/dental program attended
4. GPA/class ranking forwarded from the dean’s office of the dental school attended
5. Three letters of recommendation addressed to the director of graduate periodontics
6. Curriculum vitae and personal statement
7. Interview upon request from program director
### Special admission requirements

International applicants must complete the following requirements and documentation. Permanent U.S. residents and international students are advised to contact VCU International Admissions (http://international.admissions.vcu.edu) to ensure eligibility.

1. D.D.S. or D.M.D. from an international dental school program
2. Provide all information in items three through seven above
3. An external credential evaluation for international applicants of all international transcripts to complete the application (WES, ECE and AACRAO are some of the recommended NACES-approved providers.)
4. TOEFL with a minimum score of 100 for applicants from countries where English is not the primary and official language

### Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a cumulative GPA of 3.0 must be maintained. Students must receive a minimum grade of B for all required courses. Students will take written and oral examinations and must obtain a minimum grade of B or a passing grade. If either is not obtained, then the examination must be retaken. For research the student must have a thesis defense, present a poster and prepare a manuscript for submission by May 1 of the third year. Extensions may be approved, but students are responsible for the expense.

### Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DENS 550</td>
<td>Update in Practice Administration</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 580</td>
<td>Biostatistics and Research Design in Dentistry (two credits taken twice)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 630</td>
<td>Orthodontic-Periodontic-AEGD Conference (0.5 credits taken six times)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 660</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Care Conference (0.5 credits earned three times)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 699</td>
<td>Thesis Guidance (1.5 credits taken six times)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 700</td>
<td>Basic Sciences and Graduate Dentistry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERI 508</td>
<td>Physical Diagnosis</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERI 511</td>
<td>Anesthesiology Rotation</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERI 512</td>
<td>Conscious Sedation (two credits taken twice)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERI 514</td>
<td>Introduction to Periodontics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERI 520</td>
<td>Principles of Periodontics (two credits taken twice)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERI 552</td>
<td>Implantology</td>
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<td>Clinical Pathology Rotation</td>
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<td>Medicine: Oral Medicine Seminar (1.5 credits taken six times)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERI 650</td>
<td>Periodontal Literature Review (three credits taken six times)</td>
<td>18</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERI 654</td>
<td>Treatment Plan: Case Presentations</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERI 656</td>
<td>Current Literature Review (three credits taken six times)</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERI 680</td>
<td>Clinical Periodontics (five credits taken six times)</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>PERI 719</td>
<td>Specialty Practice Management</td>
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</table>

**Total Hours:** 119

1. For DENS 660, students register for .5 credits for both fall and spring semesters of all three years of the program. They receive a continuing grade in the fall semester and grade at the end of the spring semester for the entire year. Students take the class six times for .5 credits each time, but they are only graded for three 0.5 credit classes.

### Plan of study

**Year one**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<td>DENS 580 Biostatistics and Research Design in Dentistry</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
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<td>DENS 630 Orthodontic-Periodontic-AEGD Conference</td>
<td>0.5</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>DENS 660 Interdisciplinary Care Conference (no credits earned in fall; continuing course)</td>
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<td>DENS 699 Thesis Guidance</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PERI 508 Physical Diagnosis</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PERI 512 Conscious Sedation</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PERI 514 Introduction to Periodontics</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PERI 520 Principles of Periodontics</td>
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<td>PERI 552 Implantology</td>
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<td>PERI 630 Medicine: Oral Medicine Seminar</td>
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<td>PERI 650 Periodontal Literature Review</td>
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<td>PERI 654 Treatment Plan: Case Presentations</td>
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<td>PERI 656 Current Literature Review</td>
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**Term Hours:** 27.5

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<tr>
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<td>DENS 580 Biostatistics and Research Design in Dentistry</td>
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<td>DENS 660 Interdisciplinary Care Conference (no credits earned in fall; continuing course)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>DENS 699 Thesis Guidance</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PERI 511 Anesthesiology Rotation</td>
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<tr>
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<td>PERI 512 Conscious Sedation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PERI 552 Implantology</td>
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<td>PERI 630 Medicine: Oral Medicine Seminar</td>
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<td></td>
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**Term Hours:** 26.5

**Year two**

**Fall semester**

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DENS 630 Orthodontic-Periodontic-AEGD Conference</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 660 Interdisciplinary Care Conference (no credit earned in fall; continuing course)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DENS 699 Thesis Guidance</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Peri 630 Medicine: Oral Medicine Seminar
### Peri 650 Periodontal Literature Review
### Peri 654 Treatment Plan: Case Presentations
### Peri 660 Current Literature Review
### Peri 680 Clinical Periodontics

**Term Hours:** 15.5

### Year Three

#### Spring Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dens 630</td>
<td>Orthodontic-Periodontic-AEGD Conference</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dens 660</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Care Conference ¹</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dens 699</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peri 619</td>
<td>Clinical Pathology Rotation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peri 630</td>
<td>Medicine: Oral Medicine Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peri 650</td>
<td>Periodontal Literature Review</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peri 654</td>
<td>Treatment Plan: Case Presentations</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peri 656</td>
<td>Current Literature Review</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peri 680</td>
<td>Clinical Periodontics</td>
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**Term Hours:** 16.5

#### Fall Semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dens 550</td>
<td>Update in Practice Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dens 630</td>
<td>Orthodontic-Periodontic-AEGD Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dens 660</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Care Conference (no credit earned in fall; continuing course) ¹</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dens 699</td>
<td>Thesis Guidance</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peri 630</td>
<td>Medicine: Oral Medicine Seminar</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peri 650</td>
<td>Periodontal Literature Review</td>
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<td>Peri 654</td>
<td>Treatment Plan: Case Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peri 656</td>
<td>Current Literature Review</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peri 680</td>
<td>Clinical Periodontics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peri 719</td>
<td>Specialty Practice Management</td>
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**Term Hours:** 17

### Spring Semester

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dens 630</td>
<td>Orthodontic-Periodontic-AEGD Conference</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dens 660</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Care Conference ¹</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dens 699</td>
<td>Thesis Guidance</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peri 630</td>
<td>Medicine: Oral Medicine Seminar</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peri 650</td>
<td>Periodontal Literature Review</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peri 654</td>
<td>Treatment Plan: Case Presentations</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peri 656</td>
<td>Current Literature Review</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peri 680</td>
<td>Clinical Periodontics</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:** 16

**Total Hours:** 119

¹ For DENS 660, students register for .5 credits for both fall and spring semesters of all three years of the program. They receive a continuing grade in the fall semester and a grade at the end of the spring semester for the entire year. Students take the class six times for .5 credits each time, but they are only graded for three .5-credit classes.

### Program website: periodontics.vcu.edu/gradprogram (http://www.periodontics.vcu.edu/gradprogram)

### Oral Health Research, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

The Ph.D. in Oral Health Research prepares students for research-oriented careers as independent scientists in academia, government and industry. The curriculum is specifically designed to provide a strong foundation in biochemistry, molecular biology and oral biology. Students will select a research project from one of three main areas of focus:

- Cancer and developmental biology of the head and neck
- Infection and immunology in diseases of the head and neck
- Tissue engineering, stem cells and new materials for the orofacial region

These areas correspond to the critical areas identified by the National Institute for Dental and Craniofacial Research. The program emphasizes independent research culminating in the conduct of an original research project under the supervision of a faculty adviser. Participating faculty are associated not only with programs and departments within the Philips Institute for Oral and Craniofacial Molecular Biology within the School of Dentistry, but also the VCU Massey Cancer Center and VCU's School of Engineering.

Ph.D. students are expected to enroll as full-time graduate students. During the first year, students pursue research rotations, take formal coursework and become familiar with current research topics through seminars, discussion groups and lectures by distinguished scientists. By the end of the first year, students choose a faculty adviser and begin dissertation research. Following completion of the research project and defense of the doctoral dissertation, graduates will have acquired the necessary methods, techniques and critical-thinking skills to become the next generation of scientific leaders.

### Student learning outcomes

Graduates will have acquired fundamental knowledge of oral health research and strength in cutting-edge research that crosses disciplines. They will:

- Have an understanding of the structure, function and development of tissues of the oral and craniofacial region
- Be able to evaluate molecular mechanisms associated with head and neck cancer
- Be able to evaluate the causes and immunology of infectious diseases of the head and neck
- Be able to evaluate the potential for tissue engineering, stem cells and new materials in treating pathology of the head and neck

Graduates will have developed strong practical foundations on which to build research careers in biomedical science. They will have acquired:

- Practical laboratory skills
• Problem-solving skills and experimental design
• The ability to implement and conduct research based on problem-solving
• An understanding of funding and funding criteria
• The ability to communicate research findings

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

• Applicants whose native language is not English must submit satisfactory scores from a standardized test commonly used and deemed appropriate for evaluation of English language proficiency, such as the TOEFL. These scores should be 80 minimum for Internet-based tests, 213 minimum for computer-based tests and 550 minimum for paper-based tests.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

• A minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale
• A personal statement, which should include long-term career goals to assess reasons behind the candidate’s application; how a Ph.D. helps achieve those goals; the factors motivating a career in research; research experience, including dates, places and duration
• A current resume or curriculum vita
• Three letters of recommendation that speak to the scientific competency and experience of the applicant

Degree requirements

For students with a B.S. degree, the Ph.D. in Oral Health Research will require the completion of a minimum of 102 credits, including a minimum of 35 didactic credit hours comprising seven required courses (12 credits), six core courses (15 credits) and additional electives (eight credits). The remaining 67 credits (at minimum) will be taken in research courses.

Students entering the program with an M.S. will be required to complete a minimum of 81 credits, including a minimum of 23 didactic credit hours comprising six core courses (15 credits) combined with electives (eight credits). These students must also complete the research requirements for a minimum of 58 credits.

Students entering the program with a D.D.S or D.M.D. will be required to complete a minimum of 84 credits, including a minimum of 24 didactic credits comprising five required course (six credits), four core courses (10 credits) and electives (eight credits). These students must also complete the research requirements for a minimum of 60 credits.

Curriculum requirements for students entering with a B.S.

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 530</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biology Module 1: Protein Structure and Function</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 531</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biology Module 2: Basic Metabolism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 532</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biology Module 3: Central Dogma of Molecular Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Advanced Dental Education

Perry E. Jones, D.D.S., MAGD
Director, Continuing Education

Office of Continuing Education

For every professional person who serves the health sciences, education must be a lifetime commitment.

Graduation from dental school is the beginning of a lifelong educational experience for the serious, conscientious student of dentistry. Regardless of how well-prepared a health professional may be at the time of graduation, the adequate knowledge of yesterday is often insufficient information for today and tomorrow. With the rapid advancements made in dental technology and techniques, the professional must constantly seek new knowledge if the health care provider is to improve the health care given to patients.

Although the majority of continuing education courses are presented at the School of Dentistry, some are offered in other locations. The courses, which vary in length from one to four days, are scheduled throughout the year and consist of a variety of instructional methods from didactic to hands-on participation in clinical programs.

The instructional staff comprises faculty from the VCU School of Dentistry, guest lecturers from other dental schools and members of the dental profession and related professions from the United States and other countries.

Advanced Dental Education programs

The School of Dentistry provides advanced dental education programs in the areas of endodontics, oral and maxillofacial surgery, orthodontics,
pediatric dentistry, periodontics and advanced education in general dentistry. Satisfactory completion of the program leads to the award of a certificate of training and certifies eligibility for examination by the appropriate specialty board. All programs are accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association. Those enrolled in the advanced education programs are full-time resident trainees, considered to be the equivalent of full-time students. Under special circumstances, trainees may be accepted into some programs on a part-time basis.

Students enrolling in endodontics, orthodontics, pediatric dentistry and periodontics also are awarded a Master of Science in Dentistry degree upon completion of the requirements for the certificate and successful defense of a thesis. The certificate program and Master of Science in Dentistry degree must be completed concurrently. See the School of Dentistry graduate program for more information on the Master of Science in Dentistry degree program.

Applications for admission should be directed to the director of the appropriate program, School of Dentistry, Virginia Commonwealth University, P.O. Box 980566, Richmond, VA 23298-0566. Successful completion of Part II of the National Board Dental Examination is required prior to admittance to the program.

**Advanced Education in General Dentistry**

**Interim program director**

Alfred J. Certosimo, D.M.D.

The purpose of this 12-month advanced education residency program is to provide advanced education and clinical experience to prepare dental school graduates for a career in the practice of comprehensive, general dentistry. This program has a strong emphasis on treatment planning, experience with new technology, developing skills in aesthetic dentistry and restoration of dental implants. Graduates of this program will have attained added competency and confidence in all areas of dental care, practice management and professional responsibility. Further, this program provides residents with meaningful experiences in the delivery of dental care to diverse populations and people at high risk for dental disease. A strong affiliation exists between the School of Dentistry and the statewide Virginia Area Health Education Center, whose mission is to increase primary health care in underserved areas. The AEGD program works in concert with AHEC to deliver dental care and recruit/train minority health care providers from health professional shortage areas.

The School of Dentistry is committed to advanced dental education. The residents will receive hands-on experience with diagnostic and therapeutic care of special patient populations in addition to extensive training in the art and science of general dentistry. AEGD residents may be required to participate in off-site clinical experiences outside the city of Richmond, Virginia. Funds will be provided for travel and lodging when required.

**Eligibility and selection**

Dentists with the following qualifications are eligible to apply for the AEGD program: Dental graduates from institutions in the United States accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association and who have passed Part I of the National Board Examination.

Selection criteria include didactic and clinical achievements, extramural experience, interpersonal skills and a demonstrated commitment to pursue a career in general dentistry. Every effort is made to recruit qualified applications from minority dentists and dentists from health professional shortage areas or dentists who profess a desire to serve in these areas. A selection committee consisting of the program director, the assistant dean for admissions, members from specialty areas, former residents and current residents will screen all applications. Using the above-mentioned selection criteria, the most promising applicants will be invited for personal interviews. Trainees and alternates will be selected. This program participates in the Postdoctoral Application Support Service Program. Phone (804) 828-3601; fax (804) 828-3159; email drhaselton@vcu.edu.

**Endodontics**

Garry L. Myers, D.D.S.

Program director

The advanced dental education program in endodontics offers the student a comprehensive 24-month course of study in clinical, didactic and research endodontics. The program is designed to educate qualified individuals to pursue careers as educators, researchers and practicing clinicians, and meets the educational requirements for limitation of practice to the specialty of endodontics and examination by the American Board of Endodontics. The program is composed of several interrelated phases. The first phase consists of lecture courses that provide the student with a firm biological basis for patient care. The second phase consists of lectures, seminars and clinical training designed to produce clinical mastery of endodontics. The third phase is research experience gained through completion of an individual research project and master's thesis.

Students completing the program earn a specialty certificate in endodontics and a Master of Science in Dentistry degree. Students must complete the requirements for the master’s degree prior to being awarded the specialty certificate.

The program conforms to the Standards for Advanced Specialty Education in Endodontics and carries a full approval status from the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

**Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery**

Robert A. Strauss, D.D.S., M.D.

Professor and program director

The oral and maxillofacial surgery program is designed to provide extensive didactic and clinical experience in all aspects of the specialty. Those who complete training satisfactorily fulfill the prerequisites for examination and certification by the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery.

The didactic portion of the program includes formal courses in oral pathology, anatomy and physical diagnosis, as well as numerous weekly conferences and seminars. Clinical rotations on oral pathology, anesthesia, medicine, surgical oncology, neurosurgery, cardiology, general surgery, emergency room and the trauma services are used to supplement the trainee’s surgical experience. Throughout the program there is a constant correlation of the clinical experience with the biomedical sciences.

Through the multiple clinical and didactic facilities of the VCU Medical Center complex, the McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center and St. Mary's Hospital, there is ample material for education in the latest oral and maxillofacial surgical techniques. The oral and maxillofacial surgery service is responsible for diagnosis and management of diseases and injuries related to the oral and facial region. Trainees are involved in all
aspects of treatment including simple and complicated oral surgery, anesthesia and pain control, oral and maxillofacial trauma, pre-prosthetic surgery, orthognathic surgery, head and neck pathology, oral and maxillofacial reconstruction, temporomandibular joint surgery, laser surgery, cosmetic facial surgery, and microneural and microvascular surgery. During the four years, the trainee assumes ever-increasing responsibilities as time and abilities dictate.

Upon satisfactory completion of the four-year residency, the trainee may earn the Doctor of Medicine degree from the School of Medicine by enrolling in the second and third years of that curriculum.

Orthodontics

Bhavna Shroff, D.D.S.
Professor and program director

The Department of Orthodontics in VCU’s School of Dentistry offers a 24-month advanced education in orthodontics and Master of Science in Dentistry program. The program teaches state-of-the-art clinical care in an environment modeled after private orthodontic practice. The curriculum is composed of seminars and small-group instruction with emphasis on critical-thinking and problem-solving. Contemporary concepts of orthodontic treatment are reviewed for substantive and scientific content. Also included are regularly scheduled orthognathic surgery conferences and seminars with other dental and medical specialists.

The postgraduate program is designed to develop skilled practitioners who are prepared to grow with the future and manage busy orthodontic practices. The goal is not only to familiarize future orthodontists with contemporary techniques but also to teach them how to interpret cutting-edge scientific information and use it to approach clinical challenges logically and practically. Clinical experience consists of a wide variety of orthodontic patients, including complex cases requiring orthognathic surgery and patients with facial clefts and other craniofacial abnormalities. An original research experience is an integral part of the program, with each project intended to produce results suitable for publication in a nationally circulated orthodontic journal. The successful completion of a research project is a requirement of the program. All senior residents present their research at the Virginia Association of Orthodontists meeting. The program qualifies students to take the written portion of the American Board of Orthodontics examination in the senior year. Residents are required to take the written portion of the American Board of Orthodontics examination prior to graduation and are encouraged to continue and complete the board certification process. This exam is given prior to the American Association of Orthodontists meeting.

Students completing the program earn a specialty certificate in orthodontics and Master of Science in Dentistry degree. Students must complete the requirements for the master’s degree prior to being awarded the specialty certificate.

The program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

Periodontics

Thomas C. Waldrop, D.D.S.
Professor and program director

The advanced education program in periodontics consists of a 36-month clinical and didactic curriculum leading to a certificate in periodontics. Students are responsible for all materials and make up of lost clinical time. Courses in the basic and clinical sciences, medicine, head and neck anatomy, statistics and advanced cardiac life support are required. Students are responsible for attending and preparing for lectures, current and periodontal literature, medical-oral medicine, treatment planning, case presentation and surgical seminars. No grade less than 80 percent or passing is acceptable from any periodontal or basic science course work. Less than passing grades may require retesting or retaking of a course. Students are expected to be able to utilize a computer to prepare lectures and to access Internet resources.

Students are responsible for documentation of clinical and course work data. Specified digital intra-oral camera and documentation of all clinical cases and department archiving is required. Students are responsible to the service for rotations in general medicine, dental anesthesiaology and oral pathology. Proficiency and certification in intravenous conscious sedation is required. Students are responsible for clinical and classroom teaching to undergraduate and specialty students. Research on a topic that is reviewed and approved by a faculty committee is required. Upon completion of the research, the student is required to prepare a thesis,

requirements for limitation of practice to the specialty of pediatric dentistry and examination by the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry. The program emphasizes a diversified educational experience. The program places emphasis on all phases of pediatric dentistry including trauma, preventive dentistry, restorative, endodontics, periodontics, oral surgery, orthodontics and hospital dentistry. The program enables the student to provide comprehensive oral health care for the well child, the medically compromised and children with special needs. There is extensive use of various treatment modalities for pain control and behavioral management, such as sedation, analgesia and general anesthesia. Research experience is gained through completion of an individual research project and master’s thesis.

Seminars are held in pediatric dentistry, orthodontic diagnosis and treatment, treatment planning, growth and development, cephalometric analysis, pediatric dentistry literature review, and behavior guidance. Formal courses in biostatistics, principles of pediatrics, pediatric advanced life support, head and neck anatomy, neurodevelopmental disabilities, leadership seminars, basic sciences and clinical core courses are required. The students participate in undergraduate clinical teaching and supervision.

One-month rotations occur in general anesthesia, and two-week rotations occur in the pediatric emergency room and pediatric medicine. During the year, rotations in cleft palate, craniofacial anomalies and hemophilia occur. Optional elective rotations are available in treating institutionalized handicapped patients (in Lynchburg). Elective didactic courses also are available.

Students completing the program earn a specialty certificate in pediatric dentistry and a Master of Science in Dentistry degree. Students must complete the requirements for the master’s degree prior to being awarded the specialty certificate.

The program is accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation of the American Dental Association.

Pediatric Dentistry

William O. Dahlke, D.M.D.
Associate professor and program director

The advanced education program in pediatric dentistry offers the student a comprehensive 24-month course of study in clinical and didactic pediatric dentistry. The program is designed to meet the educational
Department of Endodontics

Clara M. Spatafore, D.D.S.
Interim chair

The Department of Endodontics is dedicated to providing quality endodontic dental care services as well as advancing new knowledge through teaching, research, community involvement and patient care. The faculty participate in the training of predoctoral dental students in the area of clinical endodontics. After an introduction to the specialty in their first year, students learn and develop didactic and treatment skills during preclinical classes and labs in the second year. Advanced topics and clinical techniques are stressed in the third year, which allows patient treatment during the third and fourth years. In the fourth year, students are prepared for dental board examinations and are given the opportunity to treat a variety of clinical cases in both the School of Dentistry and off-site service-learning clinics.

Department of Orthodontics

Steven J. Lindauer, D.M.D., M.D.Sc.
Professor and chair

The Department of Orthodontics is dedicated to providing the best and latest care to patients, as well as offering the best preparation for graduate orthodontic residents. The department offers a 24-month advanced education Master of Science in Dentistry program. The program teaches state-of-the-art clinical care in an environment modeled after private orthodontic practice.

Department of Pediatric Dentistry

Tegwyn H. Brickhouse, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Associate professor, research director and chair

The vision of the VCU Department of Pediatric Dentistry focuses on the oral health of the growing and developing child and how oral health impacts the overall health of the individual, which in turn informs a multidisciplinary approach to prepare students and residents for a rapidly evolving health care environment. The VCU Department of Pediatric Dentistry is committed to clinical excellence, innovative educational initiatives and forging ahead with translational research.

Department of Periodontics

Harvey A. Schenkein, D.D.S., Ph.D.
Paul Tucker Goad Professor and chair

Faculty in the Department of Periodontics participate in the training of predoctoral dental students by emphasizing the evidence-based underpinnings of contemporary periodontics while providing innovative educational instruction. The department also trains specialists in periodontics via its postgraduate program. Furthermore, faculty provide outstanding care to patients through VCU Dental Care, the faculty practice of the VCU School of Dentistry.
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

The Virginia Commonwealth University School of Education prepares effective, highly skilled teachers, counselors, school administrators, higher education faculty and other education professionals committed to making a difference in the lives of children and adults and their communities, particularly in high-need learning environments.

Located on the university’s Monroe Park Campus, the School of Education is ranked 33rd among graduate schools of education for 2017 in U.S. News & World Report. With a strong commitment to social justice, the school embraces inclusion among students, faculty and staff, as well as in its academic programs.

The School of Education offers two doctoral programs, three master’s programs and 15 certificate/endorsement programs.

The guiding theme of educator preparation programs in the School of Education is educator as critically reflective practitioner. Courses and experiences provide opportunities for individuals to be engaged in meaningful dialog about the nature and application of appropriate knowledge and skills to make instructional, assessment, counseling and leadership decisions that improve student learning.

The school has 66 full-time faculty and an additional 48 teaching and research faculty, many of whom are internationally renowned experts who produce and disseminate scholarship that extends knowledge, improves practice and collaboration, and supports schools and educational and human service agencies.

Administration

1015 West Main Street
P.O. Box 842020
Richmond, Virginia 23284-2020
Phone: (804) 828-3382
Fax: (804) 828-1323
soe.vcu.edu (http://www.soe.vcu.edu)

Andrew Daire, Ph.D.
Professor and dean

James McMillan, Ph.D.
Professor and interim associate dean for academic affairs

Diane J. Simon, Ph.D.
Associate professor and senior associate dean for student affairs

Deborah L. Speece, Ph.D.
Professor and associate dean for research and faculty development

Accreditation

Education (all degrees)

National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (initial licensure and advanced degrees for school personnel), the Virginia Department of Education and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Counselor education

Accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs

This accreditation applies to both the K-12 school counseling track and the college student development and counseling track.

The school holds membership in the American and Virginia Association of Colleges of Teacher Education and in the Holmes Partnership.

Organization

The chief administrative office for the School of Education is Oliver Hall, Room 2090. The dean is responsible for the overall operation of the school, while three associate deans (associate dean for academic affairs, senior associate dean for student affairs and associate dean for research and faculty development) assist in the school’s administrative functions.

The school contains four academic departments: Counseling and Special Education, Educational Leadership, Foundations of Education, and Teaching and Learning. The school also supports eight centers and institutes:

• Center for School Community Collaboration
• Center for Sport Leadership
• Center for Teacher Leadership
• Child Development Center
• Metropolitan Educational Research Consortium
• Partnership for People with Disabilities
• Rehabilitation Research and Training Center
• The Literacy Institute

Facilities

The School of Education is housed primarily in Oliver Hall, where classroom, laboratory and activity centers, as well as faculty and administrative offices can be found. Clinical laboratories are located at 3600 W. Broad St.

Support/resource offices

The School of Education has several units that provide support services to students and faculty. These subunits include the Office of Graduate Studies, Student Services Center, Office of Assessment and Instructional Technology Services.

Office of Graduate Studies

The Office of Graduate Studies assists all departments with admission, matriculation, graduation, and special actions and appeals for graduate students. The office also supports and guides students throughout their graduate program, fostering a learning community that enhances students’ professional development.

Student Services Center

The Student Services Center provides support for teacher education and counselor education students as they progress through their academic programs. Services include:

• Advising for students in extended teacher preparation, post-baccalaureate, counselor education and special education programs prior to formal admission to graduate programs
• Processing of applications for admission to teacher preparation programs
• Processing of applications for clinical placements and coordinating for practica, student teaching, internships and externships in local school divisions and educational facilities
• Processing applications for licensure in Virginia and other states
• Providing general program and course information
• Assigning faculty advisers
• Entering, retrieving and managing data to document student progress through academic programs
• Serving as a repository of information on comprehensive examinations, application and forms for academic transactions, admission to teacher preparation, clinical experiences, and licensure

Office of Assessment
The Office of Assessment coordinates data collection, analysis and reporting for a variety of purposes, including accreditation, personnel evaluations, student assessment and survey research.

Information Technology Services
The Information Technology Services center provides support and training for faculty, staff and students in the School of Education for various technology resources. The ITS houses both Mac and PC laptops, Chromebooks, netbooks, digital cameras, Promethean board accessories, mobile devices and more for use and checkout by faculty, staff and students. The office provides technical assistance to faculty and staff to assure that issues in using technology are quickly resolved. The center also coordinates two technology resources:

- Digital playgrounds (rooms 3107 and 3108)
  Digital playgrounds provide space and equipment that facilitate many opportunities to learn about incorporating computer-assisted instruction in the classroom. The digital playground in Room 3107 is equipped with several computers connected for use of pay-4-print services for students. Both rooms are equipped with smartboards, Promethean boards, 3-D printers, 3-D scanners and more for students to “play” with to develop more effective instruction. Technology devices can be checked out from ITS for use in these areas.

- Distance-learning technology
  The ITS also supports three rooms in Oliver Hall with distance-learning technology and provides ongoing assistance to faculty, preservice teachers and staff in the School of Education.

Licensure and reciprocity

Upon completion of degree requirements in any of VCU’s teacher preparation programs and with the recommendation of the School of Education, students are eligible to receive initial teacher licensure from the Virginia Department of Education. For additional information on licensure, licensure renewal or an add-on endorsement, contact the School of Education’s Student Services Center.

In Virginia, initial licensure requires successful completion of state-mandated tests. Passing scores on these tests are required to progress through different portions of the licensure programs from admission to teacher preparation, admission to student teaching and recommendation for licensure. For a list of testing requirements, please refer to the FAQs for teacher candidates on the School of Education website at soe.vcu.edu/student-services-center (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/academics_programs/faqs-for-teacher-candidates).

Students should request that their Praxis scores be reported to VCU.

Before a recommendation for licensure can be sent to the Teacher Licensure Division of the Virginia Department of Education, these test scores must be on file with the School of Education’s Student Services Center.

Licensure for education personnel
Licensure and endorsement are based in part on the successful completion of an approved program developed in response to nationally recognized standards. All licensure and endorsement programs offered by the School of Education are approved by the Virginia Department of Education and the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. The commonwealth of Virginia is a member of the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification, which has a national reciprocity agreement for teacher licensure. Therefore, all licensure and endorsement programs in the School of Education have approved program status and are a part of the NASDTEC Certification Reciprocity Agreement.

Graduate programs leading to initial teacher licensure
Individuals often decide to pursue a teaching career after they have completed a baccalaureate degree. VCU serves qualified individuals through approved programs leading to a Master of Teaching, Master of Education (special education) or a post-baccalaureate Certificate in Teaching. Upon completion of a degree program, graduates are eligible for both Virginia licensure and/or endorsement in the specific degree area.

Individuals who wish to obtain licensure in art education or music education should consult the School of the Arts section of this bulletin.

The Master of Teaching program integrates undergraduate course work for a bachelor’s degree in a liberal arts or science major with course work and graduate study leading to a Master of Teaching in a program area.

Approved programs and certification reciprocity
All of VCU’s initial teacher preparation programs are approved by the Virginia Department of Education and accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. VCU’s School of Education also holds membership in the American and Virginia Associations of Colleges for Teacher Education and the Holmes Partnership.

Based on the National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification agreement, VCU graduates will be eligible for teacher licensure reciprocity with other states. Students interested in licensure reciprocity should contact the School of Education’s Student Services Center.

Programs

Master of Teaching (extended programs)
• Biology education
• Chemistry education
• Early and elementary education
• Earth science education
• English education
• History/social studies education
Master of Education

- Adult learning
  - Adult literacy
  - Human resource development
  - Teaching and learning with technology
- Counselor education
  - College student development and counseling
  - School counseling
- Curriculum and instruction
  - Instructional technology
  - Teaching and learning
- Educational leadership
  - Administration and supervision
  - Leadership studies
- Reading
  - K-12 reading specialist
  - Reading with TESOL/adult
  - Reading with TESOL/K-12
  - Without concentration
- Special education
  - Early childhood
  - General education
  - Severe disabilities
- Sport leadership

Ed.D.

- Leadership

Ph.D.

- Education
  - Art education
  - Counselor education and supervision
  - Curriculum, culture and change
  - Educational leadership
  - Educational psychology
  - Research and evaluation
  - Special education and disability leadership
  - Sport leadership
  - Urban services leadership

Post-baccalaureate graduate certificates

- Autism spectrum disorder
- Disability leadership
- Instructional technology
- Medical education
- Online teaching for K-12 educators
- Teaching
  - Biology education
  - Chemistry education
  - English education

- History/social studies education
- Mathematics education
- Physics education
- Teaching English to speakers of other languages

Post-master’s certificates

- Educational leadership
- Reading specialist

Dual-degree

- Sport leadership (with School of Business)

Extended Teacher Preparation Program

The School of Education, in cooperation with the College of Humanities and Sciences, offers extended teacher preparation programs in early childhood and elementary education (prekindergarten through grade six) and secondary education (grade six through grade 12). The successful completion of these programs results in the simultaneous awarding of both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree.

General degree requirements

The successful completion of these programs results in the simultaneous awarding of both a bachelor’s and a master’s degree. Prospective Master of Teaching students earn their bachelor’s degree in a specific field in which they plan to teach. A student generally begins work on the professional studies component in the third or fourth year of academic study.

A student enrolled in the extended teacher preparation program must complete a minimum of 153/154 credits. The student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.8 for admission to the teacher preparation program. Completion of at least 90 credits with a minimum GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 semester hours of study is required for that student to be admitted to the graduate studies portion of the extended program.

A post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Teaching is open primarily to those who have already earned a master’s degree. The candidate must complete at least 30 additional hours beyond the bachelor’s level. Admittance to this program requires a minimum GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 semester hours of study.

Clinical experiences

All initial licensure programs require clinical experiences throughout the program. During the initial stages of a program, these experiences occur as practica in varied placements in K-12 education relevant to the student’s program. The program also requires a capstone clinical experience in the form of student teaching. For student teaching, those pursuing early and elementary education are placed in two settings, one in early elementary grades (K-2) and one in upper elementary grades (3-5). Those pursuing secondary education receive a single placement in their discipline in a middle school or high school setting.

With the guidance of a clinical faculty member or cooperating teacher, the intern assumes more independence in the field setting. Satisfactory completion of the internship and the preceding training is charted through evaluations made by the university supervisor, clinical faculty or cooperating teacher, and school administrator.
Undergraduate major
Freshman students who plan to become early and elementary education teachers are required to enroll in the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies liberal studies for early and elementary education major. Transfer students should meet with a B.I.S. adviser prior to course registration. The B.I.S. degree requirements are outlined in the College of Humanities and Sciences section of this bulletin.

Prospective secondary teachers should major in the discipline they wish to teach. The disciplines in which VCU offers licensure programs are as follows: English, history/social studies, mathematics and science (various specialities). Students should consult with their education adviser to ensure that courses taken to meet major requirements also meet state licensure requirements.

Change of major and transfer students
Students wishing to enter the Extended Teacher Preparation Program in early and elementary education or secondary education must transfer initially to the College of Humanities and Sciences. They must declare a major in the college and a specialization in the appropriate professional studies sequence in the School of Education.

For admission to teacher preparation, a minimum GPA of 2.8 is required. A minimum GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 semester hours of study is required for admission to the graduate phase of the Extended Teacher Preparation Program.

Transcript evaluation
The College of Humanities and Sciences evaluates transcripts of students pursuing the extended program in early and elementary education or secondary education. Credits are accepted if they conform to specific program guidelines; course equivalents from accredited colleges and universities are accepted if the grade earned is a minimum of C. From the extended program, 60 semester hours of acceptable undergraduate course work are required to be admitted to a teacher preparation program. See specific criteria in the admission information below.

Credits that are accepted from two-year institutions may meet liberal arts and sciences requirements, but will not meet professional requirements for upper-division course work. The VCU Transfer Guide for Virginia Community Colleges lists, in full, credits accepted by VCU that have been earned in the state’s community colleges.

After the initial student transcript evaluation, the assigned adviser reviews the accepted transfer credits with the student, determining what additional course work at VCU will be necessary. An adviser is not required to use all the accepted transfer credits in a student’s program of study. Only those credits approved for transfer can be applied toward the chosen degree.

Faculty advisement
An academic adviser is assigned to a student by the department of that student’s chosen major in the College of Humanities and Sciences. A professional studies adviser is similarly assigned by the Department of Teaching and Learning according to the student’s proposed teaching endorsement. This adviser-student relationship continues throughout the course of study at VCU. Student and adviser jointly develop the student’s individual program. During the planning process, the student identifies, clarifies and explores his or her personal and professional goals.

Educator as reflective practitioner
The guiding theme of the teacher preparation program is “educator as reflective practitioner.” The underlying foundation of instruction in the teacher preparation program is to challenge the prospective teacher to develop skills in critical reflection and to value thoughtful decision-making. Candidates demonstrate critical reflection by: being open to and respectful of all stakeholders; taking other perspectives into account; utilizing critical-thinking in framing and solving educational problems; making informed, ethical and professional decisions; and taking ethical and professional action.

Demographics consideration in teaching
The demographics of elementary, middle and high school students are changing. There is an increase in the number of students for whom English is not the first language, of minority students, of students who do not all learn or respond in similar ways and of students who may be identified as possessing a disability.

Future teachers are encouraged to take advantage of opportunities through formal courses and other experiences to gain greater insight and ability in addressing learners from differing cultural backgrounds and considering the needs of learners with different learning styles, participation styles, and special abilities or disabilities.

Standards of learning
Much of the prekindergarten through grade 12 curriculum is based on the commonwealth of Virginia’s current Standards of Learning. Students preparing to be teachers are advised to examine the SOLs for the grade levels and content areas they plan to teach. The School of Education website has a link to the SOLs.

In some instances the content and concepts associated with one or more SOLs may be incorporated in a course in the College of Humanities and Sciences or in the School of Education, but as the SOLs are for a kindergarten through grade 12 curriculum and not a college curriculum, one may need to study several of these on her or his own.

Technology standards
The use of computers, graphing calculators, science probeware and other technologies is integral to successful teaching in today’s schools. Individuals preparing to teach must be competent on each of the eight standards in Virginia’s Technology Standards for Instructional Personnel. These standards may be reached through the School of Education website.

Students are advised to consult with the professional studies adviser regarding the program’s requirements for demonstrating competence. Several of the standards may be documented as met by passing the Computer Literacy Examination offered online through KnowledgeNet. Please see the general education requirements for undergraduate study (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/college-humanities-sciences/undergraduate-information) in the College of Humanities and Sciences section of this bulletin.

Extended program in early and elementary or secondary education
In the extended program, a student generally begins work on the professional studies component in the third year of study. Information on specific requirements for all academic majors is available in the Department of Teaching and Learning, in the College of Humanities
and Sciences' associate dean's office or through the department of the
chosen major. Students may visit soe.vcu.edu/academics_programs/
teaching-and-learning for information about programs in the
Department of Teaching and Learning. A student in the extended program must
maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.8 for admission to teacher
preparation and clinical experience and, prior to the fifth year, a minimum
GPA of 3.0 for admission to the graduate study portion of the program.

**Admission information**

Any undergraduate admitted to VCU who declares a major in the College
of Humanities and Sciences is eligible to declare a specialization in
special education or secondary education. Students specializing in early
and elementary education must declare the liberal studies for early and
elementary education major in the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies
program.

Transfer students and students currently attending VCU who wish to
change their majors to this program must have a minimum GPA of
2.0; however, note the much higher GPA requirement for admission
to teacher preparation and then to graduate study. All students in the
program, upon completion of 60 hours of undergraduate course work
and prior to completion of 90 hours, must apply for admission to teacher
education. To be accepted, a student must have a minimum GPA of 2.8
and must have achieved the required commonwealth of Virginia scores
on Praxis core tests and must have achieved the established score for
the three tests.

Students who pursue one of the extended teacher preparation programs
follow a series of steps as noted in order to meet all requirements,
including the 153/154 credits.

**Step 1: Admission to the university**

**Requirements**

1. Scores from Scholastic Aptitude Test or American College Test
2. Minimum 2.0 GPA from high school or previous college

**Procedures**

1. Declare an undergraduate major in the College of Humanities and
Sciences for early and elementary or secondary education.
2. Declare an education specialization in early and elementary
education or secondary education.

**Step 2: Admission to teacher preparation**

Complete before enrolling in the first practicum (upon completion of 60
credits of liberal arts and prior to completion of 90 credits).

**Requirements**

1. Minimum GPA of 2.8
2. Completion of six hours of English, three hours of mathematics, four
hours of laboratory science and six hours of social science and/or
history
3. Meet Virginia scores required for the mathematics portion of Praxis
and achieve a passing score on the Virginia Communication and
Literacy Assessment
4. Confirmation of education specialization (Undecided majors must
decide.)
5. Enroll in or have completed TEDU 101, EDUS 300, EDUS 301 or
equivalent course

**Procedures**

1. Complete admission to teacher preparation application form (obtain
in Office of Student Services) and submit a current transcript
2. Complete TEDU 101, EDUS 300, EDUS 301 or equivalent course;
submit required Praxis scores
3. Register for practicum placement and accompanying courses. *(Note:
Students must be admitted to the teacher preparation program to
be eligible for practicum placement and accompanying courses.
Applications for practicum are available at the Student Services
Center. In secondary education, these applications may be distributed
at the initial class meeting.)*
4. Register for, take and submit required Praxis core scores

**Step 3: Application to graduate studies**

**Requirements**

1. Minimum GPA of 3.0
2. Acceptable scores on the Graduate Record Examination or Miller
Analogies Test [Generally students are expected to score at least a
290 composite (verbal and quantitative) on the GRE or 386 on the
MAT.]
3. Personal statement addressing reasons for seeking graduate
education, including career goals; experience working with age
group to be taught; reasons for entering teaching; and success in
organizing, planning and implementing work with other individuals
4. Three references: it is suggested that these be instructors or
advisers in the College of Humanities and Sciences and the School of
Education; use graduate studies reference forms

**Procedures**

1. Obtain Graduate School admissions packet from the Student
Services Center in Room 1037, Oliver Hall
2. Return completed application packet, along with up-to-date
transcripts, to the VCU Graduate School
Note: Students must be admitted to the Graduate School to be
eligible to enroll in graduate-level courses. No more than six graduate
credits taken prior to admission to graduate study may be accepted
toward the degree.

**Application deadlines for early and elementary or secondary education**

- Oct. 1 for spring semester
- Feb. 1 for summer and fall sessions

**Step 4: Internship**

All programs require a graduate-level internship
(TEDU 672 and TEDU 674) during the fifth year. Applications for
internship can be obtained in the Student Services Center in Room 1037,
Oliver Hall. Individuals in early and elementary education are placed
in a kindergarten and a grade one through six classroom in the same
semester. Individuals in secondary education typically have a single
placement, although perhaps with two different teachers.

**Requirements**

1. Minimum 3.0 GPA on graduate courses
2. Admission to teacher preparation and to graduate study
3. Completed application and transcripts submitted by established
deadlines
4. Passing scores on applicable Praxis II specialty tests accompanying
application
5. Passing scores on the Virginia Communication and Literacy
Assessment
Procedures
1. Obtain application form from the Student Services Center
2. Submit copies of transcripts and required statement to a professional studies adviser for review
3. Obtain approval signature of professional studies adviser
4. Submit completed application to Student Services Center by Sept. 1 for the following spring semester, by Feb. 1 for the following fall semester

Step 5: Admission to the profession
(during the final semester of enrollment)

Requirements
1. Completion of all degree requirements
2. Completion of application for initial teacher licensure (obtain from Office of Student Services)

Procedures
1. Complete applications for undergraduate degree in humanities and sciences with academic major adviser, and graduate degree in teaching with professional studies adviser
2. Submit application for initial teacher licensure with signature of university supervisor or professional studies adviser to the Student Services Center

Added or add-on endorsements

Added or add-on endorsements Teaching English as a Second Language
The School of Education offers the Virginia Department of Education ESL preK-12 endorsement for pre-service and in-service teachers. The ESL endorsement program at VCU requires 18 credit hours of ESL course work and six credit hours of a modern foreign language. Candidates must complete the following courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENGL/LING/TEDU 552</td>
<td>Teaching English as a Second Language</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LING/ENGL/ANTH 390</td>
<td>Introduction to Linguistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 561</td>
<td>Reading Foundations: Sociological/ Psychological Perspectives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 562</td>
<td>Reading Instruction in the Content Areas</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU/FRLG 575</td>
<td>Intercultural Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 681</td>
<td>Investigations and Trends in Teaching (ESL curriculum and assessment)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Foreign language courses (modern languages only) 6

Total Hours 24

Add-on endorsements in grades 6 through 12, science
Add-on endorsements in science are available in biology, chemistry, earth science and physics. Each add-on requires a first endorsement in one science and at least 18 semester hours in the add-on science that includes preparation in specified areas. The earth science added endorsement is listed below. For information about the added endorsements in biology, chemistry or physics, contact the Department of Teaching and Learning.

Earth science
To add an earth science endorsement to an endorsement in another science discipline, the individual must earn at least 18 semester hours in the earth sciences, including preparation in geology, oceanography, meteorology and astronomy. Courses to meet these requirements include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 105 &amp; ENVZ 105</td>
<td>Physical Geology and Physical Geology Laboratory</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 335 &amp; ENVZ 335</td>
<td>Environmental Geology and Environmental Geology Laboratory</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 401</td>
<td>Meteorology and Climatology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 411</td>
<td>Oceanography</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 103</td>
<td>Elementary Astronomy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective courses to complete at least 18 hours include: URSP 203 and URSP 204 and PHYS 391.

Graduate information

Admission procedures for graduate study

Application procedures
Application forms and instructions for applying to all graduate programs are available on the Graduate School website (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu). Note that applications cannot be processed until they are complete (including test scores). Admission information specific to each program can be found in the department pages within this bulletin.

Test scores
Either the GRE, general aptitude portion, or the MAT is required for the Master of Teaching, the Master of Education, post-master’s certificates, the post-baccalaureate Certificate in Teaching and the post-baccalaureate Certificate in Instructional Technology. The Ph.D. program requires the GRE. The Ed.D. in Leadership program requires the MAT.

A passing score on Praxis core, although not required for graduate admission, is required for placement in clinical experiences (practica, internships and certain externships) as well as for licensure in Virginia. Contact the Student Services Center (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/student-services-center) for applications for admission to teacher preparation and booklets on Praxis core and Praxis II. Information about the Praxis may be obtained on the Praxis website at teacherstestprep.com/Praxis-Core.

Application deadlines
The following application deadlines have been established for the Master of Education, the Master of Teaching and the post-baccalaureate Certificate in Teaching.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Master’s (various)</td>
<td>Summer or fall entry</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>See specific program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring semester term of entry</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Ph.D. in Education and Ed.D. in Leadership have the following application deadlines:
**Steps to completing M.Ed. degree**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Where</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Admission</td>
<td>0-6 hours</td>
<td>Office of Graduate Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Program of studies</td>
<td>0-6 hours</td>
<td>With adviser, approved by department chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Candidacy</td>
<td>12-18 hours</td>
<td>Application approved by adviser, core coordinator, department chair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Comprehensive examination</td>
<td>30 hours</td>
<td>Application to department office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Externship or internship</td>
<td>Usually the last semester of course work</td>
<td>Application from Student Services Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Graduation</td>
<td>Last semester of course work; see deadlines on VCU academic calendar</td>
<td>Application approved by adviser, department chair and dean's office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Not required in M.Ed. in Special Education and M.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction

**Admission to candidacy**

Admission to graduate study in the Master of Education programs does not constitute candidacy for a degree. Rather, students who have been admitted to graduate study are advanced to degree candidacy upon the recommendation of the adviser, core faculty and department in which the degree is sought.

Advancement to degree candidacy requires that students must have completed at least 12 but no more than 18 semester hours of graduate study with a minimum GPA of 3.0; must have demonstrated clearly the aptitude and ability to pursue graduate study, including independent study; must have exhibited a commitment to their profession; and must have demonstrated promise for a successful career in the field selected with respect to temperament and personality. Specific courses may be required prior to application for candidacy. Admission to degree candidacy is not an automatic process. Students must file an approved application for candidacy with their departments. Only students who have been admitted to candidacy may pursue additional work toward the degree.

**Comprehensive examination**

- Some students in a Master of Education program must take a three-hour written comprehensive examination.
- Written examinations will be given on the first Saturday in November, the fourth Saturday in March and the second Saturday in July. Students must notify the department in writing of the intention to take the examination at least 30 days prior to the published date. All comprehensive examinations must be taken on dates indicated except for religious or health reasons. Any exceptions must be approved in advance by the department chair.
- A minimum of three faculty members, designated by the core faculty, will evaluate each examination independently. Satisfactory performance on the comprehensive examination requires approval of two of the three evaluators.
- Any student failing the comprehensive examination must have a joint conference with at least two core faculty members, one of whom is the student’s adviser, before taking the comprehensive examination again.
- During the conference, the core faculty members may recommend additional academic preparation and/or competencies that must be met by the student prior to retaking the comprehensive examination.
- The student will be notified by letter of the recommendations made by the core faculty in the conference.

The student will have only two opportunities to take the comprehensive examination. Failure to pass the comprehensive examination the second time will result in the student being dropped from the degree program.
Transfer credit

A maximum of six credit hours of acceptable graduate credit may be transferred into a graduate degree program. Course work taken prior to being admitted to a program in the School of Education and not applied to another degree may be applied for transfer. This includes course work taken at VCU.

Course work submitted for transfer is evaluated by the student’s adviser and the department head. See the Ph.D. in Education program section of this bulletin for information regarding transfer credit for this program.

As a general rule, continuing education courses taken at institutions other than VCU will not be transferred.

Students seeking to earn credit at other institutions after acceptance to a graduate program in the School of Education must receive prior approval from their advisers and the department chair or the director for the Ph.D. program. See the Graduate study (p. 17) section of this bulletin for further information regarding transfer credit.

Center for Sport Leadership at VCU

Sports Medicine Building
1300 West Broad Street
P.O. Box 842003
Richmond, Virginia 23284-2003
Phone: (804) 828-7821
Fax: (804) 828-4938
sportleadership.vcu.edu (http://www.sportleadership.vcu.edu)

Carrie Le Crom, Ph.D.
Executive director

Brendan Dwyer, Ph.D.
Director of research and distance learning

Gregory Greenhalgh, Ph.D.
Director of student services and outreach

The Center for Sport Leadership at VCU was developed with the idea of creating an innovative, practical learning environment that would prepare students for a successful career in the sport industry. This new educational paradigm teaches students the necessary skills, while giving them ownership of operational responsibility to the organization and providing access to upper-level administrators and coaches. The center has placed students in every area of the industry, including professional, intercollegiate, Olympic, nonprofit and grassroots organizations. These successful alumni provide a useful tool in establishing a network base for connecting with future leaders in the industry.

- Education, Doctor of Philosophy with a concentration in sport leadership (p. 470)
- Sport Leadership, Master of Education (p. 466)
- Business Administration, Master of/Sport Leadership, Master of Education [dual degree] (p. 468)

Sport Leadership, Master of Education (M.Ed.)

Program goal

The Center for Sport Leadership at VCU offers a structured graduate program combining classroom theory with exposure to relevant field experiences. Through the sport leadership program, students will be prepared to assume the responsibilities for developing professional and amateur athletes and managing sports programs in a variety of academic, public and private sectors. The interdisciplinary faculty and curriculum give students the opportunity to concentrate on areas most important to them and most relevant to the sports business. Students of the program are required to complete a comprehensive examination.

The center offers graduate courses online for those students who want to take advantage of educational opportunities via the Internet. Currently, three on-line classes are available each semester.

Student learning outcomes

1. Content knowledge of sport industry: Students will be able to analyze and synthesize information and develop plans to address issues in sport leadership.
2. Development of interpersonal skills and professionalism: Students will demonstrate interpersonal skills and professionalism appropriate to the fields of sport management and coaching.
3. Development of leadership skills: Students will demonstrate content knowledge of leadership skills and traits, as well as the ability to utilize these skills and traits in a professional setting.

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.grad.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.Ed.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 15</td>
<td>GRE or MAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’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

Students should contact the Center for Sport Leadership at VCU at (804) 828-7821 or link directly to sportleadership.vcu.edu (http://www.sportleadership.vcu.edu) for information and application materials.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 36 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Examination requirement: Students must pass a comprehensive examination (see below).
4. Externship requirement: Students must complete an externship in the sport field.

**Comprehensive examination**

1. Written comprehensive examinations are required for all graduate students in the VCU Center for Sport Leadership.
2. Comprehensive examinations will take place at the end of the spring semester for each cohort of full-time, on-campus students and at the completion of 30 credit hours of course work for all part-time/distance-learning students.
3. Comprehensive examinations will be evaluated in a pass/fail format.
4. Comprehensive examinations will be independently evaluated by two faculty members; in the case that the faculty members disagree, a third faculty member will be brought in for a final decision.
5. Any student failing the comprehensive examination will have one additional opportunity to pass the exam. Failure to pass the comprehensive examination the second time will result in the student being dropped from the degree program.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Required core**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 603</td>
<td>Research Methods in Sport</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 630</td>
<td>Sociology of Sport</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 632</td>
<td>Sport Business</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 633</td>
<td>Marketing of Sport</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 635</td>
<td>Leadership Models in Sport</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 643</td>
<td>Sport Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Elective courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SPTL/HEMS 591</td>
<td>Topical Seminar (maximum six)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 604</td>
<td>Research Practicum ¹</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 607</td>
<td>Field Instruction ¹</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 608</td>
<td>Sport and Entertainment Event Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 610</td>
<td>Sport and Entertainment Event Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 631</td>
<td>Contemporary Issues in Sport</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 634</td>
<td>Foundations of Coaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 640</td>
<td>Sport Media and Communications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 641</td>
<td>Sports Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 642</td>
<td>Sport Ethics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 644</td>
<td>NCAA Collegiate Coaching</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 651</td>
<td>Advanced Coaching Techniques</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 691</td>
<td>Topics in Sport Leadership</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 692</td>
<td>Independent Study ¹</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 695</td>
<td>Externship ¹</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Any 600-level SPTL course not otherwise required for the major

**Total Hours**

| Total Hours | 36 |

¹ These courses are field experiences and may be taken for up to nine of the 18 elective credits.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 36**

Graduate program director
Carrie W. LeCrom, Ph.D.
Executive director, Center for Sport Leadership  
Email: celecrom@vcu.edu  
Phone: (804) 828-6443  

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

Business Administration, Master of (M.B.A.)/Sport Leadership, Master of Education (M.Ed.) [dual degree]

Program accreditation  
Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (http://www.aacsb.edu)

Program goal  
The dual-degree M.B.A./M.Ed. in Sport Leadership program will prepare students for leadership positions by combining the business teaching of an M.B.A. program with sport industry-specific knowledge gained in the M.Ed. program. This degree combination recognizes the growing complexity of the sport industry and reinforces the Center for Sport Leadership’s commitment to preparing students for the leadership challenges of the future. The dual degree offers students course work and knowledge they will need to be successful in a business setting combined with the application and networking skills required in today’s sport industry.

The M.B.A. phase of the program will encompass a problem-based learning style, immersing students in collaborative projects and working situations that are commonplace in the business world. Students will learn business concepts in a real-life context and develop skills in communication, collaboration and teamwork that are essential for success, while developing their abilities to be creative, take initiative and accept personal responsibility for their actions.

The M.Ed. program will combine classroom and practical experience to prepare individuals for leadership positions in the sport industry. An interdisciplinary approach gives students the freedom to choose courses of personal interest and build a foundation of knowledge in their desired career fields.

Student learning outcomes  
1. Students should be able to demonstrate the capacity to apply business knowledge in new and unfamiliar circumstances.  
2. Students should be able to demonstrate the ability to work in teams and other groups.  
3. Students should understand and be able to develop the ethical and social responsibilities of organizations.  
4. Students should be able to describe the factors involved in key operation decisions and to appropriately apply techniques that provide insight and structure for management decision-making.  
5. Students should be able to identify and understand major issues faced by organizations with evolving information technology and investigate issues and challenges faced by managers with changes in information technology.  
6. Graduates of the program should be able to critically evaluate and use accounting and other information for managerial decision-making.  
7. Graduates should be able to evaluate marketing programs.  
8. Students should be able to think critically and systematically about financial issues in businesses and to develop techniques to analyze these issues numerically.  
9. Graduates of the program should be able to develop an analytical framework for identifying the objectives of the firm and to provide some tools for evaluating the firm’s performance.

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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.
Other information
School of Business policies and procedures for graduate master’s degree students are available on the school’s website at business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/current-graduate-students.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements
Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
M.B.A. and M.Ed. Fall GMAT or GRE

Applicants must meet all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18).

Degree requirements
In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students can complete both degrees with two years of study and will receive both degrees at the conclusion of the entire program. Students may enter the program only in the fall semester.

Curriculum requirements

Courses
ACCT 608 Managerial Accounting Concepts 3
ECON 610 Managerial Economics 3
FIRE 623 Financial Management 3
INFO 661 Information Systems for Managers 3
INFO 664 Information Systems for Business Intelligence 3
MGMT 641 Organizational Leadership and Project Management 3
MGMT 642 Business Policy and Strategy 3
MKTG 671 Marketing Management 3
SCMA 675 Operations Management 3
SPTL 603 Research Methods in Sport 3
SPTL 608 Sport and Entertainment Event Development 3
SPTL 610 Sport and Entertainment Event Development 3
SPTL 630 Sociology of Sport 3
SPTL 632 Sport Business 3
SPTL 643 Sport Law 3
SPTL 695 Externship 1-6

Electives
Select four of the following: 9
ACCT 606 International Accounting
CISS 697 Guided Study
ECON 604 Advanced Microeconomic Theory
ECON 607 Advanced Macroeconomic Theory
ECON 609 Advanced International Economics
ECON 612 Econometrics
ECON 616 Advanced Public Finance
ECON 617 Financial Markets
ECON 620 The Economics of Industry
ECON 631 Labor Market Theory and Analysis
ECON 641 Econometric Time-series Analysis
ECON 642 Panel and Nonlinear Methods in Econometrics
ECON 697 Guided Study in Economics
ENGR 691 Special Topics in Engineering
ENVS 691 Topics in Environmental Studies
FIRE 621 Cases in Financial Management
FIRE 622 Financial Management of Financial Institutions
FIRE 625 Group Insurance and Pension Planning
FIRE 626 Risk Management
FIRE 627 Real Estate Development
FIRE 629 Real Estate Investment Analysis
FIRE 635 Investments and Security Analysis
FIRE 638 Real Property Investment Law
FIRE 639 International Finance
FIRE 650 Derivatives
FIRE 654 Short-term Financial Management
FIRE 657 Current Issues in Investments and Markets
FIRE 658 Real Estate Finance and Investments
INFO 610 Analysis and Design of Database Systems
INFO 611 Data Re-engineering
INFO 614 Data Mining
INFO 632 Business Process Engineering
INFO 641 Strategic Information Systems Planning
INFO/CISS 644 Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security
INFO 691 Topics in Information Systems
INFO 697 Guided Study in Information Systems
MGMT 637 Advanced Human Resource Management
MGMT 644 International Business Management
MGMT 649 Compensation Policy and Administration
MGMT 655 Entrepreneurship
MGMT 656 Best Practices in Leadership
MGMT 680 Health, Safety and Security Administration
MGMT 682 Human Resource Staffing
MGMT 684 Issues in International Human Resource Management
MGMT 691 Topics in Management
MGMT 697 Guided Study in Management
MKTG 656 International Marketing
MKTG 657 International Market Planning Project
MKTG 672 Concepts in Consumer Behavior
MKTG 673 Marketing Research
MKTG 674 Service Quality Management
MKTG 691 Topics in Marketing
MKTG 693 Field Project in Marketing
MKTG 697  Guided Study in Marketing
OPER 528  Stochastic Simulation
SCMA 632  Statistical Analysis and Modeling
SCMA 643  Applied Multivariate Methods (must have completed SCMA 632)
SCMA 645  Management Science
SCMA 646  Legal Foundations of Employment
SCMA 669  Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business
SCMA 677  Quality Management and Six Sigma
SPTL 634  Foundations of Coaching
SPTL 640  Sport Media and Communications
SPTL 644  NCAA Collegiate Coaching
SPTL 645  Sales and Development
SPTL 691  Topics in Sport Leadership

Total Hours 60

Note: MGMT 641, MKTG 671, SPTL 695 and one elective (three credit hours) from either program may be counted toward both the M.B.A. and the M.Ed. degrees.

Sample plan of study

Year one

Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 610</td>
<td>Managerial Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 641</td>
<td>Organizational Leadership and Project</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 603</td>
<td>Research Methods in Sport</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 643</td>
<td>Sport Law</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Term Hours:</td>
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Spring semester

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 623</td>
<td>Financial Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>MKTG 671</td>
<td>Marketing Management</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPTL 630</td>
<td>Sociology of Sport</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 632</td>
<td>Sport Business</td>
<td>3</td>
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Summer semester

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<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>SPTL 695</td>
<td>Externship</td>
<td>1-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>One business elective</td>
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<td>1-3</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>2-9</td>
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Year two

Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tr>
<td>ACCT 608</td>
<td>Managerial Accounting Concepts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 661</td>
<td>Information Systems for Managers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 608</td>
<td>Sport and Entertainment Event Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One business or SPTL elective from above or other courses with approval</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACCT 608</td>
<td>Managerial Accounting Concepts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 661</td>
<td>Information Systems for Managers</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 608</td>
<td>Sport and Entertainment Event Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One SPTL elective from above or other courses with approval 3

Term Hours: 12

Summer semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 642</td>
<td>Business Policy and Strategy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One SPTL elective from above or other courses by approval</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 56-63

Concentrations

M.B.A./M.Ed. students who wish to have a concentration would need to complete an additional three courses.

Graduate program director
Colleen A. Davis
Senior director, master’s programs
Email: androvichcm@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-4622

Additional contact
Carrie LeCrom, Ph.D.
Executive director, Center for Sport Leadership
Email: cwlecrom@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-6443

Program website: business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/combined-med-in-sport-leadershipmba

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.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information


Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Summer or fall</td>
<td>Dec 15</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), 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 (p. 40), 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

Foundation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 702</td>
<td>Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 703</td>
<td>Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 608</td>
<td>Educational Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 710</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 711</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research elective</td>
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<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Externship

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 700</td>
<td>Externship</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Dissertation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 890</td>
<td>Dissertation Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Concentration courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 643</td>
<td>Applied Multivariate Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 701</td>
<td>Seminar in Sport Research (repeated for three credits)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL 702</td>
<td>Seminar in Sport Leadership and the Profession</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPTL elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Doctoral course work in focus area | 1 |

Total Hours | 48 |

Student learning outcomes

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. Complete an original research study (dissertation component): Student 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 all members agree, the student is granted a Ph.D.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48

Graduate program coordinator
Brendan P. Dwyer, Ph.D.
Director of research and distance learning, Center for Sport Leadership
Email: bdwyer@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-5131

Additional contact
Carrie LeCrom, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Sport Leadership
Email: clemcrom@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-6443

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

Education, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in art education

Program goal

The art education concentration allows students to connect contemporary art and education theories and philosophies, practical and professional experiences, and impact research to develop an area of expertise relevant to the field of art education. The program distinguishes itself by integrating urban community engagement, digital and emerging media, and research and assessment in diverse settings. Graduates will be highly qualified to serve in teaching, research and leadership positions at universities and in arts and education organizations.

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.graduates.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Summer or fall</td>
<td>Dec 15</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), 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 (p. 40), 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

**Foundation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>EDUS 702</td>
<td>Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship I</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUS 703</td>
<td>Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship II</td>
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<td>EDUS 710</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Design</td>
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<td>EDUS 711</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
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**Research elective**

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**Externship**

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<td>EDUC 700</td>
<td>Externship</td>
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**Dissertation**

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<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (minimum of six credit hours)</td>
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<td>EDUC 890</td>
<td>Dissertation Seminar</td>
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**Concentration courses**

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<tr>
<td>ARTE 701</td>
<td>Issues in Art Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTE 702</td>
<td>History of Art Education</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTE 703</td>
<td>Contemporary Philosophies and Art Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTE 704</td>
<td>Research in Art Education</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ARTE 780</td>
<td>Cultural Diversity in Art and Society</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARTE 800</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar in Art Education</td>
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Elective from approved list

Total Hours 48

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48

Graduate program coordinator
Sara Wilson McKay, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Art Education, School of the Arts
Email: swilsonmckay@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-7154

Additional contact
Kathleen Cauley, Ph.D.
Associate professor and interim director of Office of Graduate Studies, School of Education
Email: kmcauley@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-2657

Program websites: soe.vcu.edu (http://www.soe.vcu.edu) and arts.vcu.edu/arteducation (http://arts.vcu.edu/arteducation)
Department of Counseling and Special Education

Colleen Thoma, Ph.D.
Professor and chair

soe.vcu.edu/departmentpages/counseling-and-special-education (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/departmentpages/counseling-and-special-education)

The Department of Counseling and Special Education blends top-tier, accredited programs in counselor education and special education and disability policy to create a unique, interdisciplinary academic environment for students and faculty. The department’s primary mission is to prepare graduates to be leaders, ready to make a difference in people’s lives. Courses emphasize applicable learning, incorporating the practical tasks and situations students will be faced with on the job.

The nationally recognized faculty members provide guidance and support, allowing students to fully explore their areas of interest. The department provides the tools that help students examine, refine and challenge current methods and scholarship and to use evidence-based research. Learn more by visiting the Department of Counseling and Special Education webpage (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/departmentpages/counseling-and-special-education).

- Counselor Education, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in college student development and counseling (p. 476)
- Counselor Education, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in school counseling
- Education, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in counselor education and supervision (p. 481)
- Education, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in special education and disability leadership (p. 482)
- Special Education, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in early childhood (p. 484)
- Special Education, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in general education
- Special Education, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in severe disabilities
- Autism Spectrum Disorder, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) (p. 474)
- Disability Leadership, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) (p. 480)

Autism Spectrum Disorder, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)

Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

Program goal

The post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorder is designed to prepare personnel to support individuals with autism spectrum disorder in the educational setting from early intervention through adult services. The purpose of the certificate is to provide the wide range of competencies necessary for the provision of effective educational programming. The course sequence enables personnel to develop comprehensive knowledge and experience in assessment, teaching strategies and curriculum development. The certificate is geared toward teachers, potential teachers and related service personnel. However, it is available to all professionals working in the human service setting who wish to gain expertise in this area.

All applicants must hold a bachelor’s degree in any area related to education, social work, psychology or human services. Participants are required to earn 12 graduate credit hours as outlined below. Upon successful completion of the certificate program, participants will be able to:

1. Describe the primary and secondary characteristics of ASD and the impact on communication, socialization, sensory responses, patterns of behavior and learning style throughout the lifespan.
2. Understand the concerns of families of individuals with ASD and describe strategies and provide resources to help address these concerns.
3. Understand and apply theories and research that form the basis of curriculum development and instructional practice.
4. Assess student ability and develop individualized programs that use evidence-based practice to support and enhance learning across environments and across areas of development and need.
5. Describe the behavior of individuals with ASD in terms of its function and identify how to provide positive behavioral support in order to replace existing problem behavior or prevent the development of new problem behaviors.
6. Provide environmental supports, structure and technology adaptations to provide optimal learning and independence for individuals with ASD across environments.

The four autism spectrum disorder courses can also be completed by students who do not wish to earn the post-baccalaureate certificate. In this case, admission to the VCU Graduate School is not required. Individual student needs and preferences determine the best way for the student to proceed.

Student learning outcomes

1. Participants understand the field as an evolving and changing discipline based on philosophies, evidence-based principles and theories, relevant laws and policies, diverse and historical points of view, and human issues that have historically influenced and continue to influence the field of special education and the education and treatment of individuals with ASD. Participants understand how these influence professional practice, including assessment, instructional planning, implementation and program evaluation.
2. Participants understand the characteristics of those with ASD and the educational implications. This includes an understanding of:
   a. Primary and secondary characteristics of individuals with developmental disabilities/autism spectrum disorder
   b. Medical aspects and implications for learning for individuals with developmental disabilities/autism spectrum disorders
   c. Co-existing conditions and ranges that exist at a higher rate than in the general population
   d. Different ways of learning and the impact of academic and social abilities, attitudes, interests and values on instruction
3. Participants demonstrate knowledge of evidence-based practices selecting, adapting and using instructional strategies and materials
according to characteristics of the individual with ASD. Participants
demonstrate knowledge of evidence-based practices designed to
target communication, social, behavior, sensory and academic needs.
4. Participants understand how to develop and implement
comprehensive, longitudinal individualized programs in collaboration
with team members. Participants demonstrate knowledge of
instructional and assistive technology that can be integrated into the
educational program. Participants understand how to plan
systematic instruction based on learner characteristics, interests and ongoing assessment use.
5. Participants demonstrate knowledge of the components of
assessment for individuals with developmental disabilities/autism
spectrum disorder including both formal and informal assessments.
Participants understand the need to assess individual strengths, skills and learning styles.
6. Participants understand the importance of collaboration with school
personnel and families and demonstrate knowledge of related
skills. Participants understand how to communicate effectively with families of individuals with ASD. Participants understand the value of
observing, evaluating and providing feedback to paraeducators who work under their supervision.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic
regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree
candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation
requirements. (p. 40)

Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree in an appropriate discipline including education, social work, psychology or human services
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

Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements
(p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a
   minimum of 12 graduate credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses
   constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a
grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course code</th>
<th>Course title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SEDP 532</td>
<td>Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEDP 634</td>
<td>Assessment, Curriculum and Teaching Methods for Autism Spectrum Disorder</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEDP 635</td>
<td>Supporting Behavior and Social Skills for Autism Spectrum Disorder</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEDP 638</td>
<td>Instructional Design and Field Experience for Autism Spectrum Disorder</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 12

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 12**

Graduate program director
Selena J. Layden, Ph.D., BCBA-D, LBA
Counselor Education, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in college student development and counseling

Program goal
The M.Ed. in Counselor Education with a concentration in college student development and counseling is a 48-credit-hour program designed to prepare counselors for higher education and community agencies throughout Virginia and the nation. The college student development and counseling concentration provides students with the specialized knowledge and skills necessary for employment as student affairs professionals in higher education settings. The program requires a minimum of two years of study to complete.

The faculty makes every effort to assist students in individualizing a graduate program to match their professional needs and interests. However, individualization takes place in an environment of legitimate constraints revolving around institutional, accreditation and licensure requirements. Faculty members view each program as more than simply an aggregate of courses, and students should plan all program work with their faculty advisers.

Student learning outcomes

Professional orientation/professional identity/continuing education
1. Students display knowledge and understanding of the historical and philosophical foundations of the counseling profession, including counselor professional identity, and display necessary skills in applying this knowledge and understanding to professional practice.
2. Students demonstrate the ability to adhere to legal and ethical practice.
3. Students understand the importance of continuing education and are committed to seeking continuing education throughout their careers.

Helping relationships/group work/career development/wellness
1. Students display knowledge and understanding of counseling processes applied to both individuals and groups including knowledge of how to design, implement and evaluate programs related to academic, career and personal/social development of clients.
2. Students display knowledge and skills related to responding to crises, emergencies and disasters.
3. Students participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of programs that promote wellness, as well as prevention and intervention services.

Human development/wellness
Students display knowledge of theories of learning, personality development, transitions and resilience, and use this information as a basis for facilitating optimal development and wellness.

Social and cultural diversity/social justice and advocacy
1. Students display knowledge and understanding of diversity and equity issues and how these issues impact clients’ academic, personal and career opportunities.
2. Students display multicultural competencies including appropriate sensitivity, skills and advocacy in working with diverse clients.
3. Students display knowledge and understanding of the relationship between counseling programs and academic achievement, including an understanding of factors that promote student success, and work to close the achievement gap among disenfranchised groups.

Assessment
Students display knowledge and understanding of multiple factors that may affect personal, social and academic functioning, and possesses knowledge and skills to identify, evaluate and implement appropriate needs assessments and consequent interventions.

Research
Students display knowledge and understanding of research and evaluation, including understanding of how data are used to inform decisions, and students display skills and professional practices in appropriate collection, analysis and use of data.

Leadership
1. Students display knowledge of issues that affect student affairs practice and demonstrate an understanding of leadership, organization and management practices that help institutions accomplish their missions.
2. Students advocate for policies, programs and services that are equitable and responsive to the unique needs of postsecondary students.
3. Students use and analyze multiple data sources, including institutional data, to make decisions about improving differentiated student programs and students develop measurable outcomes for student development activities.
4. Students collaborate with the postsecondary community to assist students and use postsecondary community resources to improve student learning and development.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

Degree candidacy requirements
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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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
Students accepted into the counselor education program must make satisfactory progress toward their degrees. Students who earn unsatisfactory grades and/or exhibit unprofessional conduct may be terminated from the program. More specific information about satisfactory academic progress can be found on this website at satisfactory (p. 39)academic progress (p. 39).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
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<td>M.Ed.</td>
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<td>GRE or MAT</td>
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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’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. Personal interview may be required
6. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), 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 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Internship requirements: Students must complete approved internship.
4. Testing requirements: Students must provide acceptable score on the National Counselor Examination.

Curriculum requirements

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<th>Foundations</th>
<th>Human development and learning</th>
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<tr>
<td>CLED 620</td>
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<td>CLED 672</td>
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Approved elective 3

Total Hours 48

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48

Graduate program coordinator
Donna Gibson, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Counselor Education
Email: dgibson7@vcu.edu
Counselor Education, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in school counseling

Program goal
The M.Ed. in Counselor Education with a concentration in school counseling is a 48-credit-hour program designed to prepare counselors for elementary, middle and high schools. The school counseling concentration leads to school counseling licensure and preparation for advanced graduate work at the post-master’s level. The program requires a minimum of two years of study to complete.

The faculty makes every effort to assist students in individualizing a graduate program to match their professional needs and interests. However, individualization takes place in an environment of legitimate constraints revolving around institutional, accreditation and licensure requirements. Faculty members view each program as more than simply an aggregate of courses, and students should plan all program work with their faculty advisers.

For students who already have a master’s degree in education, the 36 credit hours of program core courses in the school counseling concentration also will lead to recommendation for licensure as a school counselor. Students who wish to gain this licensure must meet with the department chair and file a plan of study. Although students holding master’s degrees do not apply for admission to the graduate program, they must file the appropriate plan of study in order to qualify for the VCU-approved program of study. No course work taken more than seven years prior to applying for licensure as a school counselor will count toward meeting VCU’s approved program course equivalents.

Student learning outcomes

Professional orientation/professional identity/continuing education
1. Students display knowledge and understanding of the historical and philosophical foundations of the counseling profession, including counselor professional identity, and display necessary skills in applying this knowledge and understanding to professional practice.
2. Students demonstrate the ability to adhere to legal and ethical practice.
3. Students understand the importance of continuing education and are committed to seeking continuing education throughout their careers.

Helping relationships/group work/career development/wellness
1. Students display knowledge and understanding of counseling processes applied to both individuals and groups including knowledge of how to design, implement and evaluate programs related to academic, career and personal/social development of clients.
2. Students display knowledge and skills related to responding to crises, emergencies and disasters.
3. Students participate in the design, implementation and evaluation of programs that promote wellness, as well as prevention and intervention services.

Human development/wellness
Students display knowledge of theories of learning, personality development, transitions and resilience, and use this information as a basis for facilitating optimal development and wellness.

Social and cultural diversity/social justice and advocacy
1. Students display knowledge and understanding of diversity and equity issues and how these issues impact clients’ academic, personal and career opportunities.
2. Students display multicultural competencies including appropriate sensitivity, skills and advocacy in working with diverse clients.
3. Students display knowledge and understanding of the relationship between counseling programs and academic achievement, including an understanding of factors that promote student success, and work to close the achievement gap among disenfranchised groups.

Assessment
Students display knowledge and understanding of multiple factors that may affect personal, social and academic functioning, and possesses knowledge and skills to identify, evaluate and implement appropriate needs assessments and consequent interventions.

Research
Students display knowledge and understanding of research and evaluation, including understanding of how data are used to inform decisions, and students display skills and professional practices in appropriate collection, analysis and use of data.

For school counseling concentration
1. Students display knowledge of the professional models that guide the practice of school counseling and demonstrate the ability to articulate, model and advocate for appropriate school counselor duties and programs.
2. Students display knowledge and understanding of the role of family-school-community collaboration on student development and strategies to enhance collaboration.

Leadership
Students display knowledge and understanding of leadership models and of the school counselor’s role in school leadership; students display appropriate skills and dispositions for working in a leadership capacity in school counseling.

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs
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established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

Students accepted into the counselor education program must make satisfactory progress toward their degrees. Students who earn unsatisfactory grades and/or exhibit unprofessional conduct may be terminated from the program. More specific information about satisfactory academic progress (p. 39) can be found on this website.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.Ed.</td>
<td>Summer or fall</td>
<td>Dec 1 (early consideration)</td>
<td>GRE or MAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 15 (final deadline)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’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. Personal interview may be required
6. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), 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 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Internship requirements: Students must complete approved internship.
4. Testing requirements: Students must provide acceptable score on the National Counselor Examination.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundations</th>
<th>Human development and learning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLED/EDUS 615</td>
<td>Lifespan Development: A Gender Perspective</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cultural, historical and philosophical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 673</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 660</td>
<td>Research Methods in Education</td>
</tr>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core courses</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLED 600</td>
<td>Professional Orientation and Ethical Practice in Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLED 601</td>
<td>Theories of Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLED 602</td>
<td>Techniques of Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLED 603</td>
<td>Group Procedures in Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLED 604</td>
<td>Practicum: School Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLED 605</td>
<td>Career Information and Exploration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLED 606</td>
<td>Assessment Techniques for Counselors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLED 607</td>
<td>Multicultural Counseling in Educational Settings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLED 612</td>
<td>Seminar in Counseling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLED 613</td>
<td>Data-driven Comprehensive School Counseling Programs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disability Leadership, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)

Program goal
The Certificate in Disability Leadership is a 12-hour certificate program designed to prepare health professionals, special educators and other professionals in related disciplines in the field of childhood neurodevelopmental disabilities to be leaders in the health care system. The program provides a 12- to 24-month curriculum of didactic and Web-based courses, interactive seminars, clinical and community-based practica, a family mentorship experience and planned grassroots- and systems-level policy activities. To be eligible for admission, a student must be accepted into the Virginia Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities program.

Va-LEND is a collaboration among the School of Education (Partnership for People with Disabilities), the VCU School of Medicine (Department of Pediatrics) and the Virginia Department of Health (Title V Program). The LEND curriculum emphasizes all aspects of neurodevelopmental and related disabilities, the social environment (including ethnic and cultural issues), the interdisciplinary approach (systems of care), leadership (advocacy and public policy as well as administration) and research. Following completion of the program, the trainees will be able to serve as leaders in the field of child health and neurodevelopmental disabilities.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the nature and range of neurodevelopmental disabilities.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of the team approach to serving individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.
3. Students will demonstrate an understanding of community services and resources available to individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of their role as advocates for individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.
5. Students will be involved in a leadership role with an organization serving individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities and their families.

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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.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).
Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’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. Completion of the Va-LEND application and submission to Beth Bader by June 1 to begin classes in the fall semester

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 12 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Semester Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDDS 600</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Studies in Disabilities: Teamwork in Serving Persons with Developmental Disabilities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDDS 602</td>
<td>Leadership in Developmental Disabilities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDDS 603</td>
<td>Clinical and Community Services for Children with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDDS 672</td>
<td>Practicum in Disability Leadership</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 12

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 12

Graduate program director

TBD

Additional contact

Beth A. Bader, Ph.D.
Associate director
Email: babader@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-0073

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

Education, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
with a concentration in counselor education and supervision

Program goal

The counselor education and supervision concentration is designed to prepare experienced, research-oriented master’s-level counselors for academic positions focused on research, service, teaching and counselor education. Doctoral students will integrate theory, research and practice in areas of counselor supervision and training, counselor education and teaching, advanced counseling, diversity and multiculturalism, leadership, advocacy, and social justice.

Student learning outcomes

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
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 all members agree, the student is granted a Ph.D.

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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.vcu.edu) and academic regulations in individual school and department publications and on program.
Education, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in special education and disability leadership

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Nov 15 (early consideration)</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 1 (final deadline)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- Students wishing full consideration for graduate assistantships should apply by the early consideration deadline.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Master's degree from a CACREP-accredited program or related 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

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 702</td>
<td>Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship I</td>
<td>3</td>
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Research

<table>
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<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>EDUS 608</td>
<td>Educational Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 710</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 711</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Externship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 700</td>
<td>Externship</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Dissertation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (minimum of six credit hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUS 890</td>
<td>Dissertation Seminar</td>
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</table>

Concentration courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLED 720</td>
<td>Counselor Education Doctoral Seminar I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLED 721</td>
<td>Counselor Education Doctoral Seminar II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLED 730</td>
<td>Advanced Counseling Theories and Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLED 740</td>
<td>Supervision in Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLED 750</td>
<td>Advanced Group Counseling</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLED 760</td>
<td>Advanced Career Counseling and Development</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLED 810</td>
<td>Counselor Education Doctoral Internship</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 52

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 52

Graduate program coordinator
Donna Gibson, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Counselor Education
Email: dgbison7@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1332

Additional contact
Colleen Thoma, Ph.D.
Professor and chair, Department of Special Education and Disability Policy
Email: cathoma@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-2653

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

Education, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in special education and disability leadership

Program goal

The special education and disability leadership concentration is designed primarily for individuals employed in leadership positions in the field of special education. Emphasis in this concentration is placed on developing in-depth knowledge about topics as they pertain to personnel development, research, issues and policies in special education.
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.

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Graduation requirements

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

Below is a link to the Doctoral Student Handbook:

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Dec 15</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), 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 (p. 40), 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 in teaching, research and service policy.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>EDUS 702</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EDUS 703</td>
<td>Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship II</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EDUS 710</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Design</td>
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<td>EDUS 711</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research elective</td>
<td>EDUC 700</td>
<td>Externship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Externship</td>
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<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>EDUC 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (minimum of six credit hours)</td>
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<td>EDUS 890</td>
<td>Dissertation Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>Concentration courses</td>
<td>SEDP 705</td>
<td>Seminar on Disability Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SEDP 706</td>
<td>Personnel Development in Special Education</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SEDP 707</td>
<td>Critical Issues in Special Education</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>SEDP 708</td>
<td>Grant Writing in Special Education and Other Social Sciences</td>
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<td>SEDP 709</td>
<td>Literature Reviews in Special Education and Other Social Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48

Graduate program coordinator
Kevin S. Sutherland, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Counseling and Special Education
Email: kssuther@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1332

Additional contact
Colleen Thoma, Ph.D.
Professor and chair, Department of Counseling and Special Education
Email: cathoma@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-2653

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

Special Education, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in early childhood

Program goal

The Master of Education in Special Education program prepares graduates for work in one of three areas: early childhood, severe disabilities or general education. Applicants who do not already hold a teaching license must meet both licensure and degree requirements prior to the awarding of the Master of Education degree unless exempted as a professional from another discipline. Students should plan carefully with their adviser to ensure that the appropriate courses and experiences are completed. Successful completion of the degree program leads to endorsement in early childhood special education, special education-general education or severe disabilities.

The Master of Education in Special Education program with an early childhood concentration is a sequentially planned series of courses and clinical experiences designed to prepare individuals to work with young children, from birth through age 5, with developmental disabilities and their families. The courses are delivered using a hybrid of online and face-to-face formats. The program is learner-centered, innovative, interactive and collaborative. Through online discussions and face-to-face meetings with faculty members, community partners, student peers and program graduates, the ECSE teacher candidates have multiple opportunities to engage in interactive, proactive and dynamic dialogues.

Successful completion of the degree program qualifies students for teacher licensure with endorsement in early childhood special education by the Virginia Department of Education. Students are prepared to intervene with infants and young children representing a wide range of abilities, including those at risk for developmental delays. As a result of training, students will be prepared to serve children and families in diverse and high-need communities in a variety of early intervention roles. The program can be completed in five semesters of full-time study or six semesters of part-time study.

In addition to course work, candidates will create an electronic portfolio that will showcase their knowledge, skills and dispositions in the special education early childhood curriculum.

Student learning outcomes

1. Demonstrate content knowledge in special education: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in special education as evidenced by the final portfolio and case-study paper.

2. Effectively plan instruction: Candidates demonstrate that they can effectively plan classroom-based instruction or activities for other roles as special educators as evidenced by the UDL/collaboration unit plan.

3. Effectively apply knowledge, skills and dispositions (clinical experience): Candidates demonstrate knowledge, skills and dispositions are applied effectively in practice as evidenced by the clinical evaluation continuum.

4. Effect on student learning: Candidates demonstrate effects on student learning as evidenced by the unit plan with curriculum-based measure – secondary.

5. Candidates demonstrate CEC standards proficiency: Candidates further demonstrate proficiency on CEC competencies as evidenced by the assessing a child/IEP assignment, the multicultural poster and
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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.Ed.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td>GRE or MAT</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’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

Additionally, there are several tests that students must pass for admission to teacher preparation, admission to student teaching and licensure in Virginia. Students should consult the Student Services Center (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/student-services-center) section on the School of Education website for current testing requirements.

Admission to clinical experiences in schools requires a background check and fingerprinting.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 37 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.

Curriculum requirements

Foundations

Select one of the following: 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 605</td>
<td>Child and Adolescent Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUS/PSYC 607</td>
<td>Advanced Educational Psychology for Elementary Teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 673</td>
<td>Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy</td>
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Core courses

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>ECSE 500</td>
<td>Language/Communication Intervention for Young Children with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECSE 542</td>
<td>Family/Professional Partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEDP 631</td>
<td>Classroom Management and Behavior Support for Students with Disabilities</td>
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</table>

Concentration courses

<table>
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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>ECSE 541</td>
<td>Educational Foundations for Collaboration and Universally Designed Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECSE 601</td>
<td>Assessment of Infants and Young Children with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Master of Education in Special Education general education concentration is designed to prepare graduates with the professional knowledge and skills needed to work in a variety of settings.

1. General education classrooms (where children with special needs are being collaboratively taught)
2. Resource, modified resource or collaborative resource rooms
3. Self-contained settings or classrooms in varied urban, suburban or rural areas
4. Residential programs
5. Various community environments

Special training is provided in teaching reading and language, behavior management, and the use of interactive strategies that teach positive social skills. Candidates are prepared to work with students in completing a variety of transitions, such as from special education to the general education classroom or from high school to employment and independent living.

Through course work, the general education concentration will encompass broad concepts of education, research, development, related disciplines and special education to build a foundation of professional knowledge and understanding. Specialized courses develop the intensive diagnostic, remedial, decision-making and consultative skills and understandings required of a professional in a special education-general education setting, including the ability to recognize educational and social problems, to formulate effective individualized instructional interventions using a variety of methodologies and modifications, to incorporate accommodations and transitions into program plans and to consult productively with appropriate personnel in the development of maximum educational opportunities for students with high-incidence disabilities. In addition to course work, candidates will create an electronic portfolio that will showcase their knowledge, skills and dispositions in the special education general curriculum.

The program offers candidates the opportunity to complete clinical placements in their own classroom or school with approval from VCU faculty and supervision by trained personnel. Placement opportunities for clinical experiences include a range of public and private schools and mental health programs that allow graduate students to select field experiences that are consistent with their professional goals. Previous teaching experience is valued, but not required. Students will have the opportunity to complete a practicum in addition to the externship. When students complete the program, they are eligible for licensure by the Virginia Department of Education with an endorsement to teach students enrolled in special education, general curriculum in grades K-12. Candidates are offered the option of taking a full-time or an on-the-job externship for a semester.

Student learning outcomes

1. Demonstrate content knowledge in special education: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in special education as evidenced by the final portfolio and case-study paper.
2. Effectively plan instruction: Candidates demonstrate that they can effectively plan classroom-based instruction or activities for other roles as special educators as evidenced by the UDL/collaboration unit plan.
3. Effectively apply knowledge, skills and dispositions (clinical experience): Candidates demonstrate knowledge, skills and dispositions are applied effectively in practice as evidenced by the clinical evaluation continuum.
4. Effect on student learning: Candidates demonstrate effects on student learning as evidenced by the unit plan with curriculum-based measure – secondary.
5. Demonstrate CEC standards proficiency: Candidates further demonstrate proficiency on CEC competencies as evidenced by the assessing a child/IEP assignment, the multicultural poster and paper, and the functional behavior assessment/behavior intervention plan.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

Degree: | Semester(s) of entry: | Deadline dates: | Test requirements:
--- | --- | --- | ---
M.Ed. | Fall | Feb 1 | GRE or MAT
 | Spring | Oct 1 | 
 | Summer | Feb 1 | 

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’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. Interview

Additionally, there are several tests that students must pass for admission to teacher preparation, admission to student teaching and licensure in Virginia. Students should consult the Student Services Center (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/student-services-center) section on the School of Education website for current testing requirements.

Applicants who do not have a provisional or professional collegiate teaching license in special education must take SEDP 630 as a prerequisite course.

Applicants who hold bachelor’s degrees in areas other than special education must complete a review process with program faculty as part of the admissions process.

Admission to clinical experiences in schools requires a background check and fingerprinting.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 37 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundations</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Core courses</th>
<th>Electives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS/PSYC 607</td>
<td>Research Methods in Education</td>
<td>SEDP 501</td>
<td>Advanced Educational Psychology for Elementary Teachers</td>
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<td>SEDP 531</td>
<td>Educational Foundations for Collaboration and Universally Designed Learning</td>
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<td>SEDP 533</td>
<td>Educational Assessment of Individuals with Diverse Learning Needs</td>
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<td>SEDP 601</td>
<td>Methods I: Teaching Students in Special Education - General Education</td>
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<td>SEDP 602</td>
<td>Methods II: Teaching Students in Special Education - General Education</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SEDP 611</td>
<td>Secondary Education and Transition Planning</td>
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<td>SEDP/TEDU 619</td>
<td>Multicultural Perspectives in Education</td>
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<td>SEDP 631</td>
<td>Classroom Management and Behavior Support for Students with Disabilities</td>
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<td>SEDP 700</td>
<td>Externship</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>TEDU 561</td>
<td>Reading Foundations: Sociological/Psychological Perspectives</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TEDU 566</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Remediation in Reading</td>
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</table>

3,4
Special Education, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in severe disabilities

Program goal
The Master of Education in Special Education program prepares graduates for work in one of three areas: early childhood, severe disabilities or general education. Applicants who do not already hold a teaching license must meet both licensure and degree requirements prior to the awarding of the Master of Education degree unless exempted as a professional from another discipline. Students should plan carefully with their adviser to ensure that the appropriate courses and experiences are completed.

The Master of Education in Special Education severe disabilities concentration is designed to prepare teachers to work with students in grades K-12 in public school settings. Throughout the program, emphasis is placed on person-centered planning, school and community inclusion, transdisciplinary teamwork and the role of the family. Successful completion of the degree program leads to licensure endorsement in special education, adapted curriculum K-12.

Courses address physical and medical management issues, functional assessment strategies, longitudinal curriculum planning, systematic instruction, augmentative and alternative communication systems, assistive technology, transition from school to adulthood, positive behavioral supports and the special needs of students with physical, sensory and health-related disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder.

All core courses are offered through the Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Special Education Adapted Curriculum: Supporting Students with Severe Disabilities and Autism. Core courses are accessed through VCU. Students enrolled in the program complete a field-based externship in their school (if they currently serve students with severe disabilities) or in one of the many public schools in the Richmond area. A total of six credit hours of externship experience is spread throughout the course of study and is designed to meet the students' needs for professional development.

All candidates are required to submit a final portfolio as the capstone requirement of the program. Successful completion of the 42-credit-hour program results in eligibility for Virginia endorsement in special education, adapted curriculum in addition to the Master of Education degree.

Student learning outcomes
1. Demonstrate content knowledge in special education: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in special education as evidenced by the final portfolio and the disability case-study paper.
2. Effectively plan instruction: Candidates demonstrate that they can effectively plan classroom-based instruction or activities for other roles as special educators as evidenced by the intervention program plan with data.
3. Effectively apply knowledge, skills and dispositions (clinical experience): Candidates demonstrate knowledge, skills and dispositions are applied effectively in practice as evidenced by the clinical evaluation continuum.
4. Effect on student learning: Candidates demonstrate effects on student learning as evidenced by the unit plan with the transition IEP.
5. Candidates demonstrate CEC standards proficiency: Candidates further demonstrate proficiency on CEC competencies as evidenced by the functional behavior assessment/behavior intervention plan, expanded present level of performance, low-tech device, teamwork project and physical management plan with assistive technology assignments.

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.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Test requirements</th>
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<td></td>
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</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor'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

Additionally, there are several tests that students must pass for admission to teacher preparation, admission to student teaching and licensure in Virginia. Students should consult the Student Services Center (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/student-services-center) section on the School of Education website for current testing requirements.

Applicants who do not have a provisional or professional collegiate teaching license in special education must take SEDP 630 as a prerequisite course.

Applicants who hold bachelor’s degrees in areas other than special education must complete a review process with program faculty as part of the admissions process.

Admission to clinical experiences in schools requires a background check and fingerprinting.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 42 credit hours.

2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Foundations**

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 603</td>
<td>Seminar in Child Growth and Development</td>
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<td>EDUS 605</td>
<td>Child and Adolescent Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS/PSYC 607</td>
<td>Advanced Educational Psychology for Elementary Teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 673</td>
<td>Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUS 660</td>
<td>Research Methods in Education</td>
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**Concentration courses**

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<tr>
<td>ECSE 700</td>
<td>Externship</td>
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<tr>
<td>IDDS 600</td>
<td>Interdisciplinary Studies in Developmental Disabilities: Teamwork in Serving Persons with Developmental Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEDP 531</td>
<td>Educational Foundations for Collaboration and Universally Designed Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEDP 600</td>
<td>Language/Communication Intervention for Young Children and Individuals with Severe Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEDP 610</td>
<td>Teaching Strategies for Students with Severe Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEDP 612</td>
<td>Assessment and Curriculum for Students with Severe Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEDP 631</td>
<td>Classroom Management and Behavior Support for Students with Disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEDP 632</td>
<td>Transition Strategies for Students with Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEDP 651</td>
<td>Topics in Education (characteristics of students with severe disabilities)</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEDP 658</td>
<td>Educating Students with Physical and Sensory Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 561</td>
<td>Reading Foundations: Sociological/ Psychological Perspectives</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Successful completion of SEDP 630 if candidate does not hold eligibility for a Virginia provisional special education teaching license

Successful completion of portfolio requirement

**Total Hours**

42

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 42**

**Graduate program coordinator**

Beth A. Bader, Ph.D.
Assistant professor, Department of Counseling and Special Education
Email: babader@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-9821

**Graduate program director**

Colleen A. Thoma, Ph.D.
Professor and chair, Department of Counseling and Special Education
The Department of Educational Leadership is directed not only toward identifying and analyzing those organizational impediments to equal educational opportunity. This interdisciplinary study of leadership and policy is offered for individuals in educational settings who want to study educational leadership but do not wish to seek endorsement in school administration and supervision.

The department offers two M.Ed. programs, a certificate program and two doctoral programs. The M.Ed. in Educational Leadership with a concentration in administration and supervision and the post-master’s Certificate in Educational Leadership lead to endorsement in administration and supervision by the Virginia Department of Education. The M.Ed. in Educational Leadership with a concentration in leadership studies is offered for individuals in educational settings who want to study educational leadership and remain in leadership positions in educational organizations.

For more information consult the department’s website (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/academics_programs/educational-leadership).

- Education, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in educational leadership, policy and justice (p. 490)
- Educational Leadership, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in administration and supervision (p. 493)
- Educational Leadership, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in leadership studies (p. 495)
- Leadership, Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) (p. 496)
- Educational Leadership, Certificate in (Post-master’s certificate) (p. 492)

**Education, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in educational leadership, policy and justice**

**Program goal**

The educational leadership, policy and justice concentration is designed to cultivate educational scholars and leaders who will advance scholarship, policy and practice related to equity and social justice. Drawing on an interdisciplinary study of leadership and policy, the program promotes an understanding of the many societal and organizational impediments to equal educational opportunity. This concentration is directed not only toward identifying and analyzing those injustices, but also toward imagining, researching and creating more equitable, inclusive schools and societies through leadership and policy. The dissertation is a rigorous culminating tool for research, advocacy and change within educational organizations and endeavors. Graduates will be prepared to lead for equity in K-12 organizations, higher education, research and policy think tanks or local, state and federal policymaking institutions.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Complete an original research study: dissertation component – Student 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 agree, and other requirements are met, the student is granted a Ph.D.

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)
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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

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

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), 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 (p. 40), 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
Foundation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 702</td>
<td>Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 703</td>
<td>Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 608</td>
<td>Educational Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 710</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 711</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Research elective
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Externship
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 700</td>
<td>Externship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dissertation
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (minimum of six credit hours)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 890</td>
<td>Dissertation Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concentration courses
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 702</td>
<td>U.S. Educational Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 703</td>
<td>Leadership for Social Justice and Equity in Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 704</td>
<td>Education Finance Policy and the Equitable Distribution of Resources</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 706</td>
<td>Current Topics in Educational Leadership and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 707</td>
<td>The Politics of Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 708</td>
<td>Equal Educational Opportunity in the 21st Century Metropolis: Toward a Policy Framework</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other courses selected in consultation with the adviser

Total Hours 48

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48

Graduate program coordinator
Genevieve Siegel-Hawley, Ph.D
Assistant professor, Department of Educational Leadership
Email: gsiegelhawle@vcu.edu
Additional contact
Whitney S. Newcomb, Ph.D.
Professor and interim chair, Department of Educational Leadership
Email: wsnewcomb@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-8724

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

Educational Leadership, Certificate in (Post-master's certificate)

Program goal
The post-master’s certificate is a 21-hour program for individuals who have obtained a master’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university; the degree must be in the field of education or in one that meets the requirements to be employed in a position requiring licensure in Virginia. Applicants must have an active five-year renewable educator license and have at least two years of experience in an instructional personnel position that requires licensure in Virginia.

Please visit the Department of Educational Leadership’s website for additional information about program and application requirements.

Student learning outcomes
1. Candidates demonstrate content knowledge: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in educational leadership as evidenced by the School Leaders Licensure Assessment and the school law case study.
2. Design, align, evaluate curriculum, guide learning: Candidates demonstrate the ability to develop a supervisory plan for classroom-based learning as evidenced by the clinical supervision model.
3. Internship/clinical practice: Candidates demonstrate effective applications in internship/clinical practice as evidenced by the on-site supervisor evaluation.
4. Assess application of content: Candidates demonstrate application of content as evidenced by the action research project.
5. Assess management and community relations: Candidates demonstrate organizational management and community relations skills as evidenced by the educational intervention plan.

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs
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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Feb 15</td>
<td>GRE or MAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Must hold a master’s degree in the field of education or in one that meets the requirements to be employed in a position requiring licensure in Virginia
2. Must have an active five-year renewable educator license
3. Have at least two years of school experience in an instructional personnel position that requires licensure in Virginia
4. Three letters of recommendation addressing the student’s potential for graduate study in education
5. Applicant’s written statement concerning school leadership
6. Transcripts of all previous college work
Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 21 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Testing requirements: Individuals must take the School Leaders Licensure Assessment or any other assessment required by the Virginia Board of Education for endorsement as a school principal/supervisor K-12.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 611</td>
<td>School Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 618</td>
<td>Leadership for Educational Change and Improvement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 625</td>
<td>Leadership for Individualized Learning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 627</td>
<td>Enhancing and Supporting Instruction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 633</td>
<td>Multiple Dimensions of Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 640</td>
<td>Human Resource and Fiscal Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 670</td>
<td>Administrative Internship I 1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 671</td>
<td>Administrative Internship II 2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 675</td>
<td>Administrative Internship III 3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment

Individuals must take the SLLA or any other assessment required by the Virginia Board of Education for endorsement as a school principal/supervisor K-12. (no credit)

Total Hours 21

1  ADMS 670 must be taken in the first semester of enrollment in the program.
2  ADMS 671 is taken in the next-to-last semester of enrollment in the program.
3  ADMS 675 is taken in the last semester of enrollment in the program.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 21

Educational Leadership, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in administration and supervision

Program goal

The administration and supervision concentration of the M.Ed. in Educational Leadership is a 33-credit-hour program that prepares individuals to fill positions as reflective leaders for schools. Applicants must possess an active five-year renewable educator license and are expected to have at least two years of experience in a school setting in an instructional personnel position that requires licensure in Virginia. An end-of-program assessment is required. Individuals must meet technology standards approved by the Virginia Board of Education, and they must supply proof of child abuse and neglect recognition training. Individuals who successfully complete the program are eligible for endorsement as an administrator/supervisor K-12.

Please visit the Department of Educational Leadership’s website for additional information about program and application requirements.

Student learning outcomes

1. Content knowledge: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in educational leadership as evidenced by the School Leaders Licensure Assessment and the school law case study.
2. Develop supervisory plan for learning: Candidates demonstrate the ability to develop a supervisory plan for classroom-based learning as evidenced by the clinical supervision model.
3. Internship/clinical practice: Candidates demonstrate effective applications in internship/clinical practice as evidenced by the on-site supervisor evaluation.
4. Assess ability to support student learning and development: Candidates demonstrate ability to support student learning and development as evidenced by the leadership to support student learning assessment.
5. Assess application of content: Candidates demonstrate application of content as evidenced by the action research project.
6. Assess management and community relations: Candidates demonstrate organizational management and community relations skills as evidenced by the educational intervention plan.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.Ed.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>GRE or MAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree in an appropriate discipline
2. Three letters of recommendation addressing the student’s potential for graduate study in education
3. Applicant’s written statement concerning school leadership
4. Transcripts of all previous college work
5. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT
6. At least two years of experience in a school setting in an instructional personnel position that requires licensure in Virginia

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Internship requirement: Students in the administration and supervision concentration must complete an internship sequence.
4. Testing requirements: Individuals must take the School Leaders Licensure Assessment or any other assessment required by the Virginia Board of Education for endorsement as a school principal/supervisor K-12.
5. For endorsement, individuals must meet the technology standards approved by the Virginia Board of Education, and they must supply proof of child abuse and neglect recognition training.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required courses</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 611</td>
<td>School Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 618</td>
<td>Leadership for Educational Change and Improvement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 622</td>
<td>Understanding Diversity and Leading for Social Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 624</td>
<td>Principals as Human Resource Agents</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 625</td>
<td>Leadership for Individualized Learning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 627</td>
<td>Enhancing and Supporting Instruction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 629</td>
<td>The Business of Schools</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 630</td>
<td>Understanding and Engaging School Communities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 633</td>
<td>Multiple Dimensions of Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 670</td>
<td>Administrative Internship I ¹</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 671</td>
<td>Administrative Internship II ²</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 675</td>
<td>Administrative Internship III ³</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 660</td>
<td>Research Methods in Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Assessment
Individuals must take the SLLA or any other assessment required by the Virginia Board of Education for endorsement as a school principal/supervisor K-12. (no credit)

Total Hours 33

¹ ADMS 670 must be taken in the first semester of enrollment in the program.
² ADMS 671 is taken in the next-to-last semester of enrollment in the program.
³ ADMS 675 is taken in the last semester of enrollment in the program.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33

Graduate program coordinator
Brenda Cowlbeck, Ed.D.
Assistant professor, Department of Educational Leadership
Email: bfcowlbeck@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-2615

Additional contact
Whitney S. Newcomb, Ph.D.
Professor and interim chair, Department of Educational Leadership
Email: wsnewcomb@vcu.edu
Educational Leadership, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in leadership studies

Program goal
The leadership studies concentration of the M.Ed. in Educational Leadership is a 30-credit-hour program for individuals who hold or expect to hold leadership positions in educational organizations but who do not wish to obtain the administration/leadership endorsement from the Virginia Department of Education. Applicants are expected to have at least two years of experience in an educational setting. The program includes 15 hours of credit in required courses and 15 hours in a concentrated series of electives chosen with approval of the student's adviser.

Student learning outcomes
1. Content knowledge: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in educational leadership as evidenced by case study analyses.
2. Develop supervisory plan for learning: Candidates demonstrate the ability to develop a supervisory plan for classroom-based learning as evidenced by the clinical supervision model.
3. Assess ability to support student learning and development: Candidates demonstrate ability to support student learning and development as evidenced by the leadership to support student learning assessment.
4. Assess application of content: Candidates demonstrate application of content as evidenced by the action research project.
5. Assess management and community relations: Candidates demonstrate organizational management and community relations skills as evidenced by the educational intervention plan.

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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.

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<th>Deadline dates</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.Ed.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>GRE or MAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree in an appropriate discipline
2. Three letters of recommendation addressing the student’s potential for graduate study in education
3. Applicant’s written statement concerning leadership
4. Transcripts of all previous college work
5. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT
6. At least two years of experience in an educational setting

Please visit the Department of Educational Leadership’s auto-advising webpage for program-specific application requirements.

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.
1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 30 credit hours.

2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Required courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 618</td>
<td>Leadership for Educational Change and Improvement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 622</td>
<td>Understanding Diversity and Leading for Social Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 630</td>
<td>Understanding and Engaging School Communities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADMS 633</td>
<td>Multiple Dimensions of Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 660</td>
<td>Research Methods in Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

Any planned, concentrated series of courses from ADLT, ADMS, EDUS, PADM, SEDP and TEDU designed by student or student group and adviser to meet the needs of student or student group 15

Total Hours 30

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30**

**Graduate program coordinator**

Brenda Cowlebeck, Ed.D.
Assistant professor, Department of Educational Leadership
Email: bfcowlebeck@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-2615

**Additional contact**

Whitney S. Newcomb, Ph.D.
Professor and interim chair, Department of Educational Leadership
Email: wsnewcomb@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-8724

**Program website:** soe.vcu.edu/academics_programs/educational-leadership (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/academics_programs/educational-leadership)

**Leadership, Doctor of Education (Ed.D.)**

**Program goal**

The purpose of the Ed.D. in Leadership program is to provide leaders with authentic experiences, appropriate knowledge and skills, and opportunities for reflection that will enable them to succeed in organizational leadership positions. Three analytic lenses — equity, accountability and learning environments — will guide learning activities and enable students from varying backgrounds to consider learning through common perspectives.

Students will examine cases built around enduring questions in the field. Questions will be explored through contrasting evidence from a variety of perspectives and contexts.

**Program features**

The Ed.D. in Leadership is a 48-hour, 36-month program. Based upon principles of adult learning, the program has the following features:

1. Practitioner-oriented
2. Competitive admissions
3. Midcareer entry
4. Prescribed curriculum, with extensive use of case-study approach
5. Learning-community based
6. Problem-oriented pedagogy and curriculum
7. Collaborative instruction involving VCU full-time faculty and area practitioners
8. Applied research dissertation as a culminating project
9. Varied meeting formats: weekends, evenings, monthly, weekday blocks of time, summer full-day institutes, face-to-face and online

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Confident and clear communication and presentation skills through formal benchmark presentations
2. Understanding and application of effective leadership, team-building and learning behaviors through team projects
3. Appropriate data-gathering, management and analysis techniques through program evaluation and capstone projects
4. Making of decisions and recommendations based upon data analysis and scholarly research through formal benchmark presentations and capstone projects
5. Scholarly writing skills through technical report writing
6. Academic achievement necessary to be considered for doctoral candidate status, as required by the university by meeting candidacy requirements

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

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

Degree: 
Semester(s) of entry: 
Deadline dates: 
Test requirements: 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ed.D.</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>MAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards 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 and philosophy of leading for equity, accountability and learning environments
4. Transcripts of all previous college work
5. Professional vita or resume that addresses colleges or universities attended, educational degrees held, including major/minor, work history in chronological order, beginning with current position, leadership experiences, professional involvement, and awards and honors
6. Evidence of at least three years of successful leadership experience including evidence of leadership accomplishment for each of three areas:
   a. leadership for learning
   b. leadership for equity
   c. leadership for accountability
      (Applicants submit artifacts of evidence in the three areas through a website they develop.)
7. At least a 50th percentile score on the Miller Analogies Test

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), 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 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. Capstone requirements: Students must complete and defend a team-based capstone research project.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDLP 700</td>
<td>Effective Learning Networks</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDLP 702</td>
<td>Understanding Self as Leader: Theory and Data Analysis</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>EDLP 703</td>
<td>Understanding Self as Leader: Practical Applications</td>
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<td>EDLP 704</td>
<td>Frameworks for Decision-making: Legal Perspectives</td>
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<td>EDLP 705</td>
<td>Frameworks for Decision-making: Ethical Perspectives</td>
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<td>EDLP 708</td>
<td>Leadership Presence</td>
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<td>EDLP 709</td>
<td>Equity and Leadership</td>
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<td>EDLP 711</td>
<td>Evidence-informed Perspectives on Practice I</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDLP 712</td>
<td>Planning for Sustainable Change I</td>
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<td>EDLP 713</td>
<td>Evidence-informed Perspectives on Practice II</td>
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<td>EDLP 717</td>
<td>Communicating Research Findings</td>
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<td>EDLP 790</td>
<td>Capstone Development</td>
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<td>EDLP 798</td>
<td>Capstone Plan Implementation</td>
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<td>EDLP 799</td>
<td>Capstone Completion</td>
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</table>

Total Hours: 48

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48

Graduate program coordinator
Whitney S. Newcomb, Ph.D.
Professor and interim chair, Department of Educational Leadership
Email: wsnewcomb@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-8724

Additional contact
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Email: srfurman@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-8736

Program website: soe.vcu.edu/academics_programs/educational-leadership (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/academics_programs/educational-leadership)

Department of Foundations of Education

Lisa M. Abrams, Ph.D.
Associate professor and interim chair

The Department of Foundations of Education is committed to preparing educators and scholars for critical, reflective and responsible work
in education, enhancing the knowledge base in the varied disciplines through research and scholarship, and engaging in service to the broader community.

To fulfill this mission, the department offers multidisciplinary perspectives that are the pillars for School of Education programs, based on the contention that the preparation of effective educational practitioners and scholars requires deep understanding of the broader perspectives that are represented by research and theory in psychological, cultural, philosophical, historical and ethical areas of inquiry. Learn more by visiting the Foundations of Education webpage (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/academics_programs/foundations-of-education).

- Education, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in educational psychology (p. 498)
- Education, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in research and evaluation (p. 499)

**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 and motivation, assessment, and diversity to better study learning in schools or school-like settings.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. 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 all members agree, the student is granted a Ph.D.; therefore, inter-rater reliability is extremely high.

2. 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.

3. Develop research knowledge and skills (research component): Students will acquire the prerequisite skills essential to designing, conducting and interpreting qualitative, quantitative and mixed methods 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.

4. 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.

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

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Other information**

Below is a link to the Doctoral Student Handbook:
Admission requirements

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

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), 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. 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 (p. 40), 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

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.

Foundation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 702</td>
<td>Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUS 703</td>
<td>Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship II</td>
<td>3</td>
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Research

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<tr>
<td>EDUS 608</td>
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<td>EDUS 710</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Design</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUS 711</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research elective</td>
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<tr>
<td>Externship</td>
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<td>Externship</td>
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Dissertation

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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (minimum of six credit hours)</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 890</td>
<td>Dissertation Seminar</td>
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Concentration courses

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<th>Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 797</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 620</td>
<td>Human Development in Education</td>
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<td>EDUC 621</td>
<td>Motivation in Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 662</td>
<td>Educational Measurement and Evaluation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 720</td>
<td>Seminar in Cognition and School Learning</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUC 721</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar in Social Processes in Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective selected in consultation with adviser</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 51

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 51

Graduate program coordinator
Sharon Zumbrunn, Ph.D.
Assistant professor, Department of Foundations of Education
Email: skzumbrunn@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-2625

Additional contact
Lisa Abrams, Ph.D.
Interim chair, Department of Foundations of Education
Email: lmabrams@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1332

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

Education, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in research and evaluation

Program goal
The research and evaluation concentration is designed for individuals who want to develop skills to undertake, use and teach research and evaluation. Emphasis is placed on developing proficiency in quantitative, qualitative and mixed methods modes of inquiry and providing students with expertise to study varied educational and social research questions. Students select a focus in either research or evaluation.

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 skills essential to designing, conducting and interpreting qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods 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.

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.

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**Other information**


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**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Summer or fall</td>
<td>Dec 15</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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 (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

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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.
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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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation</th>
<th>EDUS 702</th>
<th>Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship I</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EDUS 703</td>
<td>Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship II</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research</th>
<th>EDUS 608</th>
<th>Educational Statistics</th>
<th>3</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EDUS 710</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Design</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EDUS 711</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Research elective   | EDUS 700 | Externship | 3 |

| Dissertation        | EDUC 700 | Externship | 3 |

| Dissertation        | EDUC 899 | Dissertation Research (minimum of six credit hours) | 6 |
|                     | EDUS 890 | Dissertation Seminar | 3 |

<table>
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<th>Concentration courses</th>
<th>EDUS 790</th>
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<td>NURS 772</td>
<td>Qualitative Research</td>
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<td>PPAD 711</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Policy I</td>
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<td>PPAD 721</td>
<td>Survey of Applied Research Methods in Public Policy</td>
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<td></td>
<td>SCMA 643</td>
<td>Applied Multivariate Methods</td>
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<td>SOCY/PADM 605</td>
<td>Survey Research Methods</td>
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| Other courses selected in consultation with the adviser | 18 |

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<tr>
<th>Research</th>
<th>EDUS 661</th>
<th>Educational Evaluation: Models and Designs</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EDUS 662</td>
<td>Educational Measurement and Evaluation</td>
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<td>EDUS 790</td>
<td>Educational Research Seminar</td>
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<td></td>
<td>PADM 627</td>
<td>Workshop in Policy Analysis and Evaluation</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SOCY/PADM 605</td>
<td>Survey Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

| Other courses selected in consultation with adviser | 48 |

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48**

**Graduate program coordinator**

Lisa M. Abrams, Ph.D.
Interim chair, Department of Foundations of Education
Email: lmabrams@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1332

**Additional contact**

James McMillan, Ph.D.
Professor and interim associate dean for academic affairs
Email: jhmcmill@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-2620

**Program website**: soe.vcu.edu (http://www.soe.vcu.edu)

**Department of Teaching and Learning**

Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair

The Department of Teaching and Learning is committed to excellence in the initial and continuing preparation of teachers for schools, government agencies, for-profit and nonprofit organizations, working with diverse groups; to modeling and encouraging critical reflection on practice; to collaborating and forming educational partnerships; to applying research and conducting scholarly endeavors that examine educational processes, issues and concerns; and to providing assistance and service to local, state, regional, national and international communities. Learn more by visiting the Department of Teaching and Learning webpage (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/academics_programs/teaching-and-learning).

- Adult Learning, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in adult literacy (p. 502)
- Adult Learning, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in human resource development (p. 503)
- Adult Learning, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in teaching and learning with technology (p. 505)
- Curriculum and Instruction, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in instructional technology (p. 506)
- Curriculum and Instruction, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in online teaching (p. 508)
- Curriculum and Instruction, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in teaching and learning (p. 509)
- Education, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in curriculum, culture and change (p. 512)
- Reading, Master of Education (p. 519)
- Reading, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in K-12 reading specialist (p. 521)
- Reading, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in TESOL/Adult (p. 524)
- Reading, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in TESOL/K-12 (p. 523)
- Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in biology education (p. 536)
- Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in chemistry education (p. 538)
- Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in elementary education (p. 540)
- Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in earth science education (p. 542)
- Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in English education (p. 544)
- Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in history/social studies education (p. 546)
- Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in mathematics education (p. 548)
• Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in physics education (p. 550)
• Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in teaching health and physical education (p. 552)
• Instructional Technology, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) (p. 514)
• Medical Education, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) (p. 515)
• Online Teaching for K-12 Educators, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) (p. 516)
• Reading Specialist, Certificate in (Post-master’s certificate) (p. 517)
• Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) (p. 525)
• Teaching, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) with a concentration in biology education (p. 527)
• Teaching, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) with a concentration in chemistry education (p. 528)
• Teaching, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) with a concentration in English education (p. 530)
• Teaching, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) with a concentration in history/social studies education (p. 531)
• Teaching, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) with a concentration in mathematics education (p. 533)
• Teaching, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) with a concentration in physics education (p. 534)

A unique feature of the program is the learning portfolio, maintained in an online journal (blog) format. The learning portfolio, in combination with the capstone seminar, replaces a comprehensive examination requirement. For the portfolio, students write reflective blog entries during each of the core and concentration courses. During the program, selected assignments are posted to the blog to document personal growth and learning over time. At the end of the program, students create a synthesis of their learning in an essay format or through creation of a digital story. The portfolio serves as a demonstration of the graduate’s abilities to a prospective employer and can be added to a student’s resume. Throughout, the program utilizes students’ experiences in working with adults as learners to unite theory with practice and emphasizes 21st-century technologies for teaching and learning.

Student learning outcomes
1. Demonstrate the ability to articulate a personal philosophy of adult learning practice that enables students to work effectively as leaders and facilitators to improve adult learning, as evidenced on the final program learning assessment
2. Demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge of all facets of adult learning to have a significant impact on the practices, culture and learning environments of the organizations in which students work
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the nature, function and scope of adult learning during the capstone experience of the program
4. Demonstrate awareness of the processes of adult learning and development during the capstone experience
5. Acknowledge the influence of technology in adult learning, as evidenced in the final program learning assessment
6. Demonstrate awareness of educational research in the adult learning field, as evidenced on the research on instructional strategy and organizational change strategy analysis rubrics

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.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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.

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Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

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Applicants must meet all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18).

Degree requirements
Students must meet all general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40).

Curriculum requirements

Foundation course
EDUS 660 Research Methods in Education 3

Core courses
ADLT 601 Adult Learning and Development 3
ADLT 606 Design and Delivery of Adult Learning Programs 3
ADLT 610 Consulting Skills In Adult Learning Environments 3
ADLT 612 Learning in Groups and Teams 3
ADLT 636 Capstone Seminar in Action Learning 3
ADLT 650 Adult Literacy and Diversity 3
ADLT 688 Lifespan Issues for Adults with Learning and Behavioral Disabilities 3

Adult literacy concentration electives
READ 602 Literacy for Adults 3
TEDU/ENGL/LING 552 Teaching English as a Second Language 3

TEDU 681 Investigations and Trends in Teaching (issues in adult literacy) 3

Total Hours 33

1 Students choose an elective concentration of nine credit hours in adult literacy. These courses are designed to be taken after the student completes foundation and core courses, with the exception of ADLT 636, the capstone seminar.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33

Graduate program director
Robin R. Hurst, Ed.D.
Adult learning program coordinator
Email: rrhurst@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-8021

Additional contact
Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

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

Adult Learning, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in human resource development

Program goal
The Master of Education in Adult Learning is a 33-credit hour program of study that prepares individuals for a broad range of positions related to the education of adult learners. Students choose one of three elective concentrations in adult literacy, human resource development, or teaching and learning with technology. Graduates are found in major corporations, higher education, health care organizations, state and federal agencies, nonprofit and community-based organizations and human services agencies. Admission to the program is predicated on the “whole person” concept, taking into account life experience, academic record, references and the reasons for the student’s interest in the program. An interview with the program adviser is recommended prior to admission. Successful applicants will have sufficient prior work experience with adults as learners to enable them to bring relevant work experience into the classroom learning environment.

The program provides a foundation in educational research methods and a strong core of seven courses in the theory and practice of adult learning, including emphasis in development of facilitation skills, as well as the design and delivery of adult learning programs. Upon completion of the foundation and core courses, students choose one of three concentration areas: adult literacy, human resource development (learning in the workplace), or teaching and learning with technology. The last course in the program, a capstone seminar in action learning, reunites students from all three concentrations for a comprehensive synthesis experience as they work in action learning teams to solve a real problem of strategic importance to an organization in the community.

A unique feature of the program is the learning portfolio, maintained in an online journal (blog) format. The learning portfolio, in combination with the capstone seminar, replaces a comprehensive examination requirement. For the portfolio, students write reflective blog entries...
during each of the core and concentration courses. During the program, selected assignments are posted to the blog to document personal growth and learning over time. At the end of the program, students create a synthesis of their learning in an essay format or through creation of a digital story. The portfolio serves as a demonstration of the graduate’s abilities to a prospective employer and can be added to a student’s resume. Throughout, the program utilizes students’ experiences in working with adults as learners to unite theory with practice and emphasizes 21st-century technologies for teaching and learning.

Student learning outcomes
1. Demonstrate the ability to articulate a personal philosophy of adult learning practice that enables students to work effectively as leaders and facilitators to improve adult learning, as evidenced on the final program learning assessment
2. Demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge of all facets of adult learning to have a significant impact on the practices, culture and learning environments of the organizations in which students work
3. Demonstrate knowledge of the nature, function and scope of adult learning during the capstone experience of the program
4. Demonstrate awareness of the processes of adult learning and development during the capstone experience
5. Acknowledge the influence of technology in adult learning, as evidenced in the final program learning assessment
6. Demonstrate awareness of educational research in the adult learning field, as evidenced on the research on instructional strategy and organizational change strategy analysis rubrics

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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.

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Applicants must meet all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18).

Degree requirements

Students must meet all general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40).

Curriculum requirements

Foundation course
EDUS 660 Research Methods in Education 3

Core courses
ADLT 601 Adult Learning and Development 3
ADLT 606 Design and Delivery of Adult Learning Programs 3
ADLT 610 Consulting Skills In Adult Learning Environments 3
ADLT 612 Learning in Groups and Teams 3
ADLT 636 Capstone Seminar in Action Learning 3
ADLT 650 Adult Literacy and Diversity 3
ADLT 688 Lifespan Issues for Adults with Learning and Behavioral Disabilities 3

Human resource development concentration electives 1
ADLT 620 Human Resource Development Overview 3
ADLT 623 Organizational Learning 3
The Master of Education in Adult Learning is a 33-credit hour program of study that prepares individuals for a broad range of positions related to the education of adult learners. Students choose one of three elective concentrations in adult literacy, human resource development, or teaching and learning with technology. Graduates are found in major corporations, higher education, health care organizations, state and federal agencies, nonprofit and community-based organizations and human services agencies. Admission to the program is predicated on the “whole person” concept, taking into account life experience, academic record, references and the reasons for the student’s interest in the program. An interview with the program advisor is recommended prior to admission. Successful applicants will have sufficient prior work experience with adults as learners to enable them to bring relevant work experience into the classroom learning environment.

The program provides a foundation in educational research methods and a strong core of seven courses in the theory and practice of adult learning, including emphasis in development of facilitation skills, as well as the design and delivery of adult learning programs. Upon completion of the foundation and core courses, students choose one of three concentration areas: adult literacy, human resource development (learning in the workplace), or teaching and learning with technology. The last course in the program, a capstone seminar in action learning, reunites students from all three concentrations for a comprehensive synthesis experience as they work in action learning teams to solve a real problem of strategic importance to an organization in the community.

A unique feature of the program is the learning portfolio, maintained in an online journal (blog) format. The learning portfolio, in combination with the capstone seminar, replaces a comprehensive examination requirement. For the portfolio, students write reflective blog entries during each of the core and concentration courses. During the program, selected assignments are posted to the blog to document personal growth and learning over time. At the end of the program, students create a synthesis of their learning in an essay format or through creation of a digital story. The portfolio serves as a demonstration of the graduate’s abilities to a prospective employer and can be added to a student’s resume. Throughout, the program utilizes students’ experiences in working with adults as learners to unite theory with practice and emphasizes 21st-century technologies for teaching and learning.

Student learning outcomes

1. Demonstrate the ability to articulate a personal philosophy of adult learning practice that enables students to work effectively as leaders and facilitators to improve adult learning, as evidenced on the final program learning assessment

2. Demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge of all facets of adult learning to have a significant impact on the practices, culture and learning environments of the organizations in which the student works

3. Demonstrate knowledge of the nature, function and scope of adult learning during the capstone experience of the program

4. Demonstrate awareness of the nature of the processes of adult learning and development during the capstone experience

5. Acknowledge the influence of technology in adult learning, as evidenced in the final program learning assessment

6. Demonstrate awareness of educational research in the adult learning field, as evidenced by the research on instructional strategy and organizational change strategy analysis rubric

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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.
Curriculum and Instruction, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in instructional technology

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

Graduation requirements
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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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Admission requirements
Degree: M.Ed.
Semester(s) of entry: Fall, Spring, Summer
Deadline dates: Feb 1, Nov 1, Feb 1
Test requirements: GRE or MAT

Applicants must meet all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18).

Degree requirements
Students must meet all general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40).

Curriculum requirements
Foundation course
EDUS 660 Research Methods in Education 3

Core courses
ADLT 601 Adult Learning and Development 3
ADLT 606 Design and Delivery of Adult Learning Programs 3
ADLT 610 Consulting Skills in Adult Learning Environments 3
ADLT 612 Learning in Groups and Teams 3
ADLT 636 Capstone Seminar in Action Learning 3
ADLT 650 Adult Literacy and Diversity 3
ADLT 688 Lifespan Issues for Adults with Learning and Behavioral Disabilities 3

Teaching and learning with technology concentration electives 1
ADLT 640 Theory and Practice of eLearning Integration Into Adult Learning Environments 3
ADLT 641 Exploration of Digital Media for Adult Learning 3

ADLT 642 Design Challenges in Creating eLearning for Adults 3

Total Hours 33

1 Students choose an elective concentration of nine credit hours in teaching and learning with technology. These courses are designed to be taken after the student completes foundation and core courses, with the exception of ADLT 636, the capstone seminar.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33

Graduate program director
Robin R. Hurst, Ed.D.
Adult learning program coordinator
Email: rhurst@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-8021

Additional contact
Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

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

Curriculum and Instruction, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in instructional technology

Program goal
The Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction program is designed to provide professional and cognate experiences for experienced educators seeking to develop additional skills in the use of technology in support of teaching and learning.

Student learning outcomes
1. Demonstrate an understanding of research designs and an ability to read research studies critically
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical, philosophical, sociological and ethical foundations of education and the impact that these have on public education
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the use of technology in support of student learning and the instructional process

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University Graduate Council, as published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Three letters of recommendation addressing the student's potential for graduate study in education
2. Student's written statement concerning career interests
3. Transcripts of all previous college work
4. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Foundations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 660 Research Methods in Education 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 673 Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy 3</td>
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Select one of the following: 3

| EDUS/PSYC 607 Advanced Educational Psychology for Elementary Teachers |
| STAT/SOCY 508 Introduction to Social Statistics |
| TEDU 615 Curriculum Development |
| TEDU 617 Instructional Models and the Curriculum |

Other course as approved by adviser

<table>
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<tr>
<td>TEDU 556 Advanced Computer Applications in Education 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEDU 560 Instructional Strategies Using the Internet 3</td>
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<td>TEDU 610 Developing and Critiquing Visual Literacy 3</td>
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<td>TEDU 620/MASC 681 Video Applications in Instruction 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEDU 640 Designing and Managing eLearning 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEDU 673 Technology Leadership and Staff Development 3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Approved electives

Any graduate courses with TEDU, EDUS or SEDP prefix 6
Other courses as approved by adviser

Total Hours 33

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33

Graduate program coordinator
Monty Jones, Ph.D.
Assistant professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: joneswm2@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-2606

Additional contact
Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

Program website: soe.vcu.edu (http://www.soe.vcu.edu)
Curriculum and Instruction, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in online teaching

Program mission
The online teaching concentration of the Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction is designed to prepare K-12 teachers and administrators to develop and facilitate effective online instruction in K-12 environments.

Program goals
1. Expand on participants’ current teaching expertise in instructional strategies, curriculum design, and assessment to adapt to fully online and hybrid teaching environments
2. Foster the development of instructional leaders who can model and articulate best practices in online teaching within K-12 environments

Student learning outcomes
1. Demonstrate effective electronic communication methods for instruction in the K-12 environment
2. Reflect on current research and standards for online/blended course design and articulation of a personal philosophy of practice in these areas
3. Demonstrate effective virtual systematic instructional design through the development of a virtual learning environment
4. Demonstrate effective facilitation of virtual instruction including employment of techniques to encourage discussion, development of policies and procedures for digital communications and online conflict moderation, and use of effective virtual tools to improve learning
5. Demonstrate knowledge of effective strategies for assessment and evaluation in online environments through the development of rubrics and alternative assessment tools
6. Demonstrate knowledge of the TPACK framework in designing instruction with appropriate virtual tools
7. Demonstrate knowledge of online time and course management through the development of policies and procedures to assist online learners with these issues, and the development of appropriate materials that reflect effective time and course management by the course facilitator

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

Degree candidacy requirements
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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.

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Graduation requirements
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1. Three letters of recommendation addressing the student’s potential for graduate study in education
2. Student’s written statement concerning career interests
3. Transcripts of all previous college work
4. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.
1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Foundations**

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<tr>
<td>EDUS 660</td>
<td>Research Methods in Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 673</td>
<td>Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS/PSYC 607</td>
<td>Advanced Educational Psychology for Elementary Teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT/SOCY 508</td>
<td>Introduction to Social Statistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 615</td>
<td>Curriculum Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 617</td>
<td>Instructional Models and the Curriculum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other course as approved by adviser

**Core courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 661</td>
<td>Current Topics in Virtual Teaching</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 662</td>
<td>Foundations of Online Teaching</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 663</td>
<td>Facilitating Digital Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 664</td>
<td>Instructional Design of Online Environments</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 665</td>
<td>Assessment and Evaluation in Online Environments</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 666</td>
<td>Content Focus Workshop</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 667</td>
<td>Course Development Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 668</td>
<td>Time and Course Management for Online Learning</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 669</td>
<td>Online Course Facilitation Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Approved electives**

Any graduate courses with TEDU, EDUS or SEDP prefix 6

Other courses as approved by adviser

**Total Hours** 33

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33

**Typical plan of study**

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, the nature of research being conducted by a student, or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to the program website and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

**Graduate program coordinator**

Monty Jones, Ph.D.
Assistant professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: joneswm2@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-2606

**Additional contact**

Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu

Phone: (804) 828-1305

**Program website**: soe.vcu.edu (http://www.soe.vcu.edu)

**Curriculum and Instruction, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in teaching and learning**

**Program goal**

The Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction program is designed to provide professional and cognate experiences for students who have been admitted to the Master of Teaching program but choose not to complete licensure. Enrollment in the teaching and learning concentration requires recommendation from the student’s adviser and approval by the department chair. Content courses within the program are selected in consultation with an adviser.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Demonstrate an understanding of research designs and an ability to read research studies critically
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the historical, philosophical, sociological and ethical foundations of education and the impact that these have on public education
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the use of technology in support of student learning and the instructional process

**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.graduated.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Admission requirements
This concentration is intended for students who initially pursue a licensure program, but for whom that is no longer appropriate. Admission is by special action approved by the dean. Students may not apply directly to this concentration.

Degree requirements
In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.

Curriculum requirements

| Foundations | EDUS 660 | Research Methods in Education | 3 |
| EDUS 673 | Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy | 3 |
| Select one of the following: | EDUS/PSYC 607 | Advanced Educational Psychology for Elementary Teachers | 3 |
| STAT/SOCY 508 | Introduction to Social Statistics | |
| TEDU 615 | Curriculum Development | |
| TEDU 617 | Instructional Models and the Curriculum | |
| Other course as approved by adviser | |

Core courses
18 hours of graduate course work with TEDU, EDUS or SEDP prefix as approved by adviser

Approved electives
Any graduate courses with TEDU, EDUS or SEDP prefix
Other courses as approved by adviser

Total Hours 33

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33
Graduate program coordinator
Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

Additional contact
James McMillan, Ph.D.
Professor and interim associate dean for academic affairs
Email: jhmcmill@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-8308

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

Education, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in curriculum, culture and change

Program goal
The curriculum, culture and change concentration offers a rigorous doctoral-level learning experience in curriculum and instruction with a strong emphasis on advocacy and social justice. The concentration prepares curriculum and instruction leaders for positions in school systems at the building level and above, as well as scholars with a wide range of curricular interests — urban education, rural education, linguistically diverse groups, oppressed groups, critical pedagogy, philosophical and sociocultural foundations of education, etc. In addition to a deep grounding in theoretical, practical and methodological approaches to curriculum and instruction, the concentration prepares instructional leaders to advocate for change across a wide range of institutions, systems and contexts. The concentration offers challenging learning experiences in the field of curriculum and instruction. Its expressed social justice values allow framing of courses in ways that provide critical analyses of contemporary schooling and ground students in the philosophical and historical roots of school change. The program welcomes students with interests in all institutional settings serving students across the life span (early childhood through adulthood) as well as informal and nonformal contexts. It also allows for discipline-specific cohorts in fields such as STEM and literacy.

The concentration distinguishes itself by preparing curriculum and instruction leaders to be change agents capable of working in school systems, higher education and advocacy organizations. It reflects an activist stance toward the education profession — one that views schooling as not only shaped by society but also as an active force for equity and meaningful societal change. It will appeal to a wide range of students: those who are seeking to become instructional leaders in school systems at the building level and above, as well as scholars with a strong emphasis on advocacy and social justice. The concentration prepares students with interests in all institutional settings serving students across the life span (early childhood through adulthood) as well as informal and nonformal contexts. It also allows for discipline-specific cohorts in fields such as STEM and literacy.

Student learning outcomes
1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Complete an original research study (dissertation component):
Student 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 agree, the student is granted a Ph.D.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic
regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree
candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation
requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
Below is a link to the Doctoral Student Handbook:

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://
www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Summer or fall</td>
<td>Dec 15</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate
School (p. 18), the following represent the minimum requirements for
admission:

1. Master’s degree in curriculum and instruction, teaching and learning,
educational philosophy or related discipline
2. Three letters of recommendation addressing the student’s potential
for graduate study in education
3. Student’s written statement concerning career interests and goals
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 (p. 40),
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

**Foundation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 702</td>
<td>Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 703</td>
<td>Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 608</td>
<td>Educational Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 710</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 711</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Research elective**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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**Externship**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 700</td>
<td>Externship</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

**Dissertation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (minimum of six credit hours)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUC 890</td>
<td>Dissertation Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Concentration courses**

<table>
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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 706</td>
<td>Educational Theory and Praxis in Historical and Contemporary Contexts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 707</td>
<td>Socio-cultural Perspectives on Schooling, Society and Change</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 617</td>
<td>Instructional Models and the Curriculum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 730</td>
<td>Professional Development for Changing Schools</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 731</td>
<td>Instructional Theories and Strategies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 732</td>
<td>Advanced Seminar in Curriculum Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives chosen in consultation with adviser**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Total Hours 54

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 54

**Program coordinator**

Joan Rhodes, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jarhodes2@vcu.edu (vjrobnolt@vcu.edu)
Phone: (804) 827-8481

**Additional contact**

Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu (jarhodes2@vcu.edu)
Phone: (804) 828-1305

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

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**Education, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in urban services leadership**

**Program goal**

The urban services leadership concentration is designed to prepare future researchers, faculty and practitioners for leadership roles in academic, government (local, state, national and international) and community-based for-profit and non-profit organizations. Doctoral students will utilize a multidisciplinary approach to develop a broad understanding of the critical issues and challenges in adult learning and subsequently apply that understanding to the planning, implementation and evaluation of adult learning and educational programs and initiatives.

Applicants are expected to have experience working with adult learners in organizational, community, government, higher education, health care or nonprofit settings, or within the community in roles as faculty, faculty developers, trainers, human resource development and organizational development professionals, adult literacy educators, or other roles in which they are actively involved in the teaching and training of adult learners.

**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.
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):** Student 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 agree, the student is granted a Ph.D.
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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

Graduation requirements

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

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<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), 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 (p. 40), 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundation</th>
<th>EDUS 702</th>
<th>Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship I</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EDUS 703</td>
<td>Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>EDUC 899</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (minimum of six credit hours)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EDUS 890</td>
<td>Dissertation Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration courses</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Courses designed to prepare future researchers and practitioners for leadership roles in either adult learning or health promotion and education.

ADLT 601 Adult Learning and Development 3
ADLT 702 Seminal Readings in Adult Learning Literature 3

Additional course work selected in consultation with the student's adviser. 12

Total Hours 48

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48

Graduate program director
Robin R. Hurst, Ed.D.
Assistant professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: rrhurst@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-8021

Additional contact
Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu (jarhodes2@vcu.edu)
Phone: (804) 828-1305

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

Instructional Technology, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)

Program goal
The post-baccalaureate Certificate in Instructional Technology prepares educators to use technology effectively in their schools and to provide instructional leadership and technical support to other educators who use computer technology. Designed for teachers, resource persons and administrators at all grade levels (K-12), the sequence in instructional technology offers a unique opportunity to develop comprehensive knowledge and experience in the educational applications of computers and related technologies. The primary purpose of this certificate program is to meet the growing need for highly qualified core curriculum teachers, instructional technology support teachers and associated administrative personnel. The program requires six three-credit-hour courses. In addition, prerequisites for the program require that students must be licensed K-12 teachers or administrators with a minimum of two years of classroom experience who have a basic knowledge of instructional media. The program is committed to providing access to technology so that hands-on experience is offered in every class and participants produce instructional material that can be immediately integrated into the classroom.

Student learning outcomes
1. Demonstrate the necessary knowledge and skills to facilitate effective learning experiences using technology
2. Demonstrate their skills in visual arts
3. Demonstrate successful searching techniques
4. Produce and edit video for education
5. Set up online instructional modules incorporating various communication and digital activities for students
6. Present at a conference and be able to prepare a professional development class in technology

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Graduation requirements
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Applicants must meet all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18).

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 18 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
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<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 556</td>
<td>Advanced Computer Applications in Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 560</td>
<td>Instructional Strategies Using the Internet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 610</td>
<td>Developing and Critiquing Visual Literacy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 620/MASC 681</td>
<td>Video Applications in Instruction</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 640</td>
<td>Designing and Managing eLearning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 673</td>
<td>Technology Leadership and Staff Development</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 18

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum)** 18

**Graduate program director**

Monty Jones, Ph.D.
Assistant professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: joneswm2@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-2606

**Additional contact**

Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

**Program website:** soe.vcu.edu (http://www.soe.vcu.edu)

**Medical Education, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)**

**Program goal**

The post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Medical Education is a 12-credit-hour program designed for faculty in the School of Medicine at Virginia Commonwealth University to enhance depth and breadth of faculty expertise in curriculum design and adult learning strategies for teaching, as well as to foster development of a cadre of academic leaders who can model best practices in teaching undergraduate, clinical and graduate programs.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Demonstrate the ability to articulate a personal philosophy of practice that enables them to facilitate adult learning in medical education and engage in critically reflective practice as an educator.
2. Demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge of adult learning for teaching in medical education to function as educational leaders who model best practices and serve as role models for trainees.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of assessment and evaluation strategies that align with goals and objectives and instructional strategies within a curriculum.
4. Adopt one or more instructional methods for actively engaging learners in a discovery or inquiry process that incorporates small-group or team-based learning strategies.
5. Demonstrate familiarity with a variety of digital media technologies appropriate for use in preclinical and clinical teaching situations.
6. Become familiar with the scholarship of teaching and learning by developing a research agenda for inquiry into student and trainee learning to advance the practice of teaching in medicine by making research findings public.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**Degree candidacy requirements**

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Graduation requirements
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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’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

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 12 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADLT 670</th>
<th>Curriculum Design in Medical Education</th>
<th>2</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADLT 671</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Adult Learning for Medical Educators</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADLT 672</td>
<td>Instructional Strategies for Teaching in Medicine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADLT 673</td>
<td>Teaching as Scholarship in Medical Education</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADLT 674</th>
<th>Performance Feedback and Simulation in the Medical Education Curriculum</th>
<th>4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADLT 675</td>
<td>Group and Team Facilitation for Medical Educators</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 12

Graduate program coordinator
Teresa J. Carter, Ed.D.
Associate dean for professional instruction and faculty development, School of Medicine
Email: tjcarter@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-3134

Additional contacts
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Phone: (804) 827-2633

Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

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

Online Teaching for K-12 Educators, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)

Program goals
The post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Online Teaching for K-12 Educators is a 17-credit-hour certificate designed to prepare candidates to develop and facilitate effective online instruction in K-12 environments. The goals for the certificate are to:

1. Expand on participants’ current teaching expertise in instructional strategies, curriculum design, and assessment and evaluation to adapt to fully online and hybrid teaching environments
2. Foster the development of instructional leaders who can model and articulate best practices in online teaching within K-12 environments

Student learning outcomes

1. Demonstrate effective electronic communication methods for instruction in the K-12 environment
2. Reflect on current research and standards for online/blended course design/facilitation and articulate a personal philosophy of practice in these areas
3. Demonstrate effective virtual systematic instructional design through the development of a virtual learning environment
4. Demonstrate effective facilitation of virtual instruction, including employment of techniques to encourage discussion, development of policies and procedures for digital communications and online conflict moderation, and use of effective virtual tools to improve learning
5. Demonstrate knowledge of effective strategies for assessment and evaluations in online environments through the development of rubrics and alternative assessment tools
6. Demonstrate knowledge of TPACK framework in designing instruction with appropriate virtual tools
7. Demonstrate knowledge of online time and course management through the development of policies and procedures to assist online learners with these issues and the development of appropriate materials that reflect effective time and course management by the course facilitator

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**Degree candidacy requirements**

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**Graduation requirements**

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)
All requirements for admission to graduate school apply to applicants for the Post-master’s Certificate in Reading Specialist. All state department requirements for reading specialist (specifically the 12 hours of graduate or undergraduate work in selected areas) must be met.

Students are required to earn a minimum of 24 graduate hours beyond their current master’s degree, including the required reading courses, an approved reading selective and an elective in the School of Education that has been approved by the adviser. Advisers will recommend selective courses based upon student experience and goals. During the last semester of course work, students must complete a reading portfolio documenting their work in the program and related work experiences. Candidates must receive a passing score on the Reading for Virginia Educators Assessment as a graduation requirement.

Persons completing the program are expected to demonstrate:

1. An understanding of the reading language learning process
2. The ability to critique, adapt and model use of a variety of reading instructional strategies, methods and programs
3. Expertise in developing and providing for continuous assessment of an individual and groups
4. Ability to implement schoolwide developmental, creative and intervention reading/language arts programs
5. Ability to understand and apply theory to practice within a variety of cultural contexts

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Demonstrate content knowledge in reading education: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in reading education as evidenced by the Reading for Virginia Educators Assessment scores and the philosophy of reading paper.
2. Effectively plan instruction: Candidates demonstrate that they can effectively plan reading and literacy instruction, or fulfill other professional responsibilities in reading education as evidenced by the organizing and implementing reading programs assessment.
3. Effectively apply knowledge, skills and dispositions: Candidates demonstrate knowledge, skills and dispositions are applied effectively in practice as evidenced by the internship evaluation.
4. Demonstrate effect on student learning: Candidates demonstrate effects on student learning and provision of supportive learning environments for student learning as evidenced by the internship progress report.
5. Demonstrate IRA standards proficiency: Candidates further demonstrate proficiency on IRA competencies as evidenced by the portfolio assessment and the externship action research report and presentation assessment.

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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Must hold a master’s degree in any specialty area related to education
2. Have active teacher license
3. Have at least three years of teaching experience in a reading-related setting

**Persons completing the program are expected to demonstrate:**

1. An understanding of the reading language learning process
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2. Have active teacher license
3. Have at least three years of teaching experience in a reading-related setting
4. Three letters of recommendation addressing the student’s potential for graduate study in education
5. Student’s written statement concerning career interests
6. Transcripts of all previous college work
7. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.
1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 24 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Testing requirements: Students must provide a passing score on the Virginia Reading Assessment for graduation.
4. Endorsement requirements: Students must meet all Virginia Department of Education requirements to be recommended for endorsement.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>READ 600</td>
<td>Analysis and Correction of Reading Problems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>READ 605</td>
<td>Organizing and Implementing Reading Programs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>READ 672</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>READ 700</td>
<td>Externship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 561</td>
<td>Reading Foundations: Sociological/ Psychological Perspectives</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 562</td>
<td>Reading Instruction in the Content Areas</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Approved literacy elective
Select one of the following: 3

- READ 601 Psycholinguistics and Language Arts Curriculum
- READ 602 Literacy for Adults
- TEDU 500 Workshop in Education (to be designated)
- TEDU 525 Teaching Language Arts
- TEDU 526 Word Study
- TEDU/ENGL 528 Children's Literature II
- TEDU 549 Diagnostic Reading in the Secondary School
- TEDU/ENGL/LING 552 Teaching English as a Second Language
- TEDU 681 Investigations and Trends in Teaching

Elective 2

Total Hours 24

1 These courses may also count as part of the ESL endorsement.
2 Electives should be used to ensure state regulations for the endorsement are met.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 24

Graduate program coordinator
Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
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Phone: (804) 828-1305

Additional contact
Valerie Robnolt, Ph.D.
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Email: vjrobnolt@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-2649

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

Reading, Master of Education (M.Ed.)

Program goal
The Master of Education in Reading program is designed to provide experienced teachers who are prospective reading specialists with a program of sequential and integrated experiences in areas of the reading curriculum ranging from preschool to adult levels. Students will gain an understanding of the developmental and diagnostic processes involved in teaching reading and the language arts and will become familiar with the resource and supervisory functions that are part of the specialist role. Prior to graduation, students must complete a reading portfolio documenting their work in the program and related work experiences, and they must pass the Reading for Virginia Educators Assessment. The M.Ed. in Reading is an approved program (K-12) for students who meet Virginia State Department of Education requirements. The reading specialist endorsement also requires completion of three years of teaching in a reading-related field.

Student learning outcomes
1. Demonstrate content knowledge in reading education: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in reading education as evidenced by the Reading for Virginia Educators/Virginia Reading Assessment scores and philosophy of reading paper.
2. Effectively plan instruction: Candidates demonstrate that they can effectively plan reading and literacy instruction or fulfill other professional responsibilities in reading education as evidenced by the organizing and implementing reading programs assessment.
3. Effectively apply knowledge, skills and dispositions: Candidates demonstrate knowledge, skills and dispositions are applied effectively in practice as evidenced by the internship evaluation.
4. Demonstrate effect on student learning: Candidates demonstrate effects on student learning and provision of supportive learning environments for student learning as evidenced by the internship progress report.
5. Demonstrate IRA standards proficiency: Candidates further demonstrate proficiency on IRA competencies as evidenced by the portfolio assessment and the externship action research report and presentation assessment.

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.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

Graduation requirements

As graduate students approach the end of their academic programs and the final semester of matriculation, they must formal apply 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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree: Reading, Master of Education (M.Ed.)</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<td>Spring</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants for the certificate program must hold a master’s degree in any specialty area related to education.

A cooperative agreement has been established with Virginia State University to permit selected, qualified students to complete the M.Ed. in Reading program. Up to 12 credit hours from an approved list may be transferred from the cooperating institution. Interested students should contact the Department of Teaching and Learning.

Degree requirements

Students must meet all general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40).

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundations</th>
<th>Research</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 660</td>
<td>Research Methods in Education 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Human development and learning

Select one of the following: 3

- EDUS 602 Adolescent Growth and Development
- EDUS 603 Seminar in Child Growth and Development
- EDUS 604 Adult Development
- EDUS/PSYC 607 Advanced Educational Psychology for Elementary Teachers
- EDUS 609 Learning and Motivation in Education

Cultural, historical and philosophical

Select one of the following: 3

- EDUS 601 Philosophy of Education
- EDUS 610 Social Foundations of Education
- EDUS 612 Education and the World's Future
- EDUS 614 Contemporary Educational Thought
- EDUS 673 Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy

Core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core courses</th>
<th>Requirements</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>READ 600</td>
<td>Analysis and Correction of Reading Problems 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>READ 605</td>
<td>Organizing and Implementing Reading Programs 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>READ 672</td>
<td>Internship 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>READ 700</td>
<td>Externship 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 561</td>
<td>Reading Foundations: Sociological/ Psychological Perspectives 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 562</td>
<td>Reading Instruction in the Content Areas 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Restricted electives

Select two of the following: 6

- READ 601 Psycholinguistics and Language Arts Curriculum
- READ 602 Literacy for Adults
- TEDU 525 Teaching Language Arts
- TEDU 526 Word Study
- TEDU/ENGL 528 Children's Literature II
- TEDU 549 Diagnostic Reading in the Secondary School
- TEDU/ENGL/LING 552 Teaching English as a Second Language

Total Hours 33
Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33

Other curricular options

Endorsement in teaching English as a second language

Students who want to pursue an endorsement in teaching English as a second language may do so in conjunction with the M.Ed. in Reading. The endorsement requires 24 credit hours of study, none of which may be part of the master's degree if TEDU 552 is selected as the restricted elective. Nine additional hours of ESL course work and six hours of a modern foreign language are also required. For additional information, see the school's Added or add-on endorsements (p. 464) page in this bulletin or contact Valerie Robnolt, Ph.D. at vjrobnolt@vcu.edu.

Graduate program director
Valerie J. Robnolt, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: vjrobnolt@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

Additional contact
James McMillan, Ph.D.
Professor and interim associate dean for academic affairs
Email: jhmcmill@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-2620

Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

Program website: soe.vcu.edu (http://soe.vcu.edu)

Reading, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in K-12 reading specialist

Program goal
The K-12 reading specialist concentration in the Master of Education in Reading program is designed to provide experienced teachers who are prospective reading specialists with a program of sequential and integrated experiences in areas of the reading curriculum ranging from preschool to adult levels. Students will gain an understanding of the developmental and diagnostic processes involved in teaching reading and the language arts and will become familiar with the resource and supervisory functions that are part of the specialist role. Prior to graduation, students must complete a reading portfolio documenting their work in the program and related work experiences and pass the Reading for Virginia Educators Assessment. The M.Ed. in Reading is an approved program (K-12) for students who meet Virginia State Department of Education requirements. The reading specialist endorsement also requires completion of three years of teaching in a reading-related field.

A cooperative agreement has been established with Virginia State University to permit selected, qualified students to complete the M.Ed. in Reading program. Up to 12 credit hours from an approved list may be transferred from the cooperating institution. Interested students should contact the Department of Teaching and Learning.

Student learning outcomes

1. Demonstrate content knowledge in reading education: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in reading education as evidenced by the Reading for Virginia Educators Assessment scores and philosophy of reading paper.

2. Effectively plan instruction: Candidates demonstrate that they can effectively plan reading and literacy instruction or fulfill other professional responsibilities in reading education as evidenced by the organizing and implementing reading programs assessment.

3. Effectively apply knowledge, skills and dispositions: Candidates demonstrate knowledge, skills and dispositions are applied effectively in practice as evidenced by the internship evaluation.

4. Demonstrate effect on student learning: Candidates demonstrate effects on student learning and provision of supportive learning environments for student learning as evidenced by the internship progress report.

5. Demonstrate IRA standards proficiency: Candidates further demonstrate proficiency on IRA competencies as evidenced by the portfolio assessment and the externship action research report and presentation assessment.

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

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)
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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’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. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Testing requirements: Students in the K-12 reading specialist concentration must present passing scores on state mandated licensure/endorsement assessments.

Curriculum requirements

Foundations

Research
EDUS 660 Research Methods in Education 3

Human development and learning
Select one of the following: 3

EDUS 602 Adolescent Growth and Development
EDUS 603 Seminar in Child Growth and Development
EDUS 604 Adult Development

EDUS/PSYC 607 Advanced Educational Psychology for Elementary Teachers
EDUS 609 Learning and Motivation in Education

Select one of the following: 3
EDUS 601 Philosophy of Education
EDUS 610 Social Foundations of Education
EDUS 612 Education and the World’s Future
EDUS 614 Contemporary Educational Thought
EDUS 673 Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy

Core courses
READ 600 Analysis and Correction of Reading Problems 3
READ 605 Organizing and Implementing Reading Programs 3
READ 672 Internship 3
READ 700 Externship 3
TEDU 561 Reading Foundations: Sociological/Psychological Perspectives 3
TEDU 562 Reading Instruction in the Content Areas 3

Restricted electives
Select two of the following: 6
READ 601 Psycholinguistics and Language Arts Curriculum
READ 602 Literacy for Adults
TEDU 525 Teaching Language Arts
TEDU 526 Word Study
TEDU/ENGL 528 Children’s Literature II
TEDU 549 Diagnostic Reading in the Secondary School
TEDU/ENGL/LING 552 Teaching English as a Second Language

Total Hours 33

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33

Graduate program coordinator
Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

Additional contact
Valerie Robnolt, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: vjrobnolt@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-2649

Program website: soe.vcu.edu (http://www.soe.vcu.edu)
Reading, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in reading with TESOL/K-12

Program goal

Students who already have their K-12 initial licensure and want to pursue an endorsement in teaching English as a second language in the K-12 setting may do so in the K-12 subconcentration of the TESOL concentration in the M.Ed. in Reading. The following are prerequisites to the concentration: LING 390/ENGL 390/ANTH 390 and six credit hours of foreign language. Students who pursue this concentration will not be endorsed as a K-12 reading specialist. Students interested in pursuing both endorsements must take the following nine credit hours in addition to the ones listed below: READ 600, READ 605 and READ 700.

Student learning outcomes

1. Demonstrate foundational knowledge need to support ELLs literacy learning
2. Effectively plan lessons that attends to linguistic proficiency of learners in various settings
3. Create assessments that assess ELL competency in communication and content learning
4. Demonstrate a disposition of tolerance and appreciation for linguistic and cultural diversity
5. Demonstrate a range of teaching strategies and approaches that lead to ELL learning

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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.

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<td></td>
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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’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. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Testing requirements: Students in the K-12 reading specialist concentration must present passing scores on state mandated licensure/endorsement assessments.

Curriculum requirements

Foundations
Reading, Master of Education (M.Ed.) with a concentration in reading with TESOL/adult

Program goal

Students who are interested in teaching English as a second language to adults may develop their knowledge and skills in the adult concentration of the TESOL track in the M.Ed. in Reading. Those who are interested in pursuing an endorsement in teaching English as a second language in the adult setting must already have their K-12 initial licensure and adult education endorsement. The following are prerequisites to the concentration: LING 390/ENGL 390/ANTH 390 and six credit hours of foreign language. Students who pursue this concentration will not be endorsed as a K-12 reading specialist.

Student learning outcomes

1. Demonstrate foundational knowledge needed to support ELLs literacy learning
2. Effectively plan lessons that attend to linguistic proficiency of learners in various settings
3. Create assessments that assess ELL competency in communication and content learning
4. Demonstrate a disposition of tolerance and appreciation for linguistic and cultural diversity
5. Demonstrate a range of teaching strategies and approaches that lead to ELL learning

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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.

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Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
M.Ed. Fall Feb 1 GRE or MAT
Spring Oct 1
Summer Feb 1

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’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. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Testing requirements: Students in the K-12 reading specialist concentration must present passing scores on state mandated licensure/endorsement assessments.

Curriculum requirements

Foundations
Research
EDUS 660 Research Methods in Education 3
Human development and learning
ADLT 601 Adult Learning and Development 3
Cultural, historical and philosophical
Select one of the following:
EDUS 601 Philosophy of Education 3
EDUS 610 Social Foundations of Education

Core courses
ADLT 608 Adult Education Practicum 3
or TEDU 675 Internship in ESL
ENGL/ENED 532 Applied English Linguistics 3
READ 602 Literacy for Adults 3
TEDU/ENGL/LING 552 Teaching English as a Second Language 3
TEDU 561 Reading Foundations: Sociological/ Psychological Perspectives 3
TEDU/FRLG 575 Intercultural Communication 3
TEDU/LING 650 Second Language Acquisition 3
TEDU 683 ESL Assessment and Trends 3

Total Hours 33

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33

Graduate program coordinator
Valerie Robnolt, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: vjrobnolt@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-2649

Additional contact
Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

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

Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)

Program goal
This program is designed to prepare professionals to work with K-12 students for whom English is not their native language. The course sequence meets the Virginia Department of Education requirements for endorsement in ESL. Note that endorsement requires that individuals have an active teaching license in Virginia.

Student learning outcomes

1. Demonstrate foundational knowledge needed to support ESL students’ literacy learning
2. Effectively plan lessons that attend to linguistic proficiency of learners in various settings
3. Create assessments that assess ESL student competency in communication and content learning
4. Demonstrate a disposition of tolerance and appreciation for linguistic and cultural diversity
5. Demonstrate a range of teaching strategies and approaches that lead to ESL student learning
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Degree candidacy requirements

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Graduation requirements

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree in an appropriate discipline including education, social work, psychology or human services
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

Note: Endorsement requires a valid Virginia teaching license.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 15 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Prerequisite or corequisite requirements: Students must have taken a class in linguistics and six hours of a modern foreign language.
4. Endorsement requires a valid Virginia teaching license.

Curriculum requirements

As prerequisites or corequisites to the certificate program, students must have taken a class in linguistics and have taken six credit hours of a modern foreign language. These courses are part of the endorsement requirements and may be taken at the undergraduate or graduate level. The certificate program consists of 15 credit hours of graduate course work as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ENGL/LING/TEDU 552</th>
<th>Teaching English as a Second Language</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>TEDU 561</td>
<td>Reading Foundations: Sociological/ Psychological Perspectives</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEDU/FRLG 575</td>
<td>Intercultural Communication</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 681</td>
<td>Investigations and Trends in Teaching</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
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<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 15

Graduate program coordinator
Guofang Wan, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
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Phone: (804) 828-4266

Additional contact
Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305
Teaching, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) with a concentration in biology education

Program goal

The post-baccalaureate Certificate in Teaching program is designed for students who have earned bachelor's degrees in fields other than education, who wish to become teachers in secondary schools in one or more subjects and for whom a master's degree is not a priority (applicants already may have earned a master's degree or wish to earn a master's degree in a specialized area of education later). Applicants must have a major or its equivalent in the subject they wish to teach.

Students are required to complete a minimum of 24 hours beyond the bachelor's level, including the courses listed below. Equivalent courses taken within the past five years may transfer; however, a minimum of 27 credit hours, including clinical experiences, must be taken at VCU after admission to the program.

Student learning outcomes

Persons completing the program are expected, among other attributes, to:

1. Understand human development and learning theory appropriate to the age group they will teach
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the subjects they will teach
3. Develop an understanding of purposes for education and a defensible philosophical approach toward teaching
4. Acquire awareness of the diversity of the school-age population in cultural background and styles of learning
5. Demonstrate an ability to plan and implement effective teaching
6. Measure student learning in ways that lead to sustained development and learning

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

Degree candidacy requirements

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

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Admission requirements

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Special requirements

- Admission to clinical experiences in schools requires a background check and fingerprinting.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree with a major, or equivalent, in biology
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. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

There are several tests that students must pass for admission to teacher preparation, admission to student teaching and licensure in Virginia. Students should consult the Student Services Center (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/student-services-center) section on the School of Education website for current testing requirements.
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In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours depending on concentration.

2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.

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Curriculum requirements

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Total Hours 33

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Program requirements consist of three undergraduate and 30 graduate credits.

Teaching, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) with a concentration in chemistry education

Program goal

The post-baccalaureate Certificate in Teaching program is designed for students who have earned bachelor’s degrees in fields other than education, who wish to become teachers in secondary schools in one or more subjects and for whom a master’s degree is not a priority. This program is for applicants who may already have earned a master’s degree or wish to earn a master’s degree in a specialized area of education later. Applicants must have a major or its equivalent in the subject they wish to teach.

Students are required to complete a minimum of 24 hours beyond the bachelor’s level, including the courses listed below. Equivalent courses taken within the past five years may transfer; however, a minimum of 27 credit hours, including clinical experiences, must be taken at VCU after admission to the program.

Student learning outcomes

Persons completing the program are expected, among other attributes, to:

1. Understand human development and learning theory appropriate to the age group they will teach
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the subjects they will teach
3. Develop an understanding of purposes for education and a defensible philosophical approach toward teaching
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Degree candidacy requirements

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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.

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Special requirements

- Admission to clinical experiences in schools requires a background check and fingerprinting.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree with a major, or equivalent, in chemistry
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. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

There are several tests that students must pass for admission to teacher preparation, admission to student teaching and licensure in Virginia. Students should consult the Student Services Center (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/student-services-center) section on the School of Education website for current testing requirements.

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours depending on concentration. Note that three credit hours are taken at the undergraduate level.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Student teaching requirements: Students must successfully complete approved student teaching experience.
4. Additional testing requirement: Students must pass Praxis II, where applicable, for licensure.

Curriculum requirements

Courses taken at the undergraduate level

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Total Hours: 33

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Graduate program coordinator

Jacqueline McDonough, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jtmcdonnough@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

Additional contact

Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

Program website: soe.vcu.edu (http://www.soe.vcu.edu)
Teaching, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) with a concentration in English education

Program goal

The post-baccalaureate Certificate in Teaching program is designed for students who have earned bachelor’s degrees in fields other than education, who wish to become teachers in secondary schools in one or more subjects and for whom a master’s degree is not a priority. This program is for applicants who may already have earned a master’s degree or wish to earn a master’s degree in a specialized area of education later. Applicants must have a major or its equivalent in the subject they wish to teach.

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Student learning outcomes

Persons completing the program are expected, among other attributes, to:

1. Understand human development and learning theory appropriate to the age group they will teach
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the subjects they will teach
3. Develop an understanding of purposes for education and a defensible philosophical approach toward teaching
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Special requirements

- Admission to clinical experiences in schools requires a background check and fingerprinting.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree with a major, or equivalent, in English
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. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

There are several tests that students must pass for admission to teacher preparation, admission to student teaching and licensure in Virginia. Students should consult the Student Services Center (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/student-services-center) section on the School of Education website for current testing requirements.
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Curriculum requirements

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Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

1 Program requirements consist of three undergraduate and 30 graduate credits.

Teaching, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) with a concentration in history/social studies education

Program goal

The post-baccalaureate Certificate in Teaching program is designed for students who have earned bachelor's degrees in fields other than education, who wish to become teachers in secondary schools in one or more subjects and for whom a master's degree is not a priority (applicants already may have earned a master's degree or wish to earn a master's degree in a specialized area of education later). Applicants must have a major or its equivalent in the subject they wish to teach.

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Student learning outcomes

Persons completing the program are expected, among other attributes, to:

1. Understand human development and learning theory appropriate to the age group they will teach
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Special requirements
• Admission to clinical experiences in schools requires a background check and fingerprinting.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree with a major, or equivalent, in history, political science or related area
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. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

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Curriculum requirements

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<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 312</td>
<td>High School Practicum (taken concurrently with TEDU 547)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 617/PSYC 657</td>
<td>Advanced Educational Psychology for Secondary Teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 673</td>
<td>Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 537</td>
<td>Secondary School Curriculum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 547</td>
<td>Teaching Secondary School Social Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 562</td>
<td>Reading Instruction in the Content Areas</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 588</td>
<td>Classroom Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 681</td>
<td>Investigations and Trends in Teaching</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 672</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 674</td>
<td>Internship II</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 33

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Program requirements consist of three undergraduate and 30 graduate credits.

Graduate program coordinator
Gabriel Reich, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: greich@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

Additional contact
Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Teaching, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) with a concentration in mathematics education

Program goal

The post-baccalaureate Certificate in Teaching program is designed for students who have earned bachelor’s degrees in fields other than education, who wish to become teachers in secondary schools in one or more subjects and for whom a master’s degree is not a priority. This program is for applicants who may already have earned a master’s degree or wish to earn a master’s degree in a specialized area of education later. Applicants must have a major or its equivalent in the subject they wish to teach.

Students are required to complete a minimum of 24 hours beyond the bachelor’s level, including the courses listed below. Equivalent courses taken within the past five years may transfer; however, a minimum of 27 credit hours, including clinical experiences, must be taken at VCU after admission to the program.

Student learning outcomes

Persons completing the program are expected, among other attributes, to:

1. Understand human development and learning theory appropriate to the age group they will teach
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the subjects they will teach
3. Develop an understanding of purposes for education and a defensible philosophical approach toward teaching
4. Acquire awareness of the diversity of the school-age population in cultural background and styles of learning
5. Demonstrate an ability to plan and implement effective teaching
6. Measure student learning in ways that lead to sustained development and learning

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

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Degree candidacy requirements

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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.

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.

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree: Certificate</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates: Feb 1</th>
<th>Test requirements: GRE or MAT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- Admission to clinical experiences in schools requires a background check and fingerprinting.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree with a major, or equivalent, in mathematics
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. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

There are several tests that students must pass for admission to teacher preparation, admission to student teaching and licensure in Virginia. Students should consult the Student Services Center (http://
Teaching, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) with a concentration in physics education

www.soe.vcu.edu/student-services-center) section on the School of Education website for current testing requirements.

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours depending on concentration. Note that three credit hours are taken at the undergraduate level.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Student teaching requirements: Students must successfully complete approved student teaching experience.
4. Additional testing requirement: Students must pass Praxis II, where applicable, for licensure.

Curriculum requirements

Courses taken at the undergraduate level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 311</td>
<td>Middle School Practicum (taken concurrently with TEDU 537)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 312</td>
<td>High School Practicum (taken concurrently with TEDU 545)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Foundations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 617/PSYC 657</td>
<td>Advanced Educational Psychology for Secondary Teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 673</td>
<td>Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 537</td>
<td>Secondary School Curriculum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 545</td>
<td>Teaching Secondary School Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 562</td>
<td>Reading Instruction in the Content Areas</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 588</td>
<td>Classroom Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 681</td>
<td>Investigations and Trends in Teaching</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clinical

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 672</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 674</td>
<td>Internship II</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 33

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Program requirements consist of three undergraduate and 30 graduate credits.

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

Teaching, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) with a concentration in physics education

Program goal

The post-baccalaureate Certificate in Teaching program is designed for students who have earned bachelor’s degrees in fields other than education, who wish to become teachers in secondary schools in one or more subjects and for whom a master’s degree is not a priority. This program is for applicants who may already have earned a master’s degree or wish to earn a master’s degree in a specialized area of education later. Applicants must have a major or its equivalent in the subject they wish to teach.

Students are required to complete a minimum of 24 hours beyond the bachelor’s level, including the courses listed below. Equivalent courses taken within the past five years may transfer; however, a minimum of 27 credit hours, including clinical experiences, must be taken at VCU after admission to the program.

Student learning outcomes

Persons completing the program are expected, among other attributes, to:

1. Understand human development and learning theory appropriate to the age group they will teach
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the subjects they will teach
3. Develop an understanding of purposes for education and a defensible philosophical approach toward teaching
4. Acquire awareness of the diversity of the school-age population in cultural background and styles of learning
5. Demonstrate an ability to plan and implement effective teaching
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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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>GRE or MAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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Special requirements
• Admission to clinical experiences in schools requires a background check and fingerprinting.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree with a major, or equivalent, in physics
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. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

There are several tests that students must pass for admission to teacher preparation, admission to student teaching and licensure in Virginia. Students should consult the Student Services Center (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/student-services-center) section on the School of Education website for current testing requirements.

Degree requirements
In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 33 credit hours depending on concentration. Note that three credit hours are taken at the undergraduate level.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Student teaching requirements: Students must successfully complete approved student teaching experience.
4. Additional testing requirement: Students must pass Praxis II, where applicable, for licensure.

Curriculum requirements

Courses taken at the undergraduate level

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title and Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 311</td>
<td>Middle School Practicum (taken concurrently with TEDU 537)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 312</td>
<td>High School Practicum (taken concurrently with TEDU 540)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Foundations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title and Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 673</td>
<td>Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 617/PSYC 657</td>
<td>Advanced Educational Psychology for Secondary Teachers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title and Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 537</td>
<td>Secondary School Curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 540</td>
<td>Teaching Middle and High School Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 562</td>
<td>Reading Instruction in the Content Areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 588</td>
<td>Classroom Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 681</td>
<td>Investigations and Trends in Teaching</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clinical

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title and Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 672</td>
<td>Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 674</td>
<td>Internship II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 33

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Program requirements consist of three undergraduate and 30 graduate credits.

Graduate program coordinator
Jacqueline McDonnough, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jtmcdonnough@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

Additional contact
Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in biology education

Program goal
The Master of Teaching curricula are designed to incorporate eligibility for initial teaching licensure in Virginia in early and elementary, or secondary education (biology, chemistry, earth science, English, history, history and social studies, mathematics or physics).

The approved curricula include undergraduate qualifying courses as well. Individuals pursuing the extended program are awarded undergraduate and graduate degrees simultaneously; baccalaureate degree recipients who meet the admission criteria also may pursue the Master of Teaching degree program, including the qualifying courses. The combined baccalaureate and Master of Teaching program requires a minimum of 153-154 hours, at least 33 of which must be at the graduate level.

Secondary education
The Master of Teaching program includes curricula that lead to endorsement in one of the following disciplines: biology, chemistry, drama, earth science, English, history/social studies, mathematics or physics.

In order to enroll in the program, students must apply and be accepted to both the Extended Teacher Preparation Program and the Graduate School. Admission information for the Extended Teacher Preparation Program (p. 461) is available in this bulletin.

Student teaching requirements
All students pursuing a secondary education endorsement within the Master of Teaching program will student teach in the spring semester. To do so, students must take and pass the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment and their subject-specific Praxis II exams before the fall semester of the academic year in which they will student teach.

Student learning outcomes
Science education
1. Demonstrate content knowledge in science: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in science as evidenced by the Praxis II scores.
2. Demonstrate conceptual content knowledge: Candidates demonstrate knowledge of the conceptual science to be taught and related fields, and that they are well-prepared in the breadth of knowledge needed to teach in their fields of licensure as evidenced by GPA in major courses.
3. Effectively plan classroom-based instruction: Candidates demonstrate the ability to plan effective classroom-based instruction and design assessments, consistent with the goals of the National Science Education Standards as evidenced by the unit plan assessment.
4. Effectively apply knowledge, skills and dispositions during student teaching: Candidates demonstrate knowledge, skills and dispositions are applied effectively in practice as evidenced by the clinical evaluation.
5. Demonstrate effects on student learning: Candidates demonstrate positive effects on student learning of major concepts, principles, theories, laws; the unifying concepts of science; the nature of science; the practice of inquiry (including student engagement in inquiry); analysis of issues related to science and technology; and the impact of science on themselves and their community as evidenced by the assessing student learning portion of the clinical evaluation.
7. Knowledge of research and investigation in science: Candidates demonstrate knowledge of research and investigation in science and understand multiple forms of scientific inquiry; can design, conduct and report research in their field; and can use mathematics and appropriate technology to collect, process and explain data as evidenced by the student-generated research assessment.
8. Knowledge of the contextual content of science: Candidates demonstrate knowledge of the contextual content of science and have a strong understanding of the socially relevant issues, social context, history, philosophy and applications of science as evidenced by the nature of science reflection assignment.

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<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.T.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>GRE or MAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree with a major, or equivalent, in the subject the student wishes to teach (for secondary) or an appropriate liberal arts major (for early/elementary) (Students in the five-year extended program must be pursuing an appropriate bachelor’s degree.)
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. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

Additionally, there are several tests that students must pass for admission to teacher preparation, admission to student teaching and licensure in Virginia. Students should consult the Student Services Center (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/student-services-center) section on the School of Education website for current testing requirements.

Admission to clinical experiences in schools requires a background check and fingerprinting.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 33-34 credit hours depending on concentration.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Student teaching requirements: Students must successfully complete approved student teaching experience. Note: Students must complete all undergraduate courses before student teaching.

4. Additional testing requirement: Students must pass Praxis II, where applicable, for licensure.

Curriculum requirements

Undergraduate courses

Qualifying courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 301</td>
<td>Human Development and Learning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major courses (as undergraduate science majors) including genetics/molecular biology, botany, zoology, anatomy/human physiology, ecology, two physics and one earth science</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Admission to teacher preparation is a prerequisite for the following courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 311</td>
<td>Middle School Practicum (secondary; must be taken concurrently with TEDU 537)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 312</td>
<td>High School Practicum (science; must be taken concurrently with TEDU 540)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate courses

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 617/PSYC 657</td>
<td>Advanced Educational Psychology for Secondary Teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 673</td>
<td>Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 537</td>
<td>Secondary School Curriculum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 540</td>
<td>Teaching Middle and High School Sciences (fall only)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 562</td>
<td>Reading Instruction in the Content Areas</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 588</td>
<td>Classroom Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective

Select one of the following: 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 610</td>
<td>Social Foundations of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEDP 505</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Educating Individuals with Special Needs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 531</td>
<td>Media Literacy in the K-12 Classroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 619</td>
<td>Multicultural Perspectives in Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 651</td>
<td>Special Topics in Education (selected sections)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clinical experience (spring only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 672</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>TEDU 674</td>
<td>Internship II</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 681</td>
<td>Investigations and Trends in Teaching (must be taken concurrently with TEDU 672 and TEDU 674)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 33

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33

Other curricular options

Students who already possess a content major in a discipline appropriate for secondary education may pursue a post-baccalaureate certificate.

Graduate program coordinator

Jacqueline McDonnough, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in chemistry education

Program goal
The Master of Teaching curricula are designed to incorporate eligibility for initial teaching licensure in Virginia in early and elementary, secondary education (biology, chemistry, earth science, English, history, history and social studies, mathematics or physics).

The approved curricula include undergraduate qualifying courses as well. Individuals pursuing the extended program are awarded undergraduate and graduate degrees simultaneously; baccalaureate degree recipients who meet the admission criteria also may pursue the Master of Teaching degree program, including the qualifying courses. The combined baccalaureate and Master of Teaching program requires a minimum of 153-154 hours, at least 33 of which must be at the graduate level.

Secondary education
The Master of Teaching program includes curricula that lead to endorsement in one of the following disciplines: biology, chemistry, drama, earth science, English, history/social studies, mathematics or physics.

In order to enroll in the program, students must apply and be accepted to both the Extended Teacher Preparation Program and the Graduate School. Admission information for the Extended Teacher Preparation Program (p. 461) is available in this bulletin.

Student teaching requirements
All students pursuing a secondary education endorsement within the Master of Teaching program will student teach in the spring semester. To do so, students must take and pass the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment and their subject-specific Praxis II exams before the fall semester of the academic year in which they will student teach.

Student learning outcomes
Science education
1. Demonstrate content knowledge in science: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in science as evidenced by the Praxis II scores.
2. Demonstrate conceptual content knowledge: Candidates demonstrate knowledge of the conceptual science to be taught and related fields, and that they are well-prepared in the breadth of knowledge needed to teach in their fields of licensure as evidenced by GPA in major courses.
3. Can effectively plan classroom-based instruction: Candidates demonstrate the ability to plan effective classroom-based instruction and design assessments, consistent with the goals of the National Science Education Standards as evidenced by the unit plan assessment.
4. Effectively apply knowledge, skills and dispositions during student teaching: Candidates demonstrate knowledge, skills and dispositions are applied effectively in practice as evidenced by the clinical evaluation.
5. Demonstrate effects on student learning: Candidates demonstrate positive effects on student learning of major concepts, principles, theories, laws; the unifying concepts of science; the nature of science; the practice of inquiry (including student engagement in inquiry); analysis of issues related to science and technology; and the impact of science on themselves and their community as evidenced by the assessing student learning portion of the clinical evaluation.
7. Knowledge of research and investigation in science: Candidates demonstrate knowledge of research and investigation in science and understand multiple forms of scientific inquiry; can design, conduct and report research in their field; and can use mathematics and appropriate technology to collect, process and explain data as evidenced by the student-generated research assessment.
8. Knowledge of the contextual content of science: Candidates demonstrate knowledge of the contextual content of science and have a strong understanding of the socially relevant issues, social context, history, philosophy and applications of science as evidenced by the nature of science reflection assignment.

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs
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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.T.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>GRE or MAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree with a major, or equivalent, in the subject the student wishes to teach (for secondary) or an appropriate liberal arts major (for early/elementary) (Students in the five-year extended program must be pursuing an appropriate bachelor’s degree.)
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. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

Additionally, there are several tests that students must pass for admission to teacher preparation, admission to student teaching and licensure in Virginia. Students should consult the Student Services Center (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/student-services-center) section on the School of Education website for current testing requirements.

Admission to clinical experiences in schools requires a background check and fingerprinting.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 33-34 credit hours depending on concentration.

2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Student teaching requirements: Students must successfully complete approved student teaching experience. Note: Students must complete all undergraduate courses before student teaching.
4. Additional testing requirement: Students must pass Praxis II, where applicable, for licensure.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Undergraduate courses**

**Qualifying courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 301</td>
<td>Human Development and Learning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 673</td>
<td>Social Foundations of Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEDP 505</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Educating Individuals with Special Needs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 531</td>
<td>Media Literacy in the K-12 Classroom</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 537</td>
<td>Secondary School Curriculum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 540</td>
<td>Teaching Middle and High School Sciences (fall only)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 551</td>
<td>Multicultural Perspectives in Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 557</td>
<td>Media Literacy in the K-12 Classroom</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 562</td>
<td>Reading Instruction in the Content Areas</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 565</td>
<td>Classroom Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 588</td>
<td>Classroom Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Elective**

Select one of the following: 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 610</td>
<td>Social Foundations of Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEDP 505</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Educating Individuals with Special Needs</td>
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<td>TEDU 551</td>
<td>Multicultural Perspectives in Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 651</td>
<td>Special Topics in Education (selected sections)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Clinical experience (spring only)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 662</td>
<td>Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 664</td>
<td>Internship II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 668</td>
<td>Investigations and Trends in Teaching (must be taken concurrently with TEDU 672 and TEDU 674)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 33
Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33

Other curricular options

Students who already possess a content major in a discipline appropriate for secondary education may pursue a post-baccalaureate certificate.

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Jacqueline McDonnough, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jtmcdonnough@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

Additional contact
Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

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

Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in early and elementary education

Program goal

The Master of Teaching curricula are designed to incorporate eligibility for initial teaching licensure in Virginia in early and elementary, or secondary education (biology, chemistry, earth science, English, history, history and social studies, mathematics or physics).

The approved curricula include undergraduate qualifying courses as well. Individuals pursuing the extended program are awarded undergraduate and graduate degrees simultaneously; baccalaureate degree recipients who meet the admission criteria also may pursue the Master of Teaching degree program, including the qualifying courses. The combined baccalaureate and Master of Teaching program requires a minimum of 153-154 hours, at least 33 of which must be at the graduate level.

Early and elementary education

Freshman students bound for the Master of Teaching program with a concentration in early and elementary education are required to enroll in the Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies with a liberal studies endorsement in early and elementary education major. This program offers liberal studies curriculum designed through an interdisciplinary collaboration among professors in the College of Humanities and Sciences and the School of Education in consultation with successful area teachers. It targets core knowledge across the four major subject areas represented in Virginia’s Standards of Learning (mathematics, sciences, social sciences and language arts/communication) while also providing a university-level skill set and knowledge base. Throughout the undergraduate program, contact with area schools and young learners is programmed into service and experiential learning venues.

Transfer students intending to be elementary teachers (and completing the Master of Teaching with a concentration in early and elementary education) are required to meet with advisers for the LSEE major prior to registering for courses. Advisers will evaluate all courses successfully completed outside of the LSEE major prescribed curriculum (from VCU or elsewhere) to determine their transferability to the LSEE major.

LSEE majors are encouraged to select at least one minor in order to deepen knowledge and appreciation of a subject area. Philosophy, religious studies, African American studies and international studies have relevance in their understanding of human investigation of knowledge, human behavior and world cultures. A minor in a science area such as environmental studies may be more employable because of school and societal concerns about our planet and its preservation. In selecting the humanities and sciences minor, the choice should be based on the student’s interest and perceived relevance.

Consult with the appropriate professional studies adviser for additional information regarding professional studies and liberal arts requirements.

Student teaching requirements

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Student learning outcomes

Early and elementary education

1. Master content knowledge: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in the disciplines to be taught in an elementary classroom as evidenced by performance on Praxis II and the liberal arts equivalency GPA.
2. Demonstrate ability to plan instruction: Candidates demonstrate that they can effectively plan classroom-based instruction as evidenced by the read-aloud lesson plan.
3. Demonstrate application of knowledge, skills and dispositions: Candidates effectively use skills in practice as evidenced by the clinical evaluation continuum assessment during internship.
4. Demonstrate effect on student learning: Candidates demonstrate effect on student learning as evidenced by success on the practicum B lesson plans in math, science and social studies.
5. Demonstrate success on developmental project: Candidates will demonstrate competence in developing unit lesson plans as evidenced by the TEDU 414 unit plan.
6. Demonstrate success on activity project: Candidates will demonstrate competence in developing student activity plans by success on the health and PE movement experience activity project.
7. Demonstrate ability to integrate the arts in lessons: Candidates will demonstrate that they know, understand and use basic communication in the arts, can analyze art from structural, historical and cultural perspectives, and have an informed acquaintance with art from varied cultural and historical periods. Further, candidates will demonstrate that they are able to integrate art in a basic content lesson by success on the learning center notebook project.

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**Curriculum requirements**

**Program requirements – mathematics and statistical reasoning**

The general education requirement is three to six credit hours; the early childhood/elementary education program requirement is six credit hours, including three credit hours in mathematics at the college algebra level or higher and three credit hours in a statistics course typically taught by a college department of mathematics. Choosing among these courses is recommended:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Math course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 131</td>
<td>Introduction to Contemporary Mathematics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 208</td>
<td>Statistical Thinking</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 210</td>
<td>Basic Practice of Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Program requirements – natural sciences**

The general education requirement is seven to nine credit hours, with one course each from the physical sciences and the biological sciences, with at least one laboratory; the early childhood/elementary education program requirement is 12 credit hours, again with at least one course each in the physical sciences and the biological sciences and two laboratories. Choosing among these courses is recommended:

**Biological sciences**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Biology course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 101</td>
<td>Biological Concepts</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; BIOZ 101</td>
<td>and Biological Concepts Laboratory</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL/ENVS 103</td>
<td>Environmental Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Physical sciences**

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Biological Concepts</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Environmental Science</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHEM 110  |  Chemistry and Society  
& CHEZ 110  |  and Chemistry and Society Laboratory  
CHEM 112  |  Chemistry in the News  
PHYS 101  |  Foundations of Physics  
& PHYZ 101  |  and Foundations of Physics Laboratory  
PHYS 107  |  Wonders of Technology  

**Program requirements – applied arts**

Two to three credit hours in applied arts to be designated with the professional studies adviser.

**Professional studies requirements**

**Undergraduate courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 301</td>
<td>Human Development and Learning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PSYC 301</td>
<td>Child Psychology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 310</td>
<td>Elementary School Practicum A</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 313</td>
<td>Elementary School Practicum B</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU/ENGL 386</td>
<td>Children's Literature I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 390</td>
<td>Physical Education for the Elementary Teacher</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 410</td>
<td>Classroom Management in Elementary Schools</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 411</td>
<td>Integrating the Arts in Curriculum for Young Children</td>
<td>2-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or ARTE 301</td>
<td>Art for Elementary Teachers</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 414</td>
<td>Curriculum and Methods for Early/Elementary Children</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 426</td>
<td>Teaching Reading and Other Language Arts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 25-26

1 Students may choose another applied arts course.

**Graduate courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS/PSYC 607</td>
<td>Advanced Educational Psychology for Elementary Teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 673</td>
<td>Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEDP 505</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Educating Individuals with Special Needs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 517</td>
<td>Science Education in the Elementary School</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 522</td>
<td>Teaching Mathematics for Elementary Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 566</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Remediation in Reading</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 591</td>
<td>Social Studies Education in the Elementary School</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 626</td>
<td>Home-School Communication and Collaboration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 672</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 674</td>
<td>Internship II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 681</td>
<td>Investigations and Trends in Teaching</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 34

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 34**

**Other curricular options**

Students who already possess a content major in a discipline appropriate for secondary education may pursue a post-baccalaureate certificate.

**Graduate program coordinator**

Laura Domalik, M.Ed.
Instructor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: lsdomalik@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

**Additional contact**

Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

**Program website:** soe.vcu.edu (http://www.soe.vcu.edu)

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**Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in earth science education**

**Program goal**

The Master of Teaching curricula are designed to incorporate eligibility for initial teaching licensure in Virginia in early and elementary, or secondary education (biology, chemistry, earth science, English, history, history and social studies, mathematics or physics).

The approved curricula include undergraduate qualifying courses as well. Individuals pursuing the extended program are awarded undergraduate and graduate degrees simultaneously; baccalaureate degree recipients who meet the admission criteria also may pursue the Master of Teaching degree program, including the qualifying courses. The combined baccalaureate and Master of Teaching program requires a minimum of 153-154 hours, at least 33 of which must be at the graduate level.

**Secondary education**

The Master of Teaching program includes curricula that lead to endorsement in one of the following disciplines: biology, chemistry, drama, earth science, English, history/social studies, mathematics or physics.

In order to enroll in the program, students must apply and be accepted to both the Extended Teacher Preparation Program and the Graduate School. Admission information for the Extended Teacher Preparation Program (p. 461) is available in this bulletin.

**Student teaching requirements**

All students pursuing a secondary education endorsement within the Master of Teaching program will student teach in the spring semester. To do so, students must take and pass the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment and their subject-specific Praxis II exams before the fall semester of the academic year in which they will student teach.
Student learning outcomes

Science education

1. Demonstrate content knowledge in science: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in science as evidenced by the Praxis II scores.

2. Demonstrate conceptual content knowledge: Candidates demonstrate knowledge of the conceptual science to be taught and related fields, and that they are well-prepared in the breadth of knowledge needed to teach in their fields of licensure as evidenced by GPA in major courses.

3. Effectively plan classroom-based instruction: Candidates demonstrate the ability to plan effective classroom-based instruction and design assessments, consistent with the goals of the National Science Education Standards as evidenced by the unit plan assessment.

4. Effectively apply knowledge, skills and dispositions: Candidates demonstrate knowledge, skills and dispositions are applied effectively in practice during student teaching, as evidenced by the clinical evaluation.

5. Demonstrate effects on student learning: Candidates demonstrate positive effects on student learning of major concepts, principles, theories, laws; the unifying concepts of science, the nature of science, the practice of inquiry (including student engagement in inquiry), analysis of issues related to science and technology, and the impact of science on themselves and their community as evidenced by the assessing student learning portion of the clinical evaluation.


7. Knowledge of research and investigation in science: Candidates demonstrate knowledge of research and investigation in science and understand multiple forms of scientific inquiry; can design, conduct and report research in their field; and can use mathematics and appropriate technology to collect, process and explain data as evidenced by the student-generated research assessment.

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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. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

Additionally, there are several tests that students must pass for admission to teacher preparation, admission to student teaching and licensure in Virginia. Students should consult the Student Services Center.
(http://www.soe.vcu.edu/student-services-center) section on the School of Education website for current testing requirements.

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**Degree requirements**
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 33-34 credit hours depending on concentration.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
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4. Additional testing requirement: Students must pass Praxis II, where applicable, for licensure.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Undergraduate courses**

**Qualifying courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 301</td>
<td>Human Development and Learning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Major courses (as undergraduate science majors) including genetics/molecular biology, botany, zoology, anatomy/human physiology, ecology, two physics and one earth science

Admission to teacher preparation is a prerequisite for the following courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 311</td>
<td>Middle School Practicum (secondary; must be taken concurrently with TEDU 537)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 312</td>
<td>High School Practicum (science; must be taken concurrently with TEDU 540)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Graduate courses**

**Required courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 617/PSYC 657</td>
<td>Advanced Educational Psychology for Secondary Teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 673</td>
<td>Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 537</td>
<td>Secondary School Curriculum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 540</td>
<td>Teaching Middle and High School Sciences (fall only)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 562</td>
<td>Reading Instruction in the Content Areas</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 588</td>
<td>Classroom Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Elective**

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 610</td>
<td>Social Foundations of Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEDP 505</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Educating Individuals with Special Needs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 531</td>
<td>Media Literacy in the K-12 Classroom</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 619</td>
<td>Multicultural Perspectives in Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Clinical experience (spring only)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 672</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 674</td>
<td>Internship II</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 681</td>
<td>Investigations and Trends in Teaching</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Note: Must be taken concurrently with TEDU 672 and TEDU 674)

**Total Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 651</td>
<td>Special Topics in Education (selected sections)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum)** 33

**Other curricular options**

Students who already possess a content major in a discipline appropriate for secondary education may pursue a post-baccalaureate certificate.

**Graduate program coordinator**

Jacqueline McDonnough, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jtmcdonnough@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

**Additional contact**

Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

**Program website:** soe.vcu.edu (http://www.soe.vcu.edu)

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**Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in English education**

**Program goal**

The Master of Teaching curricula are designed to incorporate eligibility for initial teaching licensure in Virginia in early and elementary, or secondary education (biology, chemistry, earth science, English, history, history and social studies, mathematics or physics).

The approved curricula include undergraduate qualifying courses as well. Individuals pursuing the extended program are awarded undergraduate and graduate degrees simultaneously; baccalaureate degree recipients who meet the admission criteria also may pursue the Master of Teaching degree program, including the qualifying courses. The combined baccalaureate and Master of Teaching program requires a minimum of 153-154 hours, at least 33 of which must be at the graduate level.

**Secondary education**

The Master of Teaching program includes curricula that lead to endorsement in one of the following disciplines: biology, chemistry, drama, earth science, English, history/social studies, mathematics or physics.

In order to enroll in the program, students must apply and be accepted to both the Extended Teacher Preparation Program and the Graduate School. Admission information for the Extended Teacher Preparation Program (p. 461) is available in this bulletin.

**Student teaching requirements**

All students pursuing a secondary education endorsement within the Master of Teaching program will student teach in the spring semester.
To do so, students must take and pass the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment and their subject-specific Praxis II exams before the fall semester of the academic year in which they will student teach.

**Student learning outcomes**

**English education**

1. Demonstrate content knowledge in the English: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in the English language arts as evidenced by Praxis II scores and the undergraduate transcript analysis.
2. Demonstrate ability to plan instruction: Candidates demonstrate that they can effectively plan classroom-based instructions evidenced by the lesson plan assessment, lesson plan portion of the portfolio and the clinical evaluation continuum.
3. Demonstrate knowledge, skills and dispositions: Candidates demonstrate that knowledge, skills and dispositions are applied effectively in practice as evidenced by the clinical evaluation continuum assessment during internship.
4. Demonstrate effect on student learning: Candidates demonstrate effect on student learning as evidenced by success on the lesson plan portion of the portfolio.
5. Demonstrate NCTE standards proficiency: Candidates further demonstrate proficiency on NCTE competencies as evidenced by the dispositions assessment.

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

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**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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4. Transcripts of all previous college work
5. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

Additionally, there are several tests that students must pass for admission to teacher preparation, admission to student teaching and licensure in Virginia. Students should consult the Student Services Center (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/student-services-center) section on the School of Education website for current testing requirements.

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In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

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Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in history/social studies education

2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.

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Curriculum requirements

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 311 Middle School Practicum (secondary; must be taken concurrently with TEDU 537) 2</td>
<td>ENED/ENGL 601 Young Adult Literature 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 312 High School Practicum (English; must be taken concurrently with TEDU 548) 1</td>
<td>TEDU 537 Secondary School Curriculum (fall only) 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 548 Teaching Secondary School English (fall only) 3</td>
<td>TEDU 548 Teaching Secondary School English (fall only) 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 562 Reading Instruction in the Content Areas 3</td>
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Clinical experience (spring only)

| TEDU 672 Internship 4 | TEDU 672 Internship 4 |
| TEDU 674 Internship II 5 | TEDU 674 Internship II 5 |
| TEDU 681 Investigations and Trends in Teaching (must be taken concurrently with TEDU 672 and TEDU 674) 3 | TEDU 681 Investigations and Trends in Teaching (must be taken concurrently with TEDU 672 and TEDU 674) 3 |

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33

Other curricular options

Students who already possess a content major in a discipline appropriate for secondary education may pursue a post-baccalaureate certificate.

Phone: (804) 828-1305

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

Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in history/social studies education

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Student learning outcomes

History/social studies education

1. Demonstrate content knowledge in social studies: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in social studies as evidenced by the Praxis II scores and unit plan assessment in TEDU 547.

2. Effectively plan classroom-based instruction: Candidates demonstrate that they can effectively plan classroom-based instruction as evidenced by the lesson plan assessments in TEDU 547 and TEDU 681.

3. Effectively apply knowledge, skills and dispositions during student teaching: Candidates demonstrate that knowledge, skills and dispositions are applied effectively in practice as evidenced by clinical evaluations.

4. Demonstrate effects on student learning: Candidates demonstrate effects on student learning as evidenced by the portfolio: student work, reflections, case study and rubric for student teaching.

5. Candidates demonstrate National Council for the Social Studies standards proficiency: Candidates demonstrate proficiency on NCSS competencies as evidenced by the unit plan assessment
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### Curriculum requirements

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<th>Human Development and Learning</th>
<th>3</th>
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</thead>
</table>
Major courses (as undergraduate history majors) in political science (12 credit hours), including six credit hours 100-level U.S. and international politics; and economics (six credit hours), including macro- and microeconomics or (as undergraduate political science majors) in history (18 credit hours); geography (nine credit hours), including three credit hours of physical geography and six credit hours of cultural geography; and economics (six credit hours), including macro- and microeconomics.

Admission to teacher preparation is a prerequisite for the following courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Description</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Middle School Practicum (secondary; must be taken concurrently with TEDU 537)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 312</td>
<td>High School Practicum (history/social studies; must be taken concurrently with TEDU 547)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate courses

Required courses

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>TEDU 537</td>
<td>Secondary School Curriculum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 547</td>
<td>Teaching Secondary School Social Studies (fall only)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 562</td>
<td>Reading Instruction in the Content Areas</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>TEDU 588</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective

Select one of the following: 3

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<tbody>
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<td>Social Foundations of Education</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Educational Foundations for Collaboration and Universally Designed Learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEDP 631</td>
<td>Classroom Management and Behavior Support for Students with Disabilities</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TEDU 531</td>
<td>Media Literacy in the K-12 Classroom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 556</td>
<td>Advanced Computer Applications in Education</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 627</td>
<td>Exploring Historical Consciousness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 651</td>
<td>Special Topics in Education (selected sections)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clinical experience (spring only)

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<tr>
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Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33

Other curricular options

Students who already possess a content major in a discipline appropriate for secondary education may pursue a post-baccalaureate certificate.

Graduate program coordinator

Gabriel Reich, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Teaching and Learning
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Additional contact

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Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in mathematics education

Program goal

The Master of Teaching curricula are designed to incorporate eligibility for initial teaching licensure in Virginia in early and elementary, or secondary education (biology, chemistry, earth science, English, history, history and social studies, mathematics or physics).

The approved curricula include undergraduate qualifying courses as well. Individuals pursuing the extended program are awarded undergraduate and graduate degrees simultaneously; baccalaureate degree recipients who meet the admission criteria also may pursue the Master of Teaching degree program, including the qualifying courses. The combined baccalaureate and Master of Teaching program requires a minimum of 153-154 hours, at least 33 of which must be at the graduate level.

Secondary education

The Master of Teaching program includes curricula that lead to endorsement in one of the following disciplines: biology, chemistry, drama, earth science, English, history/social studies, mathematics or physics.

In order to enroll in the program, students must apply and be accepted to both the Extended Teacher Preparation Program and the Graduate School. Admission information for the Extended Teacher Preparation Program (p. 461) is available in this bulletin.

Student teaching requirements

All students pursuing a secondary education endorsement within the Master of Teaching program will student teach in the spring semester. To do so, students must take and pass the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment and their subject-specific Praxis II exams before the fall semester of the academic year in which they will student teach.

Student learning outcomes

Mathematics education

1. Demonstrate content knowledge in mathematics: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in mathematics as evidenced by the Praxis II scores and undergraduate mathematics GPAs. This
objective addresses NCATE Standard 1 – “Candidate Knowledge, Skills and Dispositions.”

2. Effectively plan classroom-based instruction: Candidates demonstrate that they can effectively plan classroom-based instruction as evidenced by the unit-lesson plans, student handouts, assessments and video tape portions of the portfolio assessment.

3. Effectively apply knowledge, skills and dispositions during student teaching: Candidates demonstrate that knowledge, skills and dispositions are applied effectively in practice as evidenced by clinical evaluations.

4. Demonstrate effects on student learning: Candidates demonstrate effects on student learning as evidenced by lesson plan portion of the portfolio assessment and the clinical evaluation continuum.

5. Demonstrate National Council of Teachers of Mathematics standards proficiency: Candidates further demonstrate proficiency on NCTM competencies as evidenced by the technology lesson plans and the problem-solving lesson plans.

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

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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.

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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.

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Admission requirements

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<td></td>
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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree with a major, or equivalent, in the subject the student wishes to teach (for secondary) or an appropriate liberal arts major (for early/elementary) (Students in the five-year extended program must be pursuing an appropriate bachelor’s degree.)

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. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

Additionally, there are several tests that students must pass for admission to teacher preparation, admission to student teaching and licensure in Virginia. Students should consult the Student Services Center (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/student-services-center) section on the School of Education website for current testing requirements.

Admission to clinical experiences in schools requires a background check and fingerprinting.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 33-34 credit hours depending on concentration.

2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.

3. Student teaching requirements: Students must successfully complete approved student teaching experience. Note: Students must complete all undergraduate courses before student teaching.

4. Additional testing requirement: Students must pass Praxis II, where applicable, for licensure.
Curriculum requirements

Undergraduate courses

Qualifying courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 301</td>
<td>Human Development and Learning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Major courses (as undergraduate mathematics majors):

Students should be enrolled in VCU's 41-credit-hour secondary mathematics teacher preparation concentration within the baccalaureate mathematics program or have completed a degree in mathematics from an accredited university as a prerequisite to the M.T. degree program.

Admission to teacher preparation is a prerequisite for the following courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 311</td>
<td>Middle School Practicum (secondary; must be taken concurrently with TEDU 537)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 312</td>
<td>High School Practicum (mathematics; must be taken concurrently with TEDU 545)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate courses

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 617/PSYC 657</td>
<td>Advanced Educational Psychology for Secondary Teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 673</td>
<td>Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 521</td>
<td>Teaching Mathematics for Middle Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 537</td>
<td>Secondary School Curriculum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 545</td>
<td>Teaching Secondary School Mathematics (fall only)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 562</td>
<td>Reading Instruction in the Content Areas</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 588</td>
<td>Classroom Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Clinical experience (spring only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 672</td>
<td>Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 674</td>
<td>Internship II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 681</td>
<td>Investigations and Trends in Teaching (must be taken concurrently with TEDU 672 and TEDU 674)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 33

Other curricular options

Students who already possess a content major in a discipline appropriate for secondary education may pursue a post-baccalaureate certificate.

Phone: (804) 828-1305

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

Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in physics education

Program goal

The Master of Teaching curricula are designed to incorporate eligibility for initial teaching licensure in Virginia in early and elementary, or secondary education (biology, chemistry, earth science, English, history, history and social studies, mathematics or physics).

The approved curricula include undergraduate qualifying courses as well. Individuals pursuing the extended program are awarded undergraduate and graduate degrees simultaneously; baccalaureate degree recipients who meet the admission criteria also may pursue the Master of Teaching degree program, including the qualifying courses. The combined baccalaureate and Master of Teaching program requires a minimum of 153-154 hours, at least 33 of which must be at the graduate level.

Secondary education

The Master of Teaching program includes curricula that lead to endorsement in one of the following disciplines: biology, chemistry, drama, earth science, English, history/social studies, mathematics or physics.

In order to enroll in the program, students must apply and be accepted to both the Extended Teacher Preparation Program and the Graduate School. Admission information for the Extended Teacher Preparation Program (p. 461) is available in this bulletin.

Student teaching requirements

All students pursuing a secondary education endorsement within the Master of Teaching program will student teach in the spring semester. To do so, students must take and pass the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment and their subject-specific Praxis II exams before the fall semester of the academic year in which they will student teach.

Student learning outcomes

Science education

1. Demonstrate content knowledge in science: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in science as evidenced by the Praxis II scores.
2. Demonstrate conceptual content knowledge: Candidates demonstrate knowledge of the conceptual science to be taught and related fields, and that they are well-prepared in the breadth of knowledge needed to teach in their fields of licensure as evidenced by GPA in major courses.
3. Effectively plan classroom-based instruction: Candidates demonstrate the ability to plan effective classroom-based instruction and design assessments, consistent with goals of the National Science Education Standards as evidenced by the unit plan assessment.
4. Effectively apply knowledge, skills and dispositions during student teaching: Candidates demonstrate knowledge, skills and dispositions are applied effectively in practice as evidenced by the clinical evaluation.
5. Demonstrate effects on student learning: Candidates demonstrate positive effects on student learning of major concepts, principles,
theories, laws; the unifying concepts of science; the nature of science; the practice of inquiry (including student engagement in inquiry); analysis of issues related to science and technology; and the impact of science on themselves and their community as evidenced by the assessing student learning portion of the clinical evaluation.


7. Knowledge of research and investigation in science: Candidates demonstrate knowledge of research and investigation in science and understand multiple forms of scientific inquiry; can design, conduct and report research in their field; and can use mathematics and appropriate technology to collect, process and explain data as evidenced by the student-generated research assessment.

8. Knowledge of the contextual content of science: Candidates demonstrate knowledge of the contextual content of science and have a strong understanding of the socially relevant issues, social context, history, philosophy and applications of science as evidenced by the nature of science reflection assignment.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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.

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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. Bachelor’s degree with a major, or equivalent, in the subject the student wishes to teach (for secondary) or an appropriate liberal arts major (for early/elementary) (Students in the five-year extended program must be pursuing an appropriate bachelor’s degree.)
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. Satisfactory scores on the GRE or MAT

Additionally, there are several tests that students must pass for admission to teacher preparation, admission to student teaching and licensure in Virginia. Students should consult the Student Services Center (http://www.soe.vcu.edu/student-services-center) section on the School of Education website for current testing requirements.

Admission to clinical experiences in schools requires a background check and fingerprinting.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses.

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 33-34 credit hours depending on concentration.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Student teaching requirements: Students must successfully complete approved student teaching experience. Note: Students must complete all undergraduate courses before student teaching.
4. Additional testing requirement: Students must pass Praxis II, where applicable, for licensure.

## Curriculum requirements

### Undergraduate courses

#### Qualifying courses

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<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Major courses (as undergraduate science majors) including genetics/molecular biology, botany, zoology, anatomy/human physiology, ecology, two physics and one earth science

Admission to teacher preparation is a prerequisite for the following courses:

<table>
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<td>Middle School Practicum (secondary; must be taken concurrently with TEDU 537)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 312</td>
<td>High School Practicum (science; must be taken concurrently with TEDU 540)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Graduate courses

#### Required courses

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>TEDU 537</td>
<td>Secondary School Curriculum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 540</td>
<td>Teaching Middle and High School Sciences (fall only)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 617/PSYC 657</td>
<td>Advanced Educational Psychology for Secondary Teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 673</td>
<td>Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 562</td>
<td>Reading Instruction in the Content Areas</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>TEDU 588</td>
<td>Classroom Management</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Elective

Select one of the following: 3

- EDUS 610 Social Foundations of Education
- SEDP 505 Theory and Practice of Educating Individuals with Special Needs
- TEDU 531 Media Literacy in the K-12 Classroom
- TEDU 619 Multicultural Perspectives in Education
- TEDU 651 Special Topics in Education (selected sections)

#### Clinical experience (spring only)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<td>TEDU 672</td>
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Total Hours 33

## Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33

### Other curricular options

Students who already possess a content major in a discipline appropriate for secondary education may pursue a post-baccalaureate certificate.

## Teaching, Master of (M.T.) with a concentration in teaching health and physical education

### Program goal

The Master of Teaching curricula are designed to incorporate eligibility for initial teaching licensure in Virginia in early and elementary, secondary education (biology, chemistry, earth science, English, history, history and social studies, mathematics or physics) or health and physical education.

The approved curricula include undergraduate qualifying courses as well. Individuals pursuing the extended program are awarded undergraduate and graduate degrees simultaneously; baccalaureate degree recipients who meet the admission criteria also may pursue the Master of Teaching degree program, including the qualifying courses. The combined baccalaureate and Master of Teaching program requires a minimum of 153-154 hours, at least 33 of which must be at the graduate level.

### Health and physical education

The Master of Teaching program with a concentration in teaching health and physical education provides advanced course work in the application of health and movement science principles to health and physical education pedagogy. Students seeking an M.T. with the teaching health and physical education concentration are required to complete the Bachelor of Science in Health, Physical Education and Exercise Science. Students with an undergraduate degree in health and physical education or related degrees are encouraged to meet with an adviser prior to applying to graduate school.

### Student teaching requirements

All students pursuing a secondary education endorsement within the Master of Teaching program will student teach in the spring semester. To do so, students must take and pass the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment and their subject-specific Praxis II exams before the fall semester of the academic year in which they will student teach.

### Student learning outcomes

#### Health and physical education

1. Demonstrate content knowledge in health and physical education: Candidates demonstrate content knowledge in health and physical education as evidenced by Praxis II scores and the undergraduate transcript analysis.
2. Demonstrate ability to plan instruction: Candidates demonstrate that they can effectively plan classroom-based instructions evidenced by the lesson plan assessment, lesson plan portion of the portfolio and the clinical evaluation continuum.
3. Demonstrate that knowledge, skills and dispositions are applied effectively in practice as evidenced by the clinical evaluation continuum assessment during internship.

4. Demonstrate effect on student learning: Candidates demonstrate effect on student learning as evidenced by success on the lesson plan portion of the portfolio.

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**Degree requirements**

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1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 33-34 credit hours depending on concentration.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in two courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Student teaching requirements: Students must successfully complete approved student teaching experience. Note: Students must complete all undergraduate courses before student teaching.
4. Additional testing requirement: Students must pass Praxis II, where applicable, for licensure.

**Curriculum requirements**

The undergraduate program requires a minimum of 120 credit hours. To view undergraduate requirements, please see the program page for B.S. in Health, Physical Education and Exercise Science with a concentration in exercise science.

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>EDUS/PSYC 607</td>
<td>Advanced Educational Psychology for Elementary Teachers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 673</td>
<td>Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEDP 505</td>
<td>Theory and Practice of Educating Individuals with Special Needs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Credit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
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<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 512</td>
<td>Teaching Elementary Health and Physical Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 513</td>
<td>Teaching Health Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TEDU 514</td>
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Total Hours: 33

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum)** 33

**Other curricular options**

Students who already possess a content major in a discipline appropriate for secondary education may pursue a post-baccalaureate certificate.

**Additional contact**

Julie Gorlewski, Ph.D.
Associate professor and chair, Department of Teaching and Learning
Email: jagorlewski@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1305

**Program website**: soe.vcu.edu (http://www.soe.vcu.edu)
Since its inception in 1996, the School of Engineering at VCU has brought innovative, real-world engineering education to Central Virginia. The school currently teaches nearly 2,000 undergraduate students and approximately 300 graduate students. Students can earn B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees through the departments of Biomedical Engineering, Chemical and Life Science Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering.

Engineering skills alone do not equal success in the 21st century. The school challenges students to think bigger and actively collaborate with community businesses and students from a wealth of backgrounds — such as graphic design, physics and health care. Cross-disciplinary focus areas include sustainability and energy engineering, micro- and nano-electronic systems, pharmaceutical engineering, mechanobiology and regenerative medicine, security and mining of big data, and device design and development.

Students also benefit from close, personal interactions with faculty and from the many opportunities available for internships, cooperative education and undergraduate research experiences. Interdisciplinary research opportunities are offered through various state-of-the-art facilities, including the school’s Nanomaterials Core Characterization Facility, the Institute for Engineering and Medicine, the Wright-Virginia Microelectronics Center, the dean’s undergraduate research initiative and the da Vinci Center. To learn more, visit egr.vcu.edu (http://www.egr.vcu.edu).

Administration
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Barbara D. Boyan, Ph.D.
Dean

Lewis F. Bost
Executive associate dean for innovation and outreach

John D. Leonard II, Ph.D.
Executive associate dean for finance and administration

Gregory Triplett, Ph.D.
Associate dean for graduate studies

Afroditi V. Filippas, Ph.D.
Associate dean for undergraduate studies

Zvi Schwartz, Ph.D., D.M.D.
Associate dean for strategic initiatives

Ram B. Gupta, Ph.D.
Associate dean for research

Accreditation
The Biomedical Engineering program is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (http://www.abet.org/about-abet/governance/accreditation-commissions/engineering-accreditation-commission).

The Chemical and Life Science Engineering program is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (http://www.abet.org/about-abet/governance/accreditation-commissions/engineering-accreditation-commission).

The Computer Engineering program is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (http://www.abet.org/about-abet/governance/accreditation-commissions/engineering-accreditation-commission).

The Computer Science program is accredited by the Computing Accreditation Commission of ABET (http://www.abet.org/about-abet/governance/accreditation-commissions/computing-accreditation-commission).

The Electrical Engineering program is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (http://www.abet.org/about-abet/governance/accreditation-commissions/engineering-accreditation-commission).

The Mechanical Engineering program is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (http://www.abet.org/about-abet/governance/accreditation-commissions/engineering-accreditation-commission).

The Nuclear Engineering option in Mechanical Engineering program is accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Commission of ABET (http://www.abet.org/about-abet/governance/accreditation-commissions/engineering-accreditation-commission).

Degree programs
The School of Engineering offers the following degree programs:

Bachelor of Science
Biomedical Engineering
Chemical and Life Science Engineering
Computer Engineering
Computer Science
Electrical Engineering
Mechanical Engineering

• Mechanical Engineering with a concentration in nuclear engineering

Students also may be admitted under "undeclared engineering" for entrance to the School of Engineering. A field of study can be determined after the first semester. Students in undeclared engineering are subject to the change of major criteria listed by each department.

Master of Science
Biomedical Engineering
Computer Science
Engineering

• Engineering with a concentration in chemical and life science engineering

• Engineering with a concentration in electrical and computer engineering

Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering
Doctor of Philosophy

Biomedical Engineering

Engineering

- Engineering with a concentration in chemical and life science engineering
- Engineering with a concentration in computer science
- Engineering with a concentration in electrical and computer engineering

Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering

Joint degree

M.D./Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering in participation with the School of Medicine

Interdisciplinary and cooperative studies degree

M.S. degree through the Commonwealth Graduate Engineering Program

Post-baccalaureate certificate

Computer Science

Commonwealth Graduate Engineering Program

The Commonwealth Graduate Engineering Program is a collaborative effort of the University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Old Dominion University, and George Mason University. The University of Mary Washington participates as a funded receive site.

See the School of Engineering Graduate Programs section of this bulletin for information on VCU’s graduate programs in engineering.

Administration

Gregory Triplett, Ph.D.
Associate dean for graduate studies

The VCU Commonwealth Graduate Engineering Program director works closely with the other CGEP directors, the VCU Dean of School of Engineering, and local businesses and industries.

Program description

Students who have baccalaureate degrees in engineering or strong backgrounds in the sciences may work toward a master’s degree in engineering at VCU. Graduate engineering courses are available from the CGEP member universities via interactive television, the Web and two-way audio/video teleconferencing. In addition to the required engineering courses, elective courses are available in applied mathematics, mathematical statistics, chemistry, operations research and physics in classes at VCU. The following academic programs are available through CGEP:

- Chemical Engineering
- Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Computer Science
- Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Engineering Management
- Industrial and Systems Engineering
- Manufacturing and Design Engineering
- Materials Sciences and Engineering
- Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
- Modeling and Simulation

Degree-seeking students

Students enrolling in the program should apply for admission in a given academic area of study and may select courses from any of the participating institutions, consistent with selected degree requirements.

Nondegree-seeking students

Qualified individuals may enroll in a particular course without pursuing a formal degree program of study. Admission will be based on the individual’s academic preparation and the availability of space.

Admission requirements

Students should apply for admission to the CGEP university offering the desired degree program. Applicants should have a B average, but a successful professional experience may strengthen admission credentials. Three recommendations from persons who are qualified to give information concerning the applicant’s probable success in the program and the completion of the Graduate Record Examination also are required.

Graduate information

Registration for graduate study

In the biomedical engineering program, all new students begin their course of study in the fall semester (August). Spring semester admissions require the recommendation of the graduate program director, approval of the chair and the assistant dean for graduate affairs. Students may begin a course of study in either the fall or spring semesters for the engineering and computer science graduate programs; however, a start in the fall semester is preferred. For the CGEP, students may begin a course of study in either the fall or spring semester.

Engineering, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

Program goal

The goal of the Ph.D. in Engineering degree program is to provide graduate students with learning opportunities for acquiring a broad foundation of engineering knowledge; an in-depth original research experience at the frontiers of engineering; and skills for lifelong learning and professional development. Graduates of this program will pursue careers in research and development or academia.

1. Advanced research skills: To produce graduates who possess the necessary advanced analytical, technical and research skills in engineering and the sciences in order to respond directly to the higher goal of fulfilling the needs of industry, academe and research laboratories for effective, productive engineers, professors and researchers

2. Communication: To produce graduates who possess a facility with both written and oral communications so that engineers, researchers and professors will be able to interact and share ideas with others in
the work environment, and at a higher level, be capable of creative self-expression, conveying knowledge and leadership

3. Advanced problem-solving: To produce graduates who demonstrate creativity and innovation in solving technological problems stemming from the realization that new knowledge and new solutions to existing problems are necessary to meet the needs of our changing society and to advance the quality of human life

Student learning outcomes
Graduates of the Ph.D. in Engineering degree program will be able to demonstrate:

1. The ability to apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, science or engineering
2. The ability to communicate effectively
3. The ability to identify, formulate and solve engineering problems
4. The ability to identify pertinent research problems, to formulate and execute a research plan, to generate and analyze research results, and to communicate those results through oral presentations and written publications. Graduates will be able to creatively solve the research problems posed.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
Student handbook (http://www.egr.vcu.edu/current-students/graduate-student-services/resources-forms) is available on the School of Engineering website.

Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

Admission requirements

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<thead>
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<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
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<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jun 1 (Feb 15 for financial assistance)</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>TOEFL required for international students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements
Students may begin a course of study in either the fall or spring semesters for the engineering programs, although a start in the fall semester is preferred.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18) and the School of Engineering, applicants to the doctoral degree in engineering must have a B.S. degree in engineering or a closely related discipline.

Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

Degree requirements
In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students entering the doctoral program with a B.S. degree, but not the M.S., will require a minimum of 60 post-baccalaureate credit hours beyond the bachelor’s degree, including research credit hours (30 for M.S. level and an additional 30 for Ph.D. level).

Students holding the master’s degree must complete a minimum of six credit hours in concentration course work, three credit hours in elective course work and 21 credit hours in dissertation research. The student’s adviser must approve all course work. Ph.D. students must take a minimum of 30 credit hours (including research credit hours) beyond the master’s degree. At least half of the credit hours required in the student’s
program must be those designated as exclusively for graduate students, that is, those at the 600 level or above.

A minimum of three years of study, including research, is necessary to complete all requirements for the Ph.D. A period of residence of at least three consecutive semesters is required. Residency is defined as registration for at least nine credit hours per semester. Students have a maximum of eight calendar years, beginning at the time of first registration to complete the Ph.D. degree program.

Comprehensive examinations
In order to advance to doctoral candidacy, the student must pass both written and oral comprehensive examinations. The written examination focuses on the subject matter deemed critical as a foundation in the program. The examination is largely based on material covered in required course work and its application to theoretical and practical problems. The oral examination, which follows successful completion of the written examination(s), is administered to assess the ability of the student to integrate information and display an appropriate mastery of problem-solving capabilities. Graduate students may not take the comprehensive exam if their overall GPA is less than 3.0. Students must also have a minimum GPA of 3.0 for courses within the program in order to take the comprehensive exam. For further details, see the graduate program director or the program chair.

Admission to degree candidacy
Before admission to doctoral candidacy, students must have:
1. Completed required course work
2. Successfully completed the comprehensive examinations
3. Fulfilled all additional departmental requirements

A student may seek admission to candidacy for the Doctor of Philosophy degree without first completing the research and thesis portion of the Master of Science degree.

Dissertation research
The student must conduct a substantial original investigation under the supervision of the permanent adviser and prepare a dissertation reporting the results of this research and analyzing its significance in relation to existing scientific knowledge.

When the dissertation has been completed, copies in accepted form and style are submitted to the members of the advisory committee. The committee members decide upon the acceptability of the candidate's dissertation. A favorable unanimous vote is required to approve the dissertation and all examiners are required to vote.

If the advisory committee accepts the dissertation for defense, the candidate appears before them for a final oral examination. This examination is open to all members of the faculty. The final oral examination will be limited to the subject of the candidate's dissertation and related matters. A favorable vote of the candidate's advisory committee and no more than one negative vote shall be required for passing the final oral examination. All committee members must vote. There shall be an announcement of the candidate's name, department and title of dissertation, together with the day, place and hour of the final oral examination at least 10 working days in advance.

There are three components of each Ph.D. in Engineering curriculum:

1. Concentration-specific component: This component allows the student to pursue a series of courses that focus on a specific field of engineering and serve as the student's primary engineering discipline.
2. Electives component: This component allows the student to take courses in either engineering or science with approval of the student’s adviser.
3. Directed research component: This component emphasizes research directed toward completion of degree requirements under the direction of an adviser and advisory committee.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>M.S. to Ph.D. in Engineering</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concentration-specific component: ENGR course work</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives: engineering or science course work</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGR 697 Directed Research</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>30</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concentration-specific component: ENGR course work</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives: engineering or science course work</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGR 697 Directed Research</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Graduate program director
Leena Joseph
Director of graduate studies, School of Engineering
josephl@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1087

Additional contact
Barbara D. Boyan, Ph.D.
Professor and dean, School of Engineering
bdboyan@vcu.edu
(804) 828-3925

Program website: eg.vcu.edu/future-students/graduate-programs
(http://www.egr.vcu.edu/future-students/graduate-programs)

Engineering, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in chemical and life science engineering

Program mission
The mission of the Ph.D. in Engineering degree program is to provide graduate students with learning opportunities for acquiring a broad foundation of engineering knowledge, an in-depth original research experience at the frontiers of engineering, and skills for lifelong learning and professional development. Graduates of this program will pursue careers in research and development or academia.

1. Advanced research skills: To produce graduates who possess the necessary advanced analytical, technical and research skills in engineering and the sciences – responds directly to the higher goal of fulfilling the needs of industry, academe and research laboratories for effective, productive engineers, professors and researchers.
2. Communication: To produce graduates who possess a facility with both written and oral communications — emanates from the requirement that engineers, researchers and professors must be able to interact and share ideas with others in the work environment, and at a higher level, be capable of creative self-expression, conveying knowledge and leadership.

3. Advanced problem-solving: To produce graduates who demonstrate creativity and innovation in solving technological problems — stems from the realization that new knowledge and new solutions to existing problems are necessary to meet the needs of our changing society and to advance the quality of human life.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, science or engineering: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, science or engineering.

2. Communicate effectively: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively.

3. Identify, formulate and solve engineering problems: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to identify, formulate and solve engineering problems.

4. Demonstrate abilities in research: Graduates will demonstrate the ability to identify pertinent research problems, to formulate and execute a research plan, to generate and analyze research results, and to communicate those results through oral presentations and written publications. Graduates will be able to creatively solve the research problems posed.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Other information**

Student handbook (http://www.egr.vcu.edu/current-students/graduate-student-services/resources-forms) is available on the School of Engineering website.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
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<td>Ph.D.</td>
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<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>International students require TOEFL (a minimum score of 100 in the TOEFL exam is required to be considered for financial assistance)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18) and the School of Engineering, applicants to the chemical and life science engineering concentration must have a B.S. degree in chemical engineering or a closely related discipline.

Acceptance of an applicant is based upon the recommendation of the admissions committee with approval of the program chair and the School of Engineering’s associate dean for graduate studies.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must meet the following requirements.

A minimum of 60 credit hours beyond the bachelor’s degree, including research credit hours, is required for the Ph.D. in Engineering. Students holding the master’s degree must complete a minimum of six credit hours in concentration course work and 18 credit hours in dissertation credits.
research. The student’s adviser must approve all course work. Ph.D. students must take a minimum of 30 credit hours (including research) beyond the master’s degree. No elective courses may be used for both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. At least half of the credit hours required in the student’s program must be those designated as exclusively for graduate students, that is, at the 600 level or above.

A minimum of three years of study, including research, is necessary to complete all requirements for the Ph.D. A period of residence of at least three consecutive semesters is required. Residency is defined as registration for at least nine credits per semester. A time limit of eight calendar years, beginning at the time of first registration, is placed on work to be credited toward the Ph.D.

**Ph.D. qualifying examinations**

In order to advance to doctoral candidacy, the student must pass the written qualifying examination. The written examination focuses on the subject matter deemed critical as a foundation in the program. The examination is largely based on material covered in required course work and its application to theoretical and practical problems. The written examination also assesses the ability of the student to integrate information and display an appropriate mastery of problem-solving capabilities and technical writing. Graduate students may not take the comprehensive exam if their overall GPA is less than 3.0. Students must also have a minimum GPA of 3.0 for courses within the program in order to take the comprehensive exam. For further details, see the graduate program director or the program chair.

**Admission to candidacy**

Before admission to doctoral candidacy, students must have:

1. Completed required course work
2. Successfully completed the comprehensive examinations
3. Fulfilled all additional departmental requirements

A student may seek admission to candidacy for the Doctor of Philosophy degree without first completing the research and thesis portion of the Master of Science degree.

**Dissertation research**

The student must conduct a substantial original investigation under the supervision of the permanent adviser and prepare a dissertation reporting the results of this research and analyzing its significance in relation to existing scientific knowledge.

When the dissertation has been completed, copies in accepted form and style are submitted to the members of the advisory committee. The committee members decide upon the acceptability of the candidate’s dissertation. A favorable unanimous vote is required to approve the dissertation and all examiners are required to vote.

If the advisory committee accepts the dissertation for defense, the candidate appears before them for a final oral examination. This examination is open to the public. The final oral examination will be limited to the subject of the candidate’s dissertation and related matters. A favorable vote of the candidate’s advisory committee and no more than one negative vote shall be required for passing the final oral examination. All committee members must vote. There shall be an announcement of the candidate’s name, department and title of dissertation, together with the day, place and hour of the final oral examination at least 10 working days in advance.

**Curriculum requirements**

**M.S. to Ph.D. curriculum**

**Concentration component**

This component allows the student to pursue a series of courses that focus on a specific field of engineering and serve as the student’s primary engineering discipline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core courses (choose three)</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLSE 650</td>
<td>Quantitative Analysis in Chemical and Life Science Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLSE 654</td>
<td>Equilibrium Analysis in Chemical and Biological Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLSE 655</td>
<td>Nonequilibrium Analysis in Chemical and Life Science Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLSE 656</td>
<td>Advanced Chemical Reaction Engineering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Directed research**

This component emphasizes research directed toward completion of degree requirements under the direction of an adviser and advisory committee.

| CLSE 690 | Research Seminar in Chemical and Life Science Engineering |
| CLSE 697 | Directed Research in Chemical and Life Science Engineering |

**Total Hours**

30

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30**

Students entering the doctoral program with a B.S. degree, but not the M.S., will require a minimum of 60 post-baccalaureate credit hours (30 for M.S. level and an additional 30 for Ph.D. level).

**B.S. to Ph.D. curriculum**

**Concentration component - CLSE course work**

This component allows the student to pursue a series of courses that focus on a specific field of engineering and serve as the student’s primary engineering discipline.

| CLSE 650 | Quantitative Analysis in Chemical and Life Science Engineering |
| CLSE 654 | Equilibrium Analysis in Chemical and Biological Systems |
| CLSE 655 | Nonequilibrium Analysis in Chemical and Life Science Engineering |
| CLSE 656 | Advanced Chemical Reaction Engineering |

Additional CLSE course work at the 500 level or higher

| 9 |

**Option electives - engineering or science course work**

This component allows the student to take courses in either engineering or science with approval of the student’s adviser (e.g. CLSE, ENGR, CHEM courses, 500 level or higher).

| 12 |

**Directed research**

This component emphasizes research directed toward completion of degree requirements under the direction of an adviser and advisory committee.

| CLSE 690 | Research Seminar in Chemical and Life Science Engineering |

| 27 |
Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Graduate program director
Vamsi K. Yadavalli, Ph.D.
Associate professor
vyadavalli@vcu.edu
(804) 828-0587

Additional contact
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Chair, Department of Chemical and Life Science Engineering
bfgupton@vcu.edu
(804) 828-4799

Program website: chemical.egr.vcu.edu (http://chemical.egr.vcu.edu)

Engineering, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
with a concentration in computer science

Program mission
The mission of the Ph.D. in Engineering degree program is to provide graduate students with learning opportunities for acquiring a broad foundation of engineering knowledge, an in-depth original research experience at the frontiers of engineering, and skills for lifelong learning and professional development. Graduates of this program will pursue careers in research and development or academia.

1. Advanced research skills: To produce graduates who possess the necessary advanced analytical, technical and research skills in engineering and the sciences – responds directly to the higher goal of fulfilling the needs of industry, academic and research laboratories for effective, productive engineers, professors and researchers

2. Communication: To produce graduates who possess a facility with both written and oral communications – emanates from the requirement that engineers, researchers and professors must be able to interact and share ideas with others in the work environment, and at a higher level, be capable of creative self-expression, conveying knowledge and leadership

3. Advanced problem-solving: To produce graduates who demonstrate creativity and innovation in solving technological problems – stems from the realization that new knowledge and new solutions to existing problems are necessary to meet the needs of our changing society and to advance the quality of human life

Student learning outcomes
1. Apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, science or engineering:
   Graduates will demonstrate an ability to apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, science or engineering.

2. Communicate effectively:
   Graduates will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively.

3. Identify, formulate and solve engineering problems:
   Graduates will demonstrate an ability to identify, formulate and solve engineering problems.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

Graduation requirements
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Other information
Student handbook (http://www.egr.vcu.edu/current-students/graduate student-services/resources-forms) is available on the School of Engineering website.
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Admission requirements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jun 1 (Jan 15 for financial assistance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TOEFL required for international students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Test requirements:
- GRE-General
- TOEFL

Special requirements
- Acceptance of an applicant is based upon the recommendation of the admissions committee with approval of the program chair and the associate dean for graduate studies.
- Students may begin a course of study in either the fall or spring semesters for the engineering graduate programs, although a start in the fall semester is preferred.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), and the School of Engineering, applicants must meet the following requirements:

Applicants to the Ph.D. in Engineering with a concentration in computer science must have an M.S. degree in computer science or a field closely related to computer science, such as mathematics, physics, engineering or bioinformatics. Outstanding students (preferably with a B.S. degree in computer science) can be admitted into the direct B.S. to Ph.D. program.

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must meet the following requirements:

A minimum of 60 credit hours beyond the bachelor’s degree, or 30 credits beyond a master’s degree, including research credits, is required for the Ph.D. in Engineering.

A minimum of three years of study, including research, is necessary to complete all requirements for the Ph.D. A period of residence at least three consecutive semesters is required. Residency is defined as registration for at least nine credits per semester. A time limit of seven calendar years, beginning at the time of first registration, is placed on work to be credited toward the Ph.D.

Up to 30 percent of a student’s required non-research graduate-level credits can be transferred into the Ph.D. program from another college or university. No more than 30 percent of student’s non-research credits in graduate-level courses taken at VCU before admission to the Ph.D. program may be counted toward the Ph.D. degree. No credits may be used for both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees

A student will pursue a Ph.D. under the guidance of a computer science graduate faculty member who will serve as the dissertation adviser. Interdisciplinary programs of study that involve computer science and another discipline are encouraged; however, a core of computer science courses is required. Courses not labeled CMSC must show relevance to the student’s program of study and must be submitted for approval by the dissertation adviser. The advisory committee will conduct an annual review of student progress, with written minutes of committee recommendations prepared by student and signed by all advisory committee members.

The detailed requirements depend on the student’s academic background.

Students with M.S. in Computer Science must take a minimum of 12 credit hours of didactic course work at the graduate level and 18 credit hours of directed research for a minimum of 30 credits.

- A minimum of four courses that should satisfy the following:
  - At least two courses at the 600 level or greater
  - At least one course from each of the following two foundational areas: theory and systems.

Students admitted into the Ph.D. program with only a B.S. degree must take a minimum of 60 credit hours of course work.

- A minimum of 33 didactic credits, including
  - At least two courses from each of the three foundational areas: theory, systems and applied computer science (CMSC 501 must be one of these courses.)
  - At least 17 credits at the 600 level or greater

In addition, a student admitted to this program may need to take other undergraduate computer science courses in order to prepare for the required graduate-level courses. The choice of these courses will be left to the discretion of the student’s advisor.

A minimum of 18 credits of directed research is required.

Students admitted into the Ph.D. program without an M.S. in Computer Science must take a minimum of a minimum of 36 credit hours of course work.

- A minimum of 18 didactic credits, including
  - A minimum of two courses from each of the following two foundational areas: theory and systems (CMSC 501 must be one of these courses.)
  - At least nine credits at the 600 level or greater

In addition, a student admitted to this program may need to take other undergraduate computer science courses in order to prepare for the required graduate-level courses. The choice of these courses will be left to the discretion of the student’s advisor.

A minimum of 18 credits of directed research is required.

Comprehensive examinations

Before advancing to doctoral candidacy, the student must pass both qualifying and oral comprehensive examinations.

Qualifying comprehensive examination

The qualifying examination focuses on the subject matter deemed critical as a foundation in the program.

- The examination is largely based on material covered in required course work and its application to theoretical and practical problems.
- The examination will cover knowledge in three areas, and in order to pass students must score a minimum of 75 percent in each area.
The exam must include material based on CMSC 501 from the theory area and on at least one course from the systems foundational area.

Students are allowed to take the comprehensives based on courses they may not have taken at VCU, however, they have to satisfy the course requirements as mentioned above.

Students can contact the lead professor for any area and obtain a list of topics that will be covered in the exam.

The exam will be conducted a minimum of once a year and will be organized by the graduate director, with prior approval of the exam questions by the graduate committee.

A student who fails the qualifying comprehensive exam is allowed one more attempt to pass it. The re-examination requires the approval of the student's advisory committee. A student who fails one area of the required three comprehensive exam areas must retake the exam in the failed area within the following year. The department may organize and schedule, no earlier than 60 days after the failed exam, a special comprehensive exam for such students. A student who fails two or more exam areas must retake the entire comprehensive exam at the regularly scheduled comprehensive exam within the following year.

Graduate students may not take the comprehensive exam if their overall GPA falls below the minimum 3.0. They also must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 from the courses covering the exam areas.

**Oral comprehensive examination**
The oral examination, which follows only after successful completion of the qualifying examination, is administered to assess the ability of the student to integrate information and display an appropriate mastery of problem-solving capabilities. The student is required to prepare a written proposal of original research and to defend it in front of the dissertation committee.

**Admission to candidacy**
Before admission to doctoral candidacy, students must have:

1. Completed required course work
2. Successfully completed the comprehensive examinations
3. Fulfilled all additional departmental requirements.

A student may seek admission to candidacy for the Doctor of Philosophy degree without first completing the research and thesis portion of the Master of Science degree.

**Dissertation research**
The student must conduct a substantial original investigation under the supervision of the permanent adviser and prepare a dissertation reporting the results of this research and analyzing its significance in relation to existing scientific knowledge. There should be a student advisory committee meeting no later than three months prior to dissertation defense to certify student readiness to write, and this should be signed by all advisory committee members. When the dissertation has been completed, copies in accepted form and style are submitted to the members of the advisory committee.

**Final dissertation defense**
If the advisory committee accepts the dissertation for defense, the candidate appears before them for a final oral examination. This examination is open to all members of the faculty and students.

Since the Ph.D. is awarded for completion of work on an original research problem, peer-reviewed evidence of the quality of this work, in terms of at least one accepted journal paper or published high-quality conference paper (publications should be in a student’s research area), must be approved by the dissertation committee and the graduate committee before the final oral examination can be scheduled. Specific publication requirements are available at the computer science department website as well as in the School of Engineering graduate handbook.

The final oral examination will be limited to the subject of the candidate’s dissertation and related matters. A favorable vote of the candidate’s advisory committee and no more than one negative vote shall be required for passing the final oral examination. All committee members must vote. There shall be an announcement of the candidate’s name, department and title of dissertation, together with the day, place and hour of the final oral examination at least 10 working days in advance.

**Curriculum requirements**

**B.S. to Ph.D. curriculum**

**Concentration component**
This component allows the student to pursue a series of courses that focus on a specific field of engineering and serve as the student’s primary engineering discipline.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundational area: theory</th>
<th>CMSC 501</th>
<th>Advanced Algorithms (required)</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select at least one of the following:</td>
<td>CMSC 526</td>
<td>Theory of Programming Languages</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 620/ CISS 624</td>
<td>Applied Cryptography</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 621</td>
<td>Theory of Computation</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 678</td>
<td>Statistical Learning and Fuzzy Logic Algorithms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundational area: systems</th>
<th>CMSC 502</th>
<th>Parallel Algorithms</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 506/ EGRE 526</td>
<td>Computer Networks and Communications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 605</td>
<td>Advanced Computer Architecture</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 608</td>
<td>Advanced Database</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC/CISS 618</td>
<td>Database and Application Security</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 622</td>
<td>Network and Operating Systems Security</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Foundational area: applied computer science</th>
<th>CMSC/CISS 609</th>
<th>Advanced Computational Intelligence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 610</td>
<td>Algorithmic Foundations of Bioinformatics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 612</td>
<td>Game Theory and Security</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 623</td>
<td>Cloud Computing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 630</td>
<td>Image Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 635</td>
<td>Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Options electives component**
This component allows the student to take courses in either engineering or science with approval of the student’s adviser.

**Additional CMSC course work**

Note: At least 15 credit hours of all CMSC courses must be at the 600 level or greater.

**Directed research component**

This component emphasizes research directed toward completion of degree requirements under the direction of an adviser and advisory committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 692</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CMSC 697</td>
<td>Directed Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**

60

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60**

**M.S. to Ph.D. curriculum**

**Concentration component**

This component allows the student to pursue a series of courses that focus on a specific field of engineering and serve as the student’s primary engineering discipline.

**Foundational area: theory**

Select at least one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 501</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CISS 624</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 621</td>
<td>Theory of Computation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 678</td>
<td>Statistical Learning and Fuzzy Logic Algorithms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Foundation area: systems**

Select at least one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 502</td>
<td>Parallel Algorithms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 506/</td>
<td>Computer Networks and EGRE 526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGRE 526</td>
<td>Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 605</td>
<td>Advanced Computer Architecture</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMSC 608</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 622</td>
<td>Network and Operating Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Security</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Options electives component**

This component allows the student to take courses in either engineering or science with approval of the student’s adviser.

**Additional CMSC course work, other engineering or science courses**

Select courses in MATH/OPER/STAT/EGRE (Non-CMSC courses require approval by Graduate Committee.)

**Directed research component**

This component emphasizes research directed toward completion of degree requirements under the direction of an adviser and advisory committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 692</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CMSC 697</td>
<td>Directed Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**

30

---

1. At least six credit hours of all CMSC courses must be at the 600 level or greater. An additional six credit hours is required for students with an M.S. degree in a subject other than computer science.

**Engineering, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in computer science/Computer Science Ph.D. with the University of Cordoba [dual degree]**

**Program mission**

The mission of the Ph.D. in Engineering degree program is to provide graduate students with learning opportunities for acquiring a broad foundation of engineering knowledge, an in-depth original research experience at the frontiers of engineering, and skills for lifelong learning and professional development. Graduates of this program will pursue careers in research and development or academia.

**Program goals**

1. Advanced research skills: To produce graduates who possess the necessary advanced analytical, technical and research skills in engineering and the sciences – responds directly to the higher goal of fulfilling the needs of industry, academe and research laboratories for effective, productive engineers, professors and researchers.

2. Communication: To produce graduates who possess a facility with both written and oral communications – emanates from the requirement that engineers, researchers and professors must be able to interact and share ideas with others in the work environment, and at a higher level, be capable of creative self-expression, conveying knowledge and leadership.

3. Advanced problem-solving: To produce graduates who demonstrate creativity and innovation in solving technological problems – stems from the realization that new knowledge and new solutions to existing problems are necessary to meet the needs of our changing society and to advance the quality of human life.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, science or engineering: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, science or engineering.

2. Communicate effectively: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively.

3. Identify, formulate and solve engineering problems: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to identify, formulate and solve engineering problems.

4. Demonstrate abilities in research: Graduates will demonstrate the ability to identify pertinent research problems, to formulate and...
execute a research plan, to generate and analyze research results, and to communicate those results through oral presentations and written publications. Graduates will be able to creatively solve the research problems posed.

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.grad.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

Student handbook (http://www.egr.vcu.edu/current-students/graduate-student-services/resources-forms) is available on the School of Engineering website.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>TOEFL required for international students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All applicants to the dual-degree Ph.D. program with VCU and the University of Córdoba must meet all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18) and the School of Engineering. Applicants to the dual-degree Ph.D. program are selected from among the students already enrolled in either VCU’s Ph.D. in Engineering computer science concentration or in the University of Cordoba’s Ph.D. in Computer Science. The selection will be performed by the dual-degree Ph.D. program steering committee consisting of the chair and graduate program director of computer science at VCU and the chair and graduate program director of computer science at UCO.

Students need to apply to the dual-degree program after already being enrolled in the doctoral program at either VCU or UCO and before passing the oral comprehensive examination. Students must have identified a dissertation adviser (and a co-adviser from the other institution).

To be admitted to the dual-degree program, VCU students must hold an M.S. degree in computer science with a minimum GPA of 3.0. To be admitted to the UCO Ph.D. program and into the dual-degree program, UCO students must fulfill the following requirements with regard to academic qualifications:

1. Applicants with degrees in engineering or architecture or any degree with 240 ECTS credits must have completed a research master’s degree, including at least 16 ECTS credits for training in methodology and research, as well as a research dissertation.
2. Applicants with degrees in engineering or architecture or any degree with 240 ECTS credits who have completed a non-research master’s degree (i.e. professional master’s degree) must have completed additional training at the doctoral level in methodology and research equivalent to 16 ECTS credits, as well as a research project equivalent to 16 ECTS credits.
3. Graduates who have completed degrees, in accordance with EU law, worth a minimum of 300 ECTS credits, must have completed additional training at the doctoral level in methodology and research equivalent to 16 ECTS credits, as well as a research project equivalent to 16 ECTS credits.
4. Applicants with university qualifications who, prior to obtaining a place on a specialized health training course, have successfully completed at least two years of training as part of a program leading to an official qualification in any health sciences specialty, may be admitted directly or may be required to complete additional doctoral training as established by the academic committee for the doctoral program.
5. Applicants already holding doctorates under earlier university regulations or holding diplomas in advanced studies in accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree 778/1998 of 30 April, or who have demonstrated sufficient research ability in terms of Royal
association rule mining, subgroup discovery and feature selection with in the field of data mining such as classification, regression, clustering, Evolutionary Algorithms in Data Mining, 3 credit hour

The second part of the course will focus on solving relevant problems. Genetic algorithms and genetic programming as well as evolutionary computation, as well as its applications to data mining will be covered. The course will be offered as an online course.

Foundation areas for computer science graduate studies include theory, systems and applied computer science. By the time of graduation, students must have completed at least one course from each of the following two foundation areas of theory and systems.

1. Students admitted into the Ph.D. program with a B.S. degree should refer to the program page for information on the Ph.D. in Engineering with a concentration in computer science.

2. Didactic course work

VCU and UCO students in the dual-degree Ph.D. program will take four graduate courses: three from VCU (offered by VCU computer science faculty) and one from UCO (offered by UCO computer science faculty) as determined by the steering committee. The VCU courses include all approved graduate-level courses available to VCU computer science doctoral students. The following course is currently offered by UCO. The list of UCO courses will be updated every year by the steering committee.

54-22092014 Evolutionary Algorithms in Data Mining, 3 credit hour

The objective of this course is to introduce students to the field of evolutionary computation, as well as its applications to data mining problems. Genetic algorithms and genetic programming as well as evolutionary programming and evolutionary strategies will be covered. The second part of the course will focus on solving relevant problems in the field of data mining such as classification, regression, clustering, association rule mining, subgroup discovery and feature selection with EC approaches. Prerequisites: graduate standing. The course will be offered as an online course.

The courses will have identical names and will be cross-listed in the VCU and UCO bulletins and will be open to all VCU and UCO computer science students as long as there is at least one student from the dual-degree Ph.D. program enrolled in the course.

Students will register for the four required graduate courses at their universities and will pay their university tuition and fees, in spite of the fact that some will be delivered by the other university.

Dissertation committee

The dual-degree Ph.D. program dissertation committee will consist of the main adviser (from one university) and one co-adviser (from the other university) plus six members, three from VCU and three from UCO, for a total of eight members. The committee will be formed during the semester in which the student is admitted to the dual-degree program.

Admission to candidacy

Before admission to doctoral candidacy, students must have: (1) completed required course work, (2) successfully passed both written and oral comprehensive examinations and (3) fulfilled all additional departmental requirements.

Qualifying comprehensive examination

1. The qualifying comprehensive exam focuses on the subject matter deemed critical as a foundation in the program and is largely based on material covered in courses and its application to theoretical and practical problems

2. The qualifying comprehensive examination will cover knowledge in three areas and, in order to pass, students must score a minimum of 75 percent in each area.

   a. The exam must include material based on CMSC 501 from the theory area and on at least one course from the systems area.

   b. The third is the area of specialization based on courses to be decided by the dissertation adviser.

3. Students are allowed to take the exam based on courses they may not have taken, however, they still have to satisfy the course requirements as mentioned above.

4. Students may contact the lead professor for any area and obtain a list of topics that will be covered in the exam.

5. The exam will be conducted a minimum of once a year and will be organized by the VCU graduate program director, with prior approval of the exam questions by the graduate committee. The exam will be organized at the same date and time for VCU and UCO students. Students will be taking the exam in their home universities.

6. Students who fail the qualifying comprehensive exam are allowed one additional attempt to pass it. Students who fail one area of the required three qualifying comprehensive exam areas must retake
the exam in the failed area within the following year. The department may organize and schedule, no earlier than 60 days after the failed exam, a special comprehensive exam for such students. Students who fail two or more exam areas must retake the entire qualifying comprehensive exam at the regularly scheduled comprehensive exam within the following year.

7. Graduate students may not take the comprehensive exam if their overall GPA is less than 3.0. They also must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on the courses covering the exam areas.

**Oral comprehensive examination**

The oral comprehensive exam requires students to prepare a written proposal of original research and to defend it in front of the dissertation committee. The oral comprehensive exam may be taken only after successful completion of the qualifying comprehensive exam.

**Dissertation research and defense**

During their studies, students must complete 18 credit hours of research at their own institutions. The student must conduct a substantial original investigation under the supervision of the advisers and prepare a dissertation reporting the results of this research and analyzing its significance in relation to existing scientific knowledge.

When the dissertation has been completed, copies in accepted form and style are submitted to the members of the advisory committee. The committee members decide upon the acceptability of the candidate’s dissertation. A favorable unanimous vote is required to approve the dissertation, and all examiners are required to vote.

If the advisory committee accepts the dissertation for defense, the candidate appears before them for a final oral examination. This examination is open to all members of the faculty. The final oral examination will be limited to the subject of the candidate’s dissertation and related matters. A favorable vote of the candidate’s advisory committee and no more than one negative vote shall be required for passing the final oral examination. All committee members must vote. There shall be an announcement of the candidate’s name, department and title of dissertation, together with the day, place and hour of the final oral examination at least 10 working days in advance. The UCO doctoral committee must approve/disapprove the defended dissertation.

**International experience**

Students, after passing comprehensive exams, will spend six months conducting research at the co-adviser’s university. While abroad, the students must maintain full-time student status (to keep benefits such as a stipend) at their home institutions by registering for dissertation research credit hours. They will also need to register for one graduate credit hour at the co-adviser’s university. (The UCO student would register for one VCU graduate credit hour while at VCU, and a VCU student for one UCO graduate credit hour while at UCO.) The hosting department is responsible for covering the cost of the one graduate credit-hour registration of the visiting student, in order for the student to qualify for health insurance.

**Publication requirement**

Students must publish at least one journal paper before the final defense takes place. Since the Ph.D. is awarded for completion of work on an original research problem, peer-reviewed evidence of the quality of this work, in terms of at least one journal paper (in a student’s research area), must be approved by the dual-degree program dissertation committee and the graduate committee before the final dissertation defense may be scheduled. Specific publication requirements are available on the Department of Computer Science website as well as in the School of Engineering graduate handbook.

**Curriculum requirements**

**VCU didactic course work**

Select nine credits from the three areas.

**Foundational area: theory**

Select at least one of the following:

- CMSC 501 - Advanced Algorithms (required)
- CMSC 526 - Theory of Programming Languages
- CMSC 620/CISS 624 - Applied Cryptography
- CMSC 621 - Theory of Computation

**Foundational area: systems**

Select at least one of the following:

- CMSC 502 - Parallel Algorithms
- CMSC 506/EGRE 526 - Computer Networks and Communications
- CMSC 608 - Advanced Database
- CMSC/CISS 618 - Database and Application Security
- CMSC 622 - Network and Operating Systems Security

**Specialization area**

With dissertation adviser, select an additional three credit hours of CMSC course work or other engineering or science courses in MATH/OPER/STAT/EGRE

**UCO didactic course work**

Select at least one course from the list of UCO offerings (updated each year by steering committee)

**Directed research**

CMSC 697 - Directed Research

Total Hours

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30**

**Typical plan of study**

Students must apply to the dual program after being enrolled at either the VCU or UCO doctoral program and before passing the oral comprehensive examination, and must have a dissertation adviser (and a co-adviser from the other institution). The oral comprehensive exam should be completed by the end of the third year. Students must pass the qualifying comprehensive exam before taking the oral comprehensive exam. The plan of study is developed with the student adviser and co-adviser, taking into consideration the student’s area of research.

**Graduate program director**

Tom Arodz, Ph.D.
Assistant professor
tarodz@vcu.edu
(804) 827-3989

**Additional contact**

Krzysztof J. Cios, Ph.D.
Professor and chair, Department of Computer Science
kcios@vcu.edu
(804) 828-9671
Engineering, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in electrical and computer engineering

Program mission
The mission of the Ph.D. in Engineering degree program is to provide graduate students with learning opportunities for acquiring a broad foundation of engineering knowledge, an in-depth original research experience at the frontiers of engineering, and skills for lifelong learning and professional development. Graduates of this program will pursue careers in research and development or academia.

1. Advanced research skills: To produce graduates who possess the necessary advanced analytical, technical and research skills in engineering and the sciences — responds directly to the higher goal of fulfilling the needs of industry, academia and research laboratories for effective, productive engineers, professors and researchers
2. Communication: To produce graduates who possess a facility with both written and oral communications — emulates from the requirement that engineers, researchers and professors must be able to interact and share ideas with others in the work environment, and at a higher level, be capable of creative self-expression, conveying knowledge and leadership
3. Advanced problem-solving: To produce graduates who demonstrate creativity and innovation in solving technological problems — stems from the realization that new knowledge and new solutions to existing problems are necessary to meet the needs of our changing society and to advance the quality of human life

Student learning outcomes
1. Apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, science or engineering: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, science or engineering.
2. Communicate effectively: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively.
3. Identify, formulate and solve engineering problems: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to identify, formulate and solve engineering problems.
4. Demonstrate abilities in research: Graduates will demonstrate the ability to identify pertinent research problems, to formulate and execute a research plan, to generate and analyze research results, and to communicate those results through oral presentations and written publications. Graduates will be able to creatively solve the research problems posed.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
Student handbook (http://www.egr.vcu.edu/current-students/graduate-student-services/resources-forms) is available on the School of Engineering website.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall (preferred)</td>
<td>Jun 1 (Jan 15 for financial assistance)</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dissertation research
The student must conduct a substantial original investigation under the supervision of the permanent adviser and prepare a dissertation reporting the results of this research and analyzing its significance in relation to existing scientific knowledge.

When the dissertation has been completed, copies in accepted form and style are submitted to the members of the advisory committee. The committee members decide upon the acceptability of the candidate’s dissertation. A favorable unanimous vote is required to approve the dissertation and all examiners are required to vote.

If the advisory committee accepts the dissertation for defense, the candidate appears before them for a final oral examination. This examination is open to all members of the faculty. The final oral examination will be limited to the subject of the candidate’s dissertation and related matters. A favorable vote of the candidate’s advisory committee and no more than one negative vote shall be required for passing the final oral examination. All committee members must vote. There shall be an announcement of the candidate’s name, department and title of dissertation, together with the day, place and hour of the final oral examination at least 10 working days in advance.

Curriculum requirements
M.S. to Ph.D. curriculum
Concentration component
EGRE course work (EGRE 500 level or higher, or courses approved by the advisory committee) This component allows the student to pursue a series of courses that focus on a specific field of engineering and serve as the student’s primary engineering discipline.

Option electives
Engineering or science course work (including EGRE, ENGR, EGRB, EGRM, EGMN, CMSC, CLSE, PHYS, MATH, OPER, STAT, CHEM, 500 level or higher, or courses approved by the advisory committee) This component allows the student to take courses in either engineering or science with approval of the student’s adviser.

Directed research
This component emphasizes research directed toward completion of degree requirements under the direction of an adviser and advisory committee.
EGRE 697 Directed Research in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Total Hours

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30
B.S. to Ph.D. curriculum
Concentration component
EGRE course work (EGRE 500 level or higher, or courses approved by the advisory committee) This component allows the student to pursue a series of courses that focus on a specific field of engineering and serve as the student’s primary engineering discipline.

Option electives

Admission to candidacy
Before admission to doctoral candidacy, students must have:
1. Completed required course work
2. Successfully completed the comprehensive examinations
3. Fulfilled all additional departmental requirements

A student may seek admission to candidacy for the Doctor of Philosophy degree without first completing the research and thesis portion of the Master of Science degree.
Engineering or science course work (including EGRE, ENGR, EGRB, EGRM, CMGN, CMSE, PHYS, MATH, OPER, STAT, CHEM, 500 level or higher, or courses approved by the advisory committee) This component allows the student to take courses in either engineering or science with approval of the student's adviser.

Directed research

This component emphasizes research directed toward completion of degree requirements under the direction of an adviser and advisory committee.

- EGRE 697 Directed Research in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Graduate program director
Umit Ozgur, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
uoizgur@vcu.edu
(804) 828-2581

Additional contact
Erdem Topsakal, Ph.D.
Professor and chair, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
etopsakal@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1313

Program website: electrical-and-computer.egr.vcu.edu/graduate (http://electrical-and-computer.egr.vcu.edu/graduate)

Engineering, Master of Science (M.S.)

Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

Program goals

The goal of the M.S. in Engineering degree program is to provide graduate students with learning opportunities for acquiring a broad foundation of engineering knowledge including business and manufacturing aspects; an in-depth research experience at the frontiers of engineering; and skills for lifelong learning and professional development. Graduates of this program will pursue careers in business/industry and government, or will pursue doctoral degrees.

1. Advanced technical skills: To produce graduates who possess the necessary advanced analytical and technical skills in engineering and sciences in order to respond directly to the higher goals of fulfilling the needs of industry for effective, productive engineers and of providing economic development for the region, state and nation

2. Communication: To produce graduates who possess a facility with both written and oral communications so that engineers will be able to interact and share ideas with others in the work environment, and at a higher level, be capable of creative self-expression and leadership

3. Advanced problem-solving: To produce graduates who demonstrate creativity and innovation in solving technological problems stemming from the realization that new knowledge and new solutions to existing problems are necessary to meet the needs of our changing society and to advance the quality of human life

Student learning outcomes

Graduates of the M.S. in Engineering degree program will be able to demonstrate:

1. The ability to apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, science or engineering
2. The ability to communicate effectively
3. The ability to identify, formulate and solve engineering problems

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)
Other information

Student handbook (http://www.egr.vcu.edu/current-students/graduate-student-services/resources-forms) is available on the School of Engineering website.

Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
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<td>Jun 1 (Feb 15 for financial assistance)</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>TOEFL required for international students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Students may begin a course of study in either the fall or spring semesters for the engineering programs, although a start in the fall semester is preferred.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18) and the School of Engineering, applicants to the master’s degree in engineering must have a B.S. degree in engineering or a closely related discipline.

Note: Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

Degree requirements

Thesis option

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students seeking the M.S. degree are required to take a minimum of 30 credit hours of approved graduate courses (including research). Each student must complete 12 credit hours of concentration-specific course work, 12 credit hours in electives and six credit hours in thesis research. The student’s adviser must review and approve all course work and thesis research credit hours. The total of all credit hours must be at least 30. No elective courses may be used for both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. At least half of the credit hours required in the student’s program must be those designated as exclusively for graduate students, that is, those at the 600 level or above.

Each student must conduct an original investigation under the supervision of the permanent adviser and prepare a thesis reporting the results of this research and analyzing its significance in relation to existing scientific knowledge. This study is reported in a thesis prepared in acceptable form and style. Upon approval of the thesis by the adviser, the student submits a copy to each member of the advisory committee. The student’s advisory committee members examine the thesis and decide upon its acceptability. Each committee member reports to the student’s adviser when the thesis is acceptable for defense. The thesis is approved for defense only if accepted unanimously. Upon approval of the thesis, the student appears for a final oral examination administered by the student’s advisory committee. This examination of an M.S. candidate includes the subject matter of course work as well as the thesis.

There are three components of each M.S. in Engineering thesis curriculum:

1. Concentration-specific component: This component allows the student to pursue a series of courses that focus on a specific field of engineering and serve as the student’s primary engineering discipline. Students seeking to take course work and conduct their research in the engineering concentration must contact the graduate program coordinator or department chair of engineering for detailed information about that option.

2. Electives component: This component allows the student to take courses in either engineering or science with approval of the student’s adviser. The option can be tailored to meet the individual student’s academic goals and research interests.

3. Directed research component: This component emphasizes research directed toward completion of degree requirements under the direction of an adviser and advisory committee.

Non-thesis option

Students seeking the non-thesis M.S. degree are required to take a minimum of 30 credit hours of approved graduate courses. Each student must complete 15 credit hours in concentration course work and 15 credit hours in option electives course work.

Each non-thesis student must have a plan of study by the end of the first semester or prior to completing nine credit hours. This plan of study (and all revisions) must be approved by the student’s adviser and the assistant dean for graduate affairs of the School of Engineering. The student’s adviser must review/approve all course work in advance of enrollment. At least half the credit hours required in the student’s program must be designated as 600 level or above.

There are two components of each M.S. in Engineering non-thesis curriculum:

Concentration-specific component: This component allows the student to pursue a series of courses that focus on a specific field of engineering and serve as the student’s primary engineering discipline.

Electives component: This component allows the student to take courses in either engineering or science with approval of the student’s adviser.

The concentration can be tailored to meet the individual student’s academic goals and research interests. Students seeking to take course work and conduct their research in the engineering concentration must contact the appropriate graduate program coordinator or department chair of engineering for detailed information about that option.

Curriculum requirements

Thesis option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concentration-specific component: ENGR course work</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives: engineering or science course work</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGR 697 Directed Research</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Non-thesis option

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concentration-specific component: ENGR course work</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives: engineering or science course work</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30
Graduate program director
Leena Joseph
Director of graduate studies, School of Engineering
josephl@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1087

Additional contact
Barbara D. Boyan, Ph.D.
Professor and dean, School of Engineering
bdboyan@vcu.edu
(804) 828-3925

Program website: egr.vcu.edu/future-students/graduate-programs
(http://www.egr.vcu.edu/future-students/graduate-programs)

Engineering, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in chemical and life science engineering

Program mission
The mission of the M.S. in Engineering degree is to provide graduate students with learning opportunities for acquiring a broad foundation of engineering knowledge including business and manufacturing aspects; an in-depth research experience at the frontiers of engineering; and skills for lifelong learning and professional development. Graduates of this program will pursue careers in business/industry and government, or will pursue doctoral degrees.

1. Advanced research skills: To produce graduates who possess the necessary advanced analytical, technical and research skills in engineering and the sciences — responds directly to the higher goal of fulfilling the needs of industry, academy and research laboratories for effective, productive engineers, professors and researchers
2. Communication: To produce graduates who possess a facility with both written and oral communications — emanates from the requirement that engineers, researchers and professors must be able to interact and share ideas with others in the work environment, and at a higher level, be capable of creative self-expression, conveying knowledge and leadership
3. Advanced problem-solving: To produce graduates who demonstrate creativity and innovation in solving technological problems — stems from the realization that new knowledge and new solutions to existing problems are necessary to meet the needs of our changing society and to advance the quality of human life

Student learning outcomes
1. Apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, science or engineering: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, science or engineering.
2. Communicate effectively: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively.
3. Identify, formulate and solve engineering problems: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to identify, formulate and solve engineering problems.

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.granduate.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
Student handbook (http://www.egr.vcu.edu/current-students/graduate-student-services/resources-forms) is available on the School of Engineering website.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).
**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>M.S.</td>
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<td>Jun 1 (Jan 15 for financial assistance)</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>International students require TOEFL (A minimum score of 100 in the TOEFL exam is required to be considered for financial assistance.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Students may begin a course of study in either the fall or spring semester for the engineering programs, although a start in the fall semester is preferred.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18) and the School of Engineering, applicants to the chemical and life science engineering concentration must have a B.S. degree in chemical engineering or a closely related discipline.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must meet the following requirements.

**Thesis option**

Students seeking the M.S. degree are required to take a minimum of 30 credit hours of approved graduate courses (including research). Each student must complete 12 credit hours in concentration course work, 12 credit hours in concentration electives course work and six credit hours in thesis research. The student’s adviser must review and approve all course work and thesis research credit hours. The total of all credit hours must be at least 30. No elective courses may be used for both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. At least half of the credit hours required in the student’s program must be those designated as exclusively for graduate students, that is, those at the 600 level or above.

Each student must conduct an original investigation under the supervision of the permanent adviser and prepare a thesis reporting the results of this research and analyzing its significance in relation to existing scientific knowledge. This study is reported in a thesis prepared in acceptable form and style. Upon approval of the thesis by the adviser, the student submits a copy to each member of the advisory committee. The student’s advisory committee members examine the thesis and decide upon its acceptability. Each committee member reports to the student’s adviser when the thesis is acceptable for defense. The thesis is approved for defense only if accepted unanimously. Upon approval of the thesis, the student appears for a final oral examination administered by the student’s advisory committee. This examination of an M.S. candidate includes the subject matter of course work as well as the thesis.

**Non-thesis option**

Students seeking the non-thesis M.S. degree are required to take a minimum of 30 credit hours of approved graduate courses. Each student must complete 15 credit hours in concentration course work and 15 credit hours in option electives course work.

Each non-thesis student must have a plan of study by the end of the first semester or prior to completing nine credit hours. This plan of study (and all revisions) must be approved by the student’s adviser and the assistant dean for graduate affairs of the School of Engineering. The student’s adviser must review/approve all course work in advance of enrollment. At least half the credit hours required in the student’s program must be designated as 600 level or above.

**Curriculum requirements**

There are three components of each M.S. in Engineering option:

1. **Concentration (option-specific) component:** This component allows the student to pursue a series of courses that focus on a specific field of engineering and serve as the student’s primary engineering discipline.

2. **Option electives component:** This component allows the student to take courses in either engineering or science with approval of the student’s adviser (e.g. CLSE, ENGR, CHEM courses at 500 level or higher)

3. **Directed research component:** This component emphasizes research directed toward completion of degree requirements under the direction of an adviser and advisory committee.

The option can be tailored to meet the individual student’s academic goals and research interests. Students seeking to take course work and conduct their research in the chemical and life science engineering concentration should contact the graduate program coordinator or department chair of chemical and life science engineering for detailed information about that concentration.

**Thesis option**

**Concentration component - CLSE course work**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLSE 650</td>
<td>Quantitative Analysis in Chemical and Life Science Engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLSE 654</td>
<td>Equilibrium Analysis in Chemical and Biological Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLSE 655</td>
<td>Nonequilibrium Analysis in Chemical and Life Science Engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLSE 656</td>
<td>Advanced Chemical Reaction Engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Choose additional CLSE course work at the 500 level or higher

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLSE 690</td>
<td>Research Seminar in Chemical and Life Science Engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLSE 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Chemical and Life Science Engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**

30

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30**

**Non-thesis option**

**Concentration component - CLSE course work**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLSE 650</td>
<td>Quantitative Analysis in Chemical and Life Science Engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:**

- Spring entry:
  - Deadline dates: Nov 15
  - International students require TOEFL (A minimum score of 100 in the TOEFL exam is required to be considered for financial assistance.)

- Fall (preferred) entry:
  - Deadline dates: Jun 1 (Jan 15 for financial assistance)
  - Test requirements: GRE-General
Student learning outcomes
1. Apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, science or engineering: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, science or engineering.
2. Communicate effectively: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively.
3. Identify, formulate and solve engineering problems: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to identify, formulate and solve engineering problems.

VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs
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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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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.
Other information
Student handbook (http://www.egr.vcu.edu/current-students/graduate-student-services/resources-forms) is available on the School of Engineering website.

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td>TOEFL or IELTS is required for international students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Students may begin a course of study in either the fall or spring semesters for the engineering programs, although a start in the fall semester is preferred.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18) and the School of Engineering, applicants to the electrical and computer engineering option must have a B.S. degree in electrical engineering, computer engineering or a closely related discipline.

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must meet the following requirements.

Thesis option

Students seeking the M.S. degree are required to take a minimum of 30 credit hours of approved graduate courses (including research). Each student must complete 12 credit hours in concentration course work, 12 credit hours in concentration electives course work and six credit hours in thesis research. The student’s adviser must review and approve all course work and thesis research credit hours. The total of all credit hours must be at least 30. No elective courses may be used for both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees. At least half of the credit hours required in the student’s program must be those designated as exclusively for graduate students, that is, those at the 600 level or above.

Each student must conduct an original investigation under the supervision of the permanent adviser and prepare a thesis reporting the results of this research and analyzing its significance in relation to existing scientific knowledge. This study is reported in a thesis prepared in acceptable form and style. Upon approval of the thesis by the adviser, the student submits a copy to each member of the advisory committee. The student’s advisory committee members examine the thesis and decide upon its acceptability. Each committee member reports to the student’s adviser when the thesis is acceptable for defense. The thesis is approved for defense only if accepted unanimously. Upon approval of the thesis, the student appears for a final oral examination administered by the student’s advisory committee. This examination of an M.S. candidate includes the subject matter of course work as well as the thesis.

Non-thesis option

Students seeking the non-thesis M.S. degree are required to take a minimum of 30 credit hours of approved graduate courses. Each student must complete 15 credit hours in concentration course work and 15 credit hours in option electives course work.

Each non-thesis student must have a plan of study by the end of the first semester or prior to completing nine credit hours. This plan of study (and all revisions) must be approved by the student’s adviser and the assistant dean for graduate affairs of the School of Engineering. The student’s adviser must review/approve all course work in advance of enrollment. At least half the credit hours required in the student’s program must be designated as 600 level or above.

Curriculum requirements

Thesis option

Concentration component

EGRE course work (EGRE 500 level or higher, or courses approved by the advisory committee) This component allows the student to pursue a series of courses that focus on a specific field of engineering and serve as the student’s primary engineering discipline.

Option electives

Engineering or science course work (including EGRE, ENGR, EGRB, EGRM, EGMN, CMSC, CLSE, PHYS, MATH, OPER, STAT, CHEM, 500 level or higher, or courses approved by the advisory committee) This component allows the student to take courses in either engineering or science with approval of the student’s adviser.

Directed research component

This component emphasizes research directed toward completion of degree requirements under the direction of an adviser and advisory committee.

EGRE 697 Directed Research in Electrical and Computer Engineering

Total Hours 30

The option can be tailored to meet the individual student’s academic goals and research interests. Students seeking to take course work and conduct their research in the electrical and computer engineering concentration should contact the graduate program coordinator or department chair of electrical and computer engineering for detailed information about that concentration.

Non-thesis option

Concentration component

EGRE course work (EGRE 500 level or higher, or courses approved by the advisory committee) This component allows the student to pursue a series of courses that focus on a specific field of engineering and serve as the student’s primary engineering discipline.

Option electives
Biomedical Engineering, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Program mission
The mission of the Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Engineering is to educate biomedical engineering students to be significant contributors in health care and in research and development in biomedicine and bioengineering. The curriculum closely links technical fundamentals in science, engineering and the life sciences, together with the ability to function on multidisciplinary teams, to communicate effectively and to achieve the knowledge tools necessary for lifelong learning.

Program goals
1. Produce graduates who demonstrate an ability to conduct independent research.
2. Produce graduates who possess the necessary advanced analytical and technical skills in engineering and sciences — responds directly to the higher goals of fulfilling the needs of industry for effective, productive engineers and of providing economic development for the region, state and nation.
3. Produce graduates who possess a facility with both written and oral communications — emanates from the requirement that engineers must be able to interact and share ideas with others in the work environment, and at a higher level, be capable of creative self-expression and leadership.
4. Produce graduates who demonstrate creativity and innovation in solving technological problems — stems from the realization that new knowledge and new solutions to existing problems are necessary to meet the needs of our changing society and to advance the quality of human life.

Graduates possess the ability to formulate, analyze and solve problems, analytically and/or experimentally, in the biomedical engineering industry, in the clinical setting or in biomedical research. Graduates can work effectively in teams to solve biomedical and/or clinical problems including the interconnection of engineering and clinical personnel toward the solution of problems of compelling clinical and biomedical interest and need, with particular reference to the biomedical engineering industry, in the clinical setting or in biomedical research. The career paths of BME graduates in these arenas would be enhanced as a result of these skills.

Student learning outcomes
1. Graduates will demonstrate an ability to apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, biomedical sciences and engineering.
2. Graduates will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively.
3. Graduates will demonstrate an ability to identify, formulate and solve biomedical engineering problems.
4. Graduates will demonstrate an ability to conduct independent research.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

Student handbook (http://www.egr.vcu.edu/current-students/graduate-student-services/resources-forms) is available on the School of Engineering website.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall (preferred)</td>
<td>Jun 1 (Jan 15 for financial assistance)</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- Acceptance of an applicant is based upon the recommendation of the admissions committee with approval of the department chair and the associate dean for graduate studies.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), biomedical engineering has the following admission criteria for all entering graduate students:

1. Minimum GPA of 3.0 during the previous 60 credit hours (for applicants with a B.S.)
2. Minimum GRE score of 300 (combined verbal reasoning and quantitative reasoning) including a minimum 150 on the quantitative reasoning
3. Minimum TOEFL score of 101 Internet-based for students whose first or native language is not English

Biomedical engineering will accept a maximum of six credit hours for transfer into either the M.S. or Ph.D. program if the original grades for such courses are B or higher (or equivalent).

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must meet the following requirements:

The Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering program is nominally a three-year program. Prior evidence of completion of physiology and/or statistics may result in a waiver of the requirements for these courses as determined by the graduate program director and/or the department chair. These credit hours would be replaced by other graduate-level didactic course work reflective of the field of study. A period of residence of at least three consecutive terms is required. Residency is defined as registration for at least nine credit hours per term. A time limit of eight calendar years, beginning at the time of first registration, is placed on work to be credited toward the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

At the conclusion of the first year of doctoral study (or when the core course requirements have been satisfied), each doctoral student must successfully complete written and oral portions of a comprehensive examination. This examination is designed to test the student on fundamental knowledge in engineering as evidenced by the core (and related elective) courses within the curriculum. Upon completion of this examination, a doctoral student is permitted to initiate a doctoral research project and to complete additional course work consisting of biomedical engineering, clinical and science electives.

Upon completion of all course work and the intended research, a doctoral student must prepare a dissertation describing the completed research. A dissertation defense, under the direction of the advisory committee, will be scheduled to examine the student’s research, dissertation documentation and underlying fundamental knowledge needed to complete the research. Upon successful completion of the defense and dissertation, the doctoral student may apply for graduation from Virginia Commonwealth University with the Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Engineering.
## Curriculum requirements

### Required biomedical engineering courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EGRB 507</td>
<td>Biomedical Electronics and Instrumentation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGRB 511</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Biomechanics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGRB 603</td>
<td>Biomedical Signal Processing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGRB 613</td>
<td>Biomaterials</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Required courses in other departments

- Physiology and statistics (PHIS 501; BIOS or STAT at 500 level or above) 8

### Minimum elective courses

- e.g. EGRB, EGRM, ENGR, PHYS, MATH, BIOL, PHIS, BIOC at 500 level or above 15

### Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EGRB 690</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering Research Seminar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGRB 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Biomedical Engineering (required at a level to be determined by each student's graduate advisory committee)</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 72

### Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 72

**Graduate program director**

Jennifer S. Wayne, Ph.D.
Professor and associate chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering
jwayne@vcu.edu
(804) 828-2595

**Additional contact**

Henry J. Donahue, Ph.D.
Professor and chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering
hjdonahue@vcu.edu
(804) 828-7956

**Program website:** biomedical.egr.vcu.edu (http://biomedical.egr.vcu.edu)

## Biomedical Engineering, Master of Science (M.S.)

### Program mission

The mission of the Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering program is to educate students to be significant contributors in health care and in research and development in biomedicine and bioengineering. The curriculum closely links technical fundamentals in science, engineering and the life sciences, together with the ability to function on multidisciplinary teams, to communicate effectively and to achieve the knowledge tools necessary for lifelong learning.

### Program goals

1. Provide students with a graduate education that prepares them for current and future challenges in biomedical engineering
2. Produce graduates who possess the necessary advanced analytical and technical skills in engineering and sciences – responds directly to the higher goals of fulfilling the needs of industry for effective, productive engineers and of providing economic development for the region, state and nation
3. Produce graduates who possess a facility with both written and oral communications – emanates from the requirement that engineers must be able to interact and share ideas with others in the work environment, and at a higher level, be capable of creative self-expression and leadership
4. Produce graduates who demonstrate creativity and innovation in solving technological problems – stems from the realization that new knowledge and new solutions to existing problems are necessary to meet the needs of our changing society and to advance the quality of human life

Graduates possess the ability to formulate, analyze and solve problems, analytically and/or experimentally, in the biomedical engineering industry, in the clinical setting or in biomedical research. Graduates can work effectively in teams to solve biomedical and/or clinical problems including the interconnection of engineering and clinical personnel toward the solution of problems of compelling clinical and biomedical interest and need, with particular reference to the biomedical engineering industry, in the clinical setting or in biomedical research. The career paths of BME graduates in these arenas would be enhanced as a result of these skills.

### Student learning outcomes

1. Graduates will demonstrate an ability to apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, biomedical sciences and engineering.
2. Graduates will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively.
3. Graduates will demonstrate an ability to identify, formulate and solve biomedical engineering problems.

## 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.gradle.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

### 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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Other information**

Student handbook (http://www.egr.vcu.edu/current-students/graduate-student-services/resources-forms) is available on the School of Engineering website.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
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<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
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<td>M.S.</td>
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<td>Jun 1 (Jan 15 for financial assistance)</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>International students require TOEFL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), biomedical engineering has the following admission criteria for all entering graduate students:

1. Minimum GPA of 3.0 during the previous 60 credit hours (for applicants with a B.S.)
2. Minimum GRE score of 300 (combined verbal reasoning and quantitative reasoning) including a minimum 148 on the quantitative reasoning
3. Minimum TOEFL score of 101 Internet-based for students whose first or native language is not English

Biomedical engineering will accept a maximum of six credit hours for transfer into the M.S. program if the original grades for such courses are B or higher (or equivalent).

Acceptance of an applicant is based upon the recommendation of the admissions committee with approval of the department chair and the associate dean for graduate studies.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), this program is nominally a two-year program leading to the M.S. in Biomedical Engineering. Prior evidence of completion of physiology may result in a waiver of the requirements for this course as determined by the graduate program director and/or the department chair. These credit hours should be replaced by other graduate-level didactic course work reflective of the field of study. Each Master of Science student must successfully complete a thesis describing his or her individualized research project. At the completion of the research, the student must present the research to the advisory committee and undergo an examination of the research results, thesis documentation and underlying educational foundation necessary to have successfully completed the research. Upon successful completion of the examination and thesis, the student may apply for graduation from Virginia Commonwealth University with the Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Required biomedical engineering courses**

Select at least three courses from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EGRB 507</td>
<td>Biomedical Electronics and Instrumentation</td>
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<td>Biomedical Signal Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGRB 613</td>
<td>Biomaterials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required physiology course**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 501</td>
<td>Mammalian Physiology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Minimum elective courses**

e.g. EGRB, EGRM, ENGR, PHYS, MATH, BIOL, PHIS BIOC at 500 level or above

**Research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EGRB 690</td>
<td>Biomedical Engineering Research Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGRB 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Biomedical Engineering</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 30

1. The nine credit hours listed are minimum elective courses required for graduation. However, a student’s advisory committee may require additional electives reflective of the field of study.

2. Directed research (EGRB 697) is required at a level to be determined by each student’s graduate advisory committee.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30**

**Graduate program director**

Jennifer S. Wayne, Ph.D.
Professor and associate chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering
jwayne@vcu.edu
(804) 828-2595

**Additional contact**

Henry J. Donahue, Ph.D.
Professor and chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering
hjdonahue@vcu.edu
(804) 828-7956

**Program website:** biomedical.egr.vcu.edu (http://biomedical.egr.vcu.edu)
**Medicine, Doctor of (M.D.)/Biomedical Engineering, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) [combined]**

The M.D./Ph.D. program seeks to train physician-scientists for careers that bridge basic and clinical science. Physician-scientists will translate laboratory discoveries into better patient outcomes. The program begins two months prior to the first year of medical school. These students arrive on campus for orientation and complete two laboratory rotations before the start of medical school classes. They complete the pre-clinical phase of medical school and, after taking the first part of the U.S. National Medical Licensing Examination, enter a Ph.D.-granting department or program as a graduate student. Graduate-level coursework, examinations and research will be guided by the dissertation adviser and the dissertation committee, with oversight by members of the M.D./Ph.D. steering committee. The main undertaking at this phase is laboratory research that leads to the Ph.D. dissertation. After completion of doctoral degree requirements, students move to the clinical year of medical school. Students may begin the clinical year of medical school immediately after completion of doctoral degree requirements, regardless of the time in the calendar year, and, 14 to 16 months later, may complete their medical school requirements. These students are exempt from the major part of the fourth year of medical school.

**Apply online at** [graduate.admissions.vcu.edu](http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Prospective students submit applications through the American Medical College Application Service. Upon review of the AMCAS documents, qualified applicants are sent supplemental admission materials, including an application for the M.D./Ph.D. program. Those invited to Richmond for interviews will spend one day in the standard interview for the School of Medicine and will spend a second day interviewing with members of the M.D./Ph.D. steering committee, as well as touring labs of faculty scientists.

Admission of medical students to the Ph.D. phase of training takes place formally following completion of the M-II year of M.D. training. A copy of the student file is transferred to the Office of Graduate Education and the individual is formally accepted to Ph.D. training by the VCU Graduate School.

The requirements for a combined professional school/graduate school degree in the School of Medicine are equivalent to those required of students seeking a graduate degree alone and are determined by the individual program.

For additional information, please see the program website at [mdphd.vcu.edu](http://mdphd.vcu.edu).

**Graduate program director**

Jennifer S. Wayne, Ph.D.
Professor and associate chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering

[jwayne@vcu.edu](mailto:jwayne@vcu.edu)
(804) 828-2595

**Additional contact**

Henry J. Donahue, Ph.D.
Professor and chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering

[hjdonahue@vcu.edu](mailto:hjdonahue@vcu.edu)
(804) 828-7956

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**Program website:** [biomedical.egr.vcu.edu](http://biomedical.egr.vcu.edu)

**Department of Chemical and Life Science Engineering**

B. Frank Gupton, Ph.D.
Research professor and chair

[chemical.egr.vcu.edu](http://chemical.egr.vcu.edu)

Chemical and life science engineering represents the formal interaction of chemical engineering with the life sciences. VCU's Department of Chemical and Life Science Engineering is uniquely poised to bring these two premier disciplines together to form a program distinct in the nation. Programs are offered at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Life science engineering — with interest areas including stem cell and stem cell-derived tissue engineering, biosciences/biotechnology, cellular engineering, biochips and biosensors, bioinformatics and molecular biocomputing, genetic and protein molecular engineering, environmental life science engineering, and molecular- and cellular-based therapeutics — is the fastest growing of all industries that currently employ engineers.

Chemical engineering and life science engineering share a broad range of common foundational knowledge bases, including the principles of mass and energy balances, transport phenomena and thermodynamics, surface and interfacial science, and reaction science and engineering. Strong academic and research programs in chemical and life science engineering will provide a wealth of exciting professional opportunities for successful graduates of the VCU program.

The bachelor's program offers concentrations in chemical engineering and life science engineering, and a chemical and life science engineering concentration is also available in the Master of Science in Engineering program, as well as the Ph.D. in Engineering program. The CLSE concentrations in the graduate-level programs are designed primarily for students who are interested in applying chemical and engineering principles toward important contemporary topics including process design, metabolic engineering, biosensor and biochip development, high-performance polymers in medicine and energy conversion, polymer surface science, and environmentally benign polymer processing technologies. Major emphasis is placed on chemical and life science engineering fundamentals with additional emphasis on applied chemistry and life sciences.

**Department of Computer Science**

Krzystof J. Cios, Ph.D.
Professor and chair

[computer-science.egr.vcu.edu](http://computer-science.egr.vcu.edu)

The Department of Computer Science offers undergraduate and graduate programs. The Bachelor of Science in Computer Science is a rigorous, highly concentrated curriculum of computer science courses. It includes advanced study in several important areas of computer science and provides a strong foundation in this discipline. Every course is taught by full-time faculty members who also serve as advisers to both undergraduate and graduate students.

The master's degree program emphasizes continuing self-development of individuals currently engaged in science-, technology- and engineering-related fields. It prepares persons who have completed undergraduate majors in these fields for entry into careers in areas that use computing...
technology. Both the theoretical and applied aspects of computer science are emphasized in this program. The program offers courses in a wide range of areas in computer science, including machine learning, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and cloud computing, data mining, bioinformatics, and medical informatics.

- Computer and Information Systems Security, Master of Science (M.S.) (p. 586)
- Computer Science, Master of Science (M.S.) (p. 581)
- Computer Science, Master of Science (M.S.), accelerated Bachelor of Science in Computer Science to master’s (p. 584)

Computer Science, Master of Science (M.S.)

Program mission

The program is designed to develop skills and educate CS students to be major contributors in the computing industry. The graduate program in computer science provides state-of-the-art education through the use of didactic courses to those students who wish to further their knowledge and careers within the computing industry. The program emphasizes continuing self-development and broadening of the knowledge of individuals currently engaged in science, technology and engineering-related fields. It also prepares persons who have completed undergraduate majors in these fields for entry into a career in the numerous areas that use computing technology. Both the theoretical and applied aspects of computer science are emphasized in this program.

Program goals

1. **Advanced software design skills:** To produce graduates who possess the necessary advanced analytical and technical skills in computer science – responds directly to the higher goal of fulfilling the needs of industry, academe and research laboratories for effective, productive engineers, professors and researchers
2. **Advanced problem-solving skills:** To produce graduates who demonstrate creativity and innovation in solving technological problems – stems from the realization that new knowledge and new solutions to existing problems are necessary to meet the needs of our changing society and to advance the quality of human life

Student learning outcomes

1. **Computer science theory and concepts:** Graduates will demonstrate a solid understanding of the advanced theory and concepts underlying computer science.
2. **System design and implementation:** Graduates will demonstrate the ability, knowledge and technical skills to design and implement a computer-based system, process, component or program.
3. **Applications of computer science in multiple domains:** Graduates will demonstrate the ability to use the knowledge of computer science in order to solve problems in other domains.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

Degree candidacy requirements (thesis option only)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/graduate/study/general-academic-regulations-graduate-students)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

Student handbook (http://www.egr.vcu.edu/current-students/graduate-student-services/resources-forms) is available on the School of Engineering website.
Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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<td>Jun 1</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>TOEFL required for international students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18) and the School of Engineering, applicants to the M.S. program in computer science must satisfy the requirements outlined below.

Acceptance of an applicant is based upon the recommendation of the graduate committee with approval of the program chair and the associate dean for graduate studies.

Undergraduate education in computer science or in a related discipline or completion of Post-baccalaureate Undergraduate Certificate in Computer Science is highly preferred.

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours at the graduate level. Students may not present courses receiving grades less than C for fulfilling degree requirements and can only present up to six credit hours of course work receiving a grade of C. Students may choose either a thesis or non-thesis degree program option. The thesis option is suggested for students who have a strong research interest or those who wish to pursue a Ph.D.

At most, six non-CMSC credits may be applied toward the degree. Approval of the graduate committee is required before taking the credits.

Up to 30 percent of a student’s required non-research graduate-level credits can be transferred into the M.S. program from another college or university. No more than 30 percent of student’s required non-research credits in graduate-level courses taken at VCU before admission to the M.S. program may be counted toward the M.S. degree (see bulletin for the accelerated B.S-M.S. in Computer Science program for exception to this rule). The number of credits that may be transferred by students pursuing an M.S. in Computer Science through the Commonwealth Graduate Engineering Program is limited by CGEP policy to 50 percent of the required credits.

All transfer credits must be approved by the graduate committee and the Graduate School using the graduate course transfer form. These credits must not have been applied to any other degree (see bulletin for the accelerated B.S-M.S. in Computer Science program for exception to this rule); however, they may have been taken as part of a post-baccalaureate graduate certificate program.

Students must satisfy breadth requirements by taking two courses from each of the foundational areas. There are three foundational areas for computer science graduate studies: theory, systems and applied computer science.

Curriculum requirements

Non-thesis option

Theory foundational area

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 501</td>
<td>Advanced Algorithms</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select at least one course from the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 510</td>
<td>Regularization Methods for Machine Learning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 512</td>
<td>Advanced Social Network Analysis and Security</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 591</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 601</td>
<td>Convex Optimization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 620</td>
<td>Applied Cryptography</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 621</td>
<td>Theory of Computation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 630</td>
<td>Image Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 678</td>
<td>Statistical Learning and Fuzzy Logic Algorithms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Computer Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Systems foundational area

Select at least two of the following: 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 502</td>
<td>Parallel Algorithms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 506/EGRE 526</td>
<td>Computer Networks and Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 525</td>
<td>Introduction to Software Analysis, Testing and Verification</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 591</td>
<td>Topics in Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 603</td>
<td>High Performance Distributed Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 605</td>
<td>Advanced Computer Architecture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 608</td>
<td>Advanced Database</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 615</td>
<td>Cryptocurrency and Blockchain Techniques</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 618</td>
<td>Database and Application Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 622</td>
<td>Network and Operating Systems Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 628</td>
<td>Mobile Networks: Applications, Modeling and Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Computer Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Applied computer science foundational area

Select at least two of the following: 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 516</td>
<td>Advanced Natural Language Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 591</td>
<td>Topics in Computer Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 609</td>
<td>Advanced Computational Intelligence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 610</td>
<td>Algorithmic Foundations of Bioinformatics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 612</td>
<td>Game Theory and Security</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 623</td>
<td>Cloud Computing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 635</td>
<td>Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 636</td>
<td>Artificial Neural Networks and Deep Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Computer Science</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional course work
Select 12 additional credit hours of didactic coursework with adviser approval.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Graduate course work only (500 level or higher) may be applied to a graduate degree with at least one half of required course work designated exclusively for graduate students (600 or higher).

2. Only selected sections of CMSC 591 and CMSC 691 count toward individual foundational areas. An up-to-date list of sections of these topics courses, including their assignments to foundational areas, is available at computer-science.egr.vcu.edu/graduate/computer-science (http://computer-science.egr.vcu.edu/graduate/computer-science).

### Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thesis option ¹</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theory foundational area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
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</tr>
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</tbody>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Computer Science ²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Systems foundational area |

Select at least two of the following:

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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Parallel Algorithms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 506/</td>
<td>Computer Networks and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGRE 526</td>
<td>Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 525</td>
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<td>CMSC 615</td>
<td>Techniques</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Degree candidacy requirements (thesis option only)

In order to advance to master's candidacy, the student must:

1. Have completed required course work
2. Have a minimum 3.0 GPA in graduate course work

For fulfilling candidacy requirements:

1. Students may not present courses receiving grades less than C or not conforming to Graduate School graduation requirements. No more than six credit hours with a grade of C may be presented.

2. Students must be in compliance with candidacy requirements of VCU Graduate School (p. 37) and be in compliance with the time to degree, which is six years for a master's degree.

3. The student will produce a written thesis in the format specified by the VCU Graduate School and will publicly defend the thesis before a committee consisting of the thesis adviser, at least one other faculty member from the computer science program and a faculty member from outside of the computer science program.

### Typical plan of study

Students should choose thesis or non-thesis option during their first semester of study. The non-thesis option is the default.
The typical plan of study for non-thesis option students involves doing between nine and 15 credit hours per semester and fulfilling the requirements of the program typically in three semesters.

A plan of study for thesis option students should be designed with the research adviser of the student to take into account the direction of thesis research.

Graduate program director
Tom Arodz, Ph.D.
Assistant professor
tarodz@vcu.edu
(804) 827-3989

Additional contact
Krzysztof J. Cios, Ph.D.
Professor and chair, Department of Computer Science
kcios@vcu.edu
(804) 828-9671

Program website: computer-science.egr.vcu.edu/graduate (http://computer-science.egr.vcu.edu/graduate)

Computer Science, Master of Science (M.S.), accelerated Bachelor of Science in Computer Science to master’s

Students accepted into this selective program accomplish both the B.S. and M.S. degrees within five years by taking additional graduate courses within the first four years of the program. Up to two of these courses will count as open electives in the B.S. program and as didactic course work in the M.S. program.

Program mission
The program is designed to develop skills and educate CS students to be major contributors in the computing industry. The graduate program in computer science provides state-of-the-art education through the use of didactic courses to those students who wish to further their knowledge and careers within the computing industry. The program emphasizes continuing self-development and broadening of the knowledge of individuals currently engaged in science, technology and engineering-related fields. It also prepares persons who have completed undergraduate majors in these fields for entry into a career in the numerous areas that use computing technology. Both the theoretical and applied aspects of computer science are emphasized in this program.

Program goals
1. **Advanced software design skills**: To produce graduates who possess the necessary advanced analytical and technical skills in computer science – responds directly to the higher goal of fulfilling the needs of industry, academe and research laboratories for effective, productive engineers, professors and researchers

2. **Advanced problem-solving skills**: To produce graduates who demonstrate creativity and innovation in solving technological problems – stems from the realization that new knowledge and new solutions to existing problems are necessary to meet the needs of our changing society and to advance the quality of human life

Student learning outcomes
1. **Computer science theory and concepts**: Graduates will demonstrate a solid understanding of the advanced theory and concepts underlying computer science.

2. **System design and implementation**: Graduates will demonstrate the ability, knowledge and technical skills to design and implement a computer-based system, process, component or program.

3. **Applications of computer science in multiple domains**: Graduates will demonstrate the ability to use the knowledge of computer science in order to solve problems in other domains.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

Student handbook (http://www.egr.vcu.edu/current-students/graduate-student-services/resources-forms) is available on the School of Engineering website.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall (preferred)</td>
<td>Jun 1 (Feb 15 for financial assistance)</td>
<td>GPA (see below)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 1</td>
<td>TOEFL required for international students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students are selected from those already enrolled in B.S. in Computer Science program at VCU.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

In order to be accepted students must:

1. Apply to the computer science graduate committee during the first semester after they have completed the last of the following sequence of classes:

   - CMSC 255 Introduction to Programming 4
   - CMSC 256 Data Structures and Object Oriented Programming 4
   - CMSC 257 Computer Systems 4
   - CMSC 302 Introduction to Discrete Structures 3
   - CMSC 303 Introduction to the Theory of Computation 3
   - CMSC 311 Computer Organization 3

   Transfer students who enter with all of these courses (or equivalents) must apply during their first semester at VCU.

2. Have a minimum GPA of 3.4 based on CMSC 255, CMSC 256, CMSC 257, CMSC 302, CMSC 303 and CMSC 311; all grades in any repeated courses will be included in computing this GPA. Students transferring these courses into the program will have the grades from their previous institution included in computing this GPA only for purposes of determining eligibility for this program.

3. Have a minimum overall GPA of 3.0.

In the last semester before graduating with the B.S. degree, the student will formally apply to the master’s program. Providing the student has maintained a minimum GPA of 3.2 in the major, acceptance to the M.S. program is guaranteed. Accepted students are not required to complete the GRE for admission to the M.S. portion of the program.

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours at the graduate level to graduate with the M.S. degree. Students must also complete the requirements for the B.S. degree in Computer Science.

Students accepted into this selective program accomplish both the B.S. and M.S. degrees within five years by taking additional graduate courses within the first four years of the program. Up to six credit hours will count as open electives in the B.S. program and as didactic course work in the M.S. program.

A student may choose either a thesis or non-thesis M.S. degree program. The thesis option is suggested for students who have a strong research interest or those who wish to pursue a Ph.D.

Curriculum requirements

Students accepted into the B.S.-M.S. program are allowed to transfer up to 12 graduate-level credits into the M.S. program, including up to six credit hours that were counted as open electives toward requirements for the B.S. degree.

After meeting all requirements for the B.S. degree, students in the program are eligible to take 600-level courses.

Apart from the exceptions above, all regulations outlined in the B.S. in Computer Science and M.S. in Computer Science bulletins apply toward the respective degrees.

Typical program of study

Before graduating with the B.S. degree, students in the program are expected to:

- Take six graduate-level didactic credits that will count as open electives toward their B.S. degree (that is, toward the requirements on total number of credits, upper-level credits and toward graduation GPA, but not as the required three CMSC technical electives) and as didactic credits toward their M.S. degree.
- Take an additional six graduate-level didactic credit hours that will count toward their M.S. degree but not toward the B.S. degree. In particular, these cannot be used to satisfy the total and upper-level credit requirements in the B.S. degree nor in calculating the B.S. graduation GPA.

Students cannot count more than six credit hours of non-CMSC courses toward the M.S. degree. Any non-CMSC graduate credits require approval of the graduate committee.

The typical full program of study in the accelerated B.S.-M.S. program is as follows:

Years 1-3

- Regular undergraduate program course work
  
  Year 3
  
  - Application to the accelerated B.S.-M.S. program
  
  Year 4
  
  - Remaining regular undergraduate program course work
  - Six credit hours of CMSC 500-level courses, counted toward B.S. and M.S.
• Six credit hours of CMSC 500-level courses, counted toward M.S. only
• Application to the M.S. program

Year 5

Regular graduate program course work: 18 credits of CMCS 500-level and 600-level courses, counted toward M.S. only

Students must complete at least 50 percent of their graduate-level didactic credits at the 600-level for the M.S. degree; additional restrictions apply based on thesis and non-thesis study options as specified in the M.S. in Computer Science bulletin.

Graduate program director
Tom J. Arodz, Ph.D.
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(804) 827-3989

Additional contact
Krzysztof J. Cios, Ph.D.
Professor and chair, Department of Computer Science
kcios@vcu.edu
(804) 828-9671

Program website: computer-science.egr.vcu.edu/graduate (http://computer-science.egr.vcu.edu/graduate)

Computer and Information Systems Security, Master of Science (M.S.) [School of Engineering]

Program mission
The Master of Science in Computer and Information Systems Security provides for the scholarly and professional needs of several groups who have either accepted or are keen to take on the challenge of protecting information resources of firms and society at large.

Program goal
Graduates of this program are expected to take on leadership positions, including as chief security officer, in computer and information systems security in organizations. VCU's program takes a broad interdisciplinary approach to computer and information systems security that will help develop the student’s ability to see the larger organizational, social, political, ethical and economic aspects of information security.

Student learning outcomes
Graduates of the program will be:

1. Prepared to take leading roles in planning, organizing, managing, designing and configuring security solutions in public and private organizations
2. Familiar with state-of-the-art security technologies and best practices

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.graduated.cn.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jul 1</td>
<td>GRE or GMAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Applicants must meet all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18).

The Master of Science in Computer and Information Systems Security, jointly offered by the Department of Computer Science in the School of Engineering and the Department of Information Systems in the School of Business, is designed primarily for students interested in professional roles in business, industry or government. Program graduates will serve as leaders within the computer and information systems security community and as strategic partners within the enterprises in which they work. They will stay attuned to, and anticipate changes in, the computer and information systems security environment and ensure that security solutions create a sound, competitive, cost-effective advantage for the enterprise.

Graduates of the program will be prepared to take leading roles in planning, organizing, managing, designing and configuring security solutions in public and private organizations and will be familiar with state-of-the-art security technologies and best practices. The program takes a broad interdisciplinary approach to computer and information systems security that will help students develop the ability to see the larger organization and social, political, ethical and economic aspects of information security, as well as offering a unique graduate-level curriculum that is both technically and managerially oriented.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the M.S. in Computer and Information Systems Security requires 30 graduate credit hours, including a core curricular component and an elective component. The elective component consists of three courses chosen by the student and selected from CISS course offerings or, with the approval of the program co-directors, from courses offered by the departments of Computer Science, Information Systems, Criminal Justice and Forensic Science.

**Curriculum requirements**

Students with an accredited bachelor’s degree or post-baccalaureate certificate in fields such as computer science or information systems should be adequately prepared for the graduate curriculum. Students from other academic backgrounds may need to complete undergraduate prerequisite courses. Prerequisites are determined by the faculty adviser at the time of admission.

**Prerequisite courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 312</td>
<td>Introduction to Operating Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or INFO 361</td>
<td>Systems Analysis and Design</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 355</td>
<td>Software Engineering: Specification and Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or INFO 370</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Data Communications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 401</td>
<td>Algorithm Analysis with Advanced Data Structures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 508</td>
<td>Database Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or INFO 364</td>
<td>Database Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 211</td>
<td>Mathematical Structures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or CMSC 302</td>
<td>Introduction to Discrete Structures</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Curriculum**

**Core component**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Database and Application Security</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CISS/CMSC 622</td>
<td>Network and Operating Systems Security</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CISS 624/CMSC 620</td>
<td>Applied Cryptography</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CISS 634</td>
<td>Ethical, Social and Legal Issues in Computer and Information Systems Security</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>CISS/INFO 644</td>
<td>Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>INFO 646</td>
<td>Security Policy Formulation and Implementation</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

**Elective component**

Choose four of the following courses. Students must select a minimum of one CMSC and one INFO course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 502</td>
<td>Parallel Algorithms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 506</td>
<td>Computer Networks and Communications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 525</td>
<td>Introduction to Software Analysis, Testing and Verification</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 612</td>
<td>Game Theory and Security</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Computer Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 609</td>
<td>Data-centric Re-engineering Analysis/Planning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 611</td>
<td>Data Re-engineering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 614</td>
<td>Data Mining</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 616</td>
<td>Data Warehousing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 632</td>
<td>Business Process Engineering</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 641</td>
<td>Strategic Information Systems Planning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 642</td>
<td>Decision Support and Intelligent Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 691</td>
<td>Topics in Information Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**

30

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30**

**Graduate program director**

Gurpreet S. Dhillon, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Information Systems
gdhillon@vcu.edu
(804) 828-1737

**Additional contact**

Milos Manic, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Computer Science
misko@vcu.edu
(804) 827-3999

**Program websites:**

- computer-science.egr.vcu.edu/graduate/computer-and-information-systems-security
- business.vcu.edu/graduate-studies/ms-in-computer-and-information-systems-security
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Erdem Topsakal, Ph.D.
Professor and chair

electrical-and-computer.egr.vcu.edu (http://electrical-and-computer.egr.vcu.edu)

The Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering prepares students for highly competitive, national placement in electrical and computer engineering employment and graduate education by providing a thorough grounding in electrical science and design, together with a sound foundation in mathematics, basic sciences and life skills.

The department offers baccalaureate degrees in computer engineering and electrical engineering, in addition to minors in both areas, as well as the option to choose coursework appropriate for a pre-medicine or pre-dentistry curriculum. An electrical and computer engineering track is available in the Master of Science in Engineering as well as the Ph.D. in Engineering. The track is designed to prepare students for practice, research and/or teaching of electrical and computer engineering at the advanced level by providing intensive preparation for professional practice in the microelectronics, nanoelectronics, computer engineering, and controls and communications aspects of electrical and computer engineering. At the advanced level, this track prepares individuals to perform original, leading-edge research in the broad areas of microelectronics, nanoelectronics, controls and communications, and computer engineering.

The curricula of the department provide a strong foundation in the fundamentals of the profession, including engineering problem-solving, breadth in the major facets of the profession and the opportunity to specialize in today’s critical areas of computer engineering, communication systems and microelectronics. Graduates will be well prepared for constant technological change and growth through lifelong learning.

Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering

Gary Tepper, Ph.D.
Professor and chair

mechanical-and-nuclear.egr.vcu.edu (http://mechanical-and-nuclear.egr.vcu.edu)

Mechanical engineering is one of the oldest and broadest engineering disciplines. Mechanical engineers design and analyze machines of all types including automobiles, airplanes, rockets, submarines, power generation systems, biomedical instrumentation, robots, manufacturing systems, household appliances and many, many more. In addition to well-known areas such as nuclear energy, nuclear propulsion and nuclear medicine, nuclear engineers are involved in many other applications of nuclear science and technology in fields as diverse as agriculture, industry, homeland security, forensics, environmental protection and even art. The Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering provides quality graduate and undergraduate education through the following degree-granting programs:

- B.S. in Mechanical Engineering (general mechanical engineering curriculum)
- B.S. in Mechanical Engineering (nuclear engineering concentration)
- M.S. in Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering (thesis and non-thesis options)
- Ph.D. in Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering

Current areas of research within the department include but are not limited to energy conversion systems, smart materials, corrosion, medical devices, aerosol science, sensors, radiation detection and measurement, nuclear reactor design, robotics, fluid mechanics, nanotechnology, and biomechanics.

- Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)
- p. 588
- Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering, Master of Science (M.S.)
- p. 592

Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Program mission

The Ph.D. curriculum will provide graduate-level training in both mechanical and nuclear engineering. Graduates of the program will be prepared for research and teaching careers in areas such as energy production, nuclear waste transport, storage and disposal, and the development of new mechanical devices for use in nuclear medicine. Technical electives in both mechanical and nuclear engineering will allow students to pursue in-depth study relevant to their selected research topics. Dissertation topics pursued as directed research credit hours will be devoted to open-ended research projects at the intersection of mechanical and nuclear engineering.

1. Advanced technical skills: To produce graduates who possess the necessary advanced analytical and technical skills in engineering and sciences – responds directly to the higher goals of fulfilling the needs of industry for effective, productive engineers and of providing economic development for the region, state and nation.
2. Communication: To produce graduates who possess a facility with both written and oral communications – emanates from the requirement that engineers must be able to interact and share ideas with others in the work environment, and at a higher level, be capable of creative self-expression and leadership.
3. Advanced problem-solving: To produce graduates who demonstrate creativity and innovation in solving technological problems – stems from the realization that new knowledge and new solutions to existing problems are necessary to meet the needs of our changing society and to advance the quality of human life.

Student learning outcomes

1. Apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, science or engineering: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to apply advanced knowledge of mathematics, science or engineering.
2. Communicate effectively: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively.
3. Identify, formulate and solve engineering problems: Graduates will demonstrate an ability to identify, formulate and solve engineering problems.
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.

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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.

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Other information

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Admission requirements

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<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>GRE-General</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>TOEFL required for international students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following comprise the admissions requirements for the mechanical and nuclear engineering Ph.D. program:

1. Proof of graduation from an accredited college or university with either a bachelor’s or a master’s degree in mechanical engineering, nuclear engineering or a related discipline with a minimum grade point average of 3.0
2. Demonstration of proficiency in spoken and written English
3. Submission of results of the Graduate Record Examination (minimum score for admission to be established annually by the MNE graduate committee)
4. Submission of at least three letters of recommendation from former instructors or other individuals qualified to evaluate the applicant’s ability to engage in graduate study in mechanical and nuclear engineering
5. Submission of a written statement of purpose that clearly demonstrates commitment to a career in mechanical and nuclear engineering

The MNE graduate committee may admit students unconditionally or provisionally. Provisional admission may be granted when deficiencies are identified; these deficiencies should be remedied by the time specified by the admissions committee. At the end of the provisional period, the student’s progress is evaluated. Failure to meet the goals set forth by the MNE graduate committee at the time of admission results in a show-cause notice. A response to this notice that is deemed unsatisfactory results in a recommendation for dismissal. The student has the right to appeal the recommendation for dismissal following procedures set forth by the School of Engineering and the VCU Graduate School. Remedial courses, or those designed to remove deficiencies, will not be accepted for credit hours toward the fulfillment of the course requirements for the Ph.D.

Degree requirements

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the Ph.D. degree will require a minimum of 68 credit hours beyond the B.S. degree or a minimum of 36 credit hours beyond the M.S. degree. Students may enter the Ph.D. program with either a B.S. or M.S. degree.

Transfer policy

Transfer courses must be approved by the MNE graduate committee and must fulfill all requirements of the VCU Graduate School as described in the student handbook. For students entering with a B.S. degree, a maximum of nine credit hours of technical electives may be transferred from another VCU program or outside institution and, if not applied previously toward another degree, may be applied toward the Ph.D.

Doctoral comprehensive oral examination guidelines

Goals
A comprehensive oral examination is used to determine admission of graduate students to Ph.D. candidacy in the Department of Mechanical.
and Nuclear Engineering. The CO exam is administered by the graduate examination committee (a standing committee of four MNE faculty members with rotating one year terms selected by the graduate program committee) with the goals of:

1. Assessing the student’s understanding of MNE foundational material at the Ph.D. level
2. Evaluating the student’s critical-thinking and problem-solving skills
3. Determining the student’s ability to communicate ideas clearly and effectively

**Format**
The CO will be administered by the graduate examination committee, which is organized by the MNE graduate program committee as outlined in the graduate student handbook. The format of the CO is as follows:

- The student provides a brief presentation (~five slides). The student should provide a copy of his or her presentation to the committee at least one week prior to the CO exam detailing:
  - His or her academic background
  - Courses taken in graduate school at VCU (including a printed copy of the VCU transcript made available to committee members)
  - The remaining planned course of study
- The student then provides a brief presentation (~two to three slides) describing:
  - The expected dissertation research area
  - The proposed methods for addressing the research topic
  - The GEC then presents questions in an oral format to the student.
- The question-and-answer session of the CO should not exceed 1 hour.
- After the question-and-answer component of the CO, the GEC meets in closed session to discuss their assessment of the candidate’s responses and vote on admission to Ph.D. candidacy.

**Assessment**
The purpose of the CO is to assess items 1-3 provided under “Goals” in order to determine if the student should be admitted to Ph.D. candidacy. The committee will discuss the responses, including strengths and weaknesses observed. Correct answers are not required for a certain percentage of questions. Instead, the committee is to deliberate on the potential of the candidate to successfully complete the Ph.D. degree and become a successful professional. The committee then grades the student as pass or fail in each area of the goals. The committee also votes “yes” or “no” on admission to Ph.D. candidacy. A majority vote for promotion to candidacy is required for successful completion of the CO. At least three (of the four GEC) voting committee members must be present in the CO exam and vote.

**Preparation**
To prepare for the CO exam, the student should review course work completed in the first year of graduate study as a Ph.D. student and foundational MNE undergraduate courses.

**Scheduling**
It is anticipated that the student will have completed two full semesters of courses in graduate school at VCU at the time of the CO exam and have a firm understanding of undergraduate concepts. The student must pass the CO before the end of their fourth semester (excluding summer sessions) as a Ph.D. student at VCU. The primary CO will be administered during the second week of the fall semester. The graduate coordinator will provide a sign-up list of available times to graduate students. A secondary CO will be offered in the second week of the spring semester of each year for students who started in the spring semester of the previous year and for second chance exams.

### Successful completion of the CO
Upon successful completion of the CO, the student works with his or her adviser to develop the dissertation proposal document for presentation to the committee at the proposal presentation. The proposal presentation will focus on the research topic an emphasis on objectives (or hypotheses) and a discussion of completed and future work.

### Unsuccessful CO
In the event of an unsuccessful CO, the student may retake the exam once. The adviser is expected to work with the student on weaknesses identified by the committee. The CO is then re-administered and must be completed successfully within the first four semesters as a Ph.D. student at VCU. Failure to successfully complete the CO within the first four semesters is grounds for dismissal from the program. Special circumstances in scheduling within the four-semester timeline can be accommodated with written approval from the MNE graduate program director and approval from the student’s primary adviser.

### Benefits of the CO format
The CO is intended to benefit the student, primary adviser and department by:

- Providing feedback to the student at an early stage regarding admission to Ph.D. candidacy
- Critically evaluate Ph.D. candidates by committee consensus at an early stage
- Continue the development of well-trained successful Ph.D. applicants and professionals

For more information, contact the graduate program director.

### Research adviser and graduate dissertation committee
Students will be expected to select a research adviser and dissertation committee within 12 months of enrollment in the Ph.D. program. The dissertation committee will consist of five faculty members, including the primary research adviser and at least two other faculty members from the mechanical and nuclear engineering graduate program. This committee reviews and votes to approve or disapprove the student’s dissertation research proposal, oral candidacy exam, and the final Ph.D. dissertation and oral defense. This committee also makes the final recommendation to award the Ph.D. degree. All voting members of the committee must be members of the graduate faculty. Additional, nonvoting members may serve on the committee with the approval of the MNE graduate program director.

### Proposal presentation exam
Within nine months after passing the qualifying examination the student will submit one copy of an original dissertation research proposal based upon their proposed research project to each member of his or her dissertation committee. The proposal consists of the research topic and proposed research plan. The proposal should include a thorough literature review of the topic and contain information sufficient to judge the feasibility, scope and potential impact of the research. The dissertation committee will then administer an exam based on the material submitted in the dissertation research proposal. The format of the exam is an oral presentation by the candidate with questions by the dissertation committee members. A favorable decision by the dissertation committee with no more than one negative vote (all members are required to vote) shall be required to pass the exam. If a student fails the exam, one re-examination may be given with the consent
of the dissertation committee. Failure to pass the second exam will result in dismissal from the program.

**Publication requirement**

A Ph.D. student appearing for the final defense in the Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering must provide evidence of a minimum of two manuscripts accepted for publication in peer-reviewed archival journals recognized by the ISI Web of Science at the time of defense. These publications should be based on the student’s dissertation research and must also be acceptable to the student’s dissertation committee. The student is expected to have served as the first author in one or more of the papers. Specific publication requirements are available on the department’s website as well as in the School of Engineering graduate handbook.

**Dissertation defense**

No earlier than six months after passing the oral candidacy examination, the student will defend the dissertation in an open forum administered by the dissertation committee. At least two weeks prior to the defense, the candidate will submit a written copy of the dissertation to each committee member and schedule a date for the defense. The defense will be advertised and faculty and student colleagues will be invited to attend. During the defense, the student will present a detailed summary of their research project, which should be the original problem presented and approved during the proposal presentation exam. If a solution of the original problem proves elusive for reasons beyond the student’s control, the student may be allowed to redirect the research with permission from the dissertation committee and find an alternate pathway to the solution of a redefined problem. The format of the dissertation defense will be a presentation by the student followed by questions from the dissertation committee and other attendees. After the first round of questions are completed, the non-committee members in attendance will be asked to leave and the dissertation committee members will hold a second round of questions in closed session. After the second round of questions is completed the student will be asked to leave and the committee members will deliberate privately. The problem presented and solved must be of sufficient importance and interest to warrant publication in a peer reviewed journal in the student’s area of specialization. A favorable decision by the dissertation committee with no more than one negative vote (all members are required to vote) shall be required to pass the dissertation defense. If a student fails the dissertation defense, one re-examination may be given. Failure to pass the second dissertation defense will result in dismissal from the program.

Students entering with a B.S. degree who are terminated from the Ph.D. program because of a failure to pass the QE, proposal presentation exam or dissertation defense (but not for other reasons such as academic dishonesty) will have the option to continue toward the M.S. in Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering.

**Time limit**

It is anticipated that students entering with a B.S. will complete the program in four years from the time the student passes the qualifying examination. Students must be continuously enrolled in the program (minimum of one credit hour per semester). All requirements for the Ph.D. must be completed within five years of passing the qualifying examination.

Any student may request a one-year extension of the maximum time for extenuating circumstances such as a medical situation. The graduate program committee will review and approve or deny all such requests. The maximum time cannot be extended longer than one year. Students who do not satisfy the degree requirements within the maximum time will be dismissed from the program.

Because of the maximum time limits imposed on students in the Ph.D. program, the program does not accept part-time students.

**Preparing Future Faculty Program**

Students enrolled in the program will have the option and are strongly encouraged to participate in the Preparing Future Faculty Program. The VCU Graduate School provides graduate students with ongoing opportunities for academic and professional development. The PFFP at VCU offers a series of short courses and professional development opportunities for graduate students interested in pursuing careers in higher education. The series is modeled on the national PFFP created by the Association of American Colleges and Universities. PFFP courses introduce graduate students to the roles and responsibilities of higher education; address teaching, learning and technology issues in the college classroom; and incorporate material on the academic job search and continued professional development. For those students who complete all course requirements, the capstone course is an internship/externship experience during which the student is mentored by a senior faculty member. The program offers access to resources and activities and service-learning experiences while providing networking opportunities with students and faculty from a wide range of disciplines as well as discipline-specific areas of study. Since most courses are one or two credit hours, students are able to add them easily into their academic program schedules.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Requirements for students entering with a B.S. degree**

**Core courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EGMN 604</td>
<td>Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Materials</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGMN 605</td>
<td>Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGMN 606</td>
<td>Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Continuum Mechanics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGMN 607</td>
<td>Heat and Mass Transfer Theory and Applications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGMN 610</td>
<td>Topics in Nuclear Engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Technical elective component**

With the approval of your adviser or program director, select 21 credit hours of courses with the following rubrics: EGMN, EGRM, ENGR, EGRN, EGRB, EGRE, CLSE, CMSC, PHYS, MATH, NANO, CHEM, BIOL, GRAD, LFSC, OVPR.

**Directed research component**

This component consists of dissertation research directed toward completion of Ph.D. degree requirements under the direction of a dissertation adviser and dissertation committee. Students can register for 1 to 15 credit hours of directed research in mechanical and nuclear engineering.
Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering, Master of Science (M.S.)

Directed Research in Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering

Seminar component

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EGMN 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 68

Notes:
1. A total of 21 credit hours from the core courses, technical electives or seminar (not including directed research credit hours) must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. In certain cases, independent study courses (EGMN 691) are offered by individual faculty members. Up to three credit hours of EGMN 691 may be taken as a technical elective course.
3. EGMN 610 is not required for students entering with a B.S. in Nuclear Engineering. A replacement course approved by the MNE graduate program director must be taken and will count toward the required 15 credits of core courses.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 68

Requirements for students entering with an M.S. degree

Core courses

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EGMN 604</td>
<td>Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Materials</td>
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</table>

Directed research component

This component consists of dissertation research directed toward completion of Ph.D. degree requirements under the direction of a dissertation adviser and dissertation committee.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EGMN 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering</td>
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</table>

Seminar component

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EGMN 690</td>
<td>Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 36

Notes:
1. A total of nine credit hours of core courses and seminar but not including directed research credit hours must be at the 600 level or higher.
2. Students entering with an M.S. will follow the same curriculum as the students entering with a B.S. with the above noted reduction in required credit hours.
3. EGMN 610 is not required for students entering with a B.S. in Nuclear Engineering. A replacement course approved by the MNE graduate program director must be taken and will count toward the required 9 credits of core courses.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 36

Graduate program director
Karla M. Mossi, Ph.D.
Associate professor
kmossi@vcu.edu

Additional contact
Gary C. Tepper, Ph.D.
Professor and chair, Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering
gtepper@vcu.edu
(804) 827-4079

Program website: mechanical-and-nuclear.egr.vcu.edu/academics/graduate (http://mechanical-and-nuclear.egr.vcu.edu/academics/graduate)

Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering, Master of Science (M.S.)

Program mission

The mission of the M.S. in Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering degree is to provide graduate students with learning opportunities for acquiring a broad foundation of engineering knowledge including business and manufacturing aspects; an in-depth research experience at the frontiers of engineering; and skills for lifelong learning and professional development. Graduates of this program will pursue careers in business/industry and government, or will pursue doctoral degrees.

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Admission requirements
Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering, Master of Science (M.S.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18) and the School of Engineering, applicants to the mechanical and nuclear engineering degree must have a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering, nuclear engineering or a closely related discipline.

Degree requirements
In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must meet the following requirements.

The Master of Science in Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering program utilizes the faculty and research facilities of the Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering to expose students to advanced and emerging technologies in mechanical and nuclear engineering. Research thrusts in the department include but are not limited to smart materials, micro/nanotechnology, energy conversion systems, sensors, aerosol science, nuclear engineering, fluid mechanics, medical devices, robotics and biomechanics.

The M.S. degree program offers a thesis or non-thesis option and can be tailored to meet the individual student's academic goals and research interests. Eighteen to 24 months of full-time study usually are necessary to complete the requirements for the thesis-option. The non-thesis option generally requires 12 months of full-time study or up to four years of part-time study. A time limit of six calendar years, beginning at the time of first registration, is placed on work to be credited toward the master's degree. Generally, a maximum of six credit hours of approved graduate course work required for a master's degree may be transferred from another program at VCU or outside institution and applied toward the degree.

The following are the minimum credit hour requirements for the proposed graduate degree program options:

- **M.S. thesis option** — minimum 30 credit hours including nine credit hours in core courses, 15 credit hours in technical electives (engineering, science or related areas) and six credit hours in directed research EGMN 697

- **M.S. non-thesis option** — minimum 30 credit hours including nine credit hours in core courses and 21 credit hours in technical electives (engineering, science or approved courses)

The mechanical and nuclear engineering M.S. degree program contains three curricular components:

1. **Core component**: This component consists of three required core courses that provide the foundation of the M.S. curriculum. See below for specific course requirements.
2. **Technical elective component**: This component allows the student to take courses in either engineering, science or other areas with approval of the student’s adviser and graduate program director.
3. **Directed research component**: This component emphasizes research directed toward completion of M.S. degree requirements under the direction of an adviser and thesis committee.

Depending on the option pursued, students will have to take courses from two or all three of the curricular components. Students should select their concentration component courses based upon their concentration areas. Selecting one concentration area over another does not preclude a student from choosing courses from other areas.

Curriculum requirements
Core requirements
All full-time thesis master's students must register for and attend at least one semester of EGMN 690. Part-time and non-thesis students are not required to register for the seminar, but they are encouraged to attend.

Thesis option
Core courses, seminar and directed research
EGMN 605  Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering  Analysis  3
EGMN 606  Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering  Continuum Mechanics  3
EGMN 610  Topics in Nuclear Engineering  3

**Technical elective courses**
With the approval of the adviser or graduate program director, select 15 credit hours of courses with the following subject areas: EGMN, EGRM, ENGR, EGRN, EGRB, EGRE, CLSE, CMSC, PHYS, MATH, NANO, CHEM, BIOL, GRAD, LFSC, OVPR.

**Directed research**
EGMN 697  Directed Research in Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering  6

**Total Hours**
30

---

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30**

**Non-thesis option**

**Core courses, seminar and directed research**
EGMN 605  Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering  Analysis  3
EGMN 606  Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering  Continuum Mechanics  3
EGMN 610  Topics in Nuclear Engineering  3

**Technical elective courses**
With the approval of the adviser or graduate program director, select 21 credit hours of courses from the following subject areas: EGMN, EGRM, ENGR, EGRN, EGRB, EGRE, CLSE, CMSC, PHYS, MATH, NANO, CHEM, BIOL, GRAD, LFSC, OVPR.

**Total Hours**
30

---

**Graduate program director**
Karla M. Mossi, Ph.D.
Associate professor
kmmossi@vcu.edu
(804) 827-5275

**Additional contact**
Gary C. Tepper, Ph.D.
Professor and chair, Department of Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering
gctepper@vcu.edu
(804) 827-4079

**Program website:** mechanical-and-nuclear.egr.vcu.edu/academics/graduate (http://mechanical-and-nuclear.egr.vcu.edu/academics/graduate)
L. DOUGLAS WILDER SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

The L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs is a creative, interdisciplinary grouping of programs in the social sciences and professional arenas that provides students with the knowledge, skills and experience necessary for success in public service.

The Wilder School brings together faculty from multiple disciplines that share a common interest in public affairs. The faculty includes individuals with strong research and analytical skills and with substantive expertise in fields such as criminal justice, economics, homeland security, public administration, urban planning and community development. These faculty members are committed to producing cutting-edge research and public service that can bridge the gap between theory and practice and to providing high quality, innovative and nationally competitive degree programs for students.

To achieve this mission, the Wilder School actively fosters and promotes a wide range of endeavors, including the establishment of interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate programs that develop close ties with other related university programs. The Wilder School is an intellectually exciting place committed to having a genuine impact on public policy and providing an intellectually stimulating education for future public affairs professionals who share in school’s commitment.

Administration

923 West Franklin Street
P.O. Box 842028
Richmond, Virginia 23284-2028
Phone: (804) 828-2292
Fax: (804) 827-1275
wilder.vcu.edu (http://www.wilder.vcu.edu)

John Accordino, Ph.D.
Professor and interim dean

Jill Gordon, Ph.D.
Associate professor and associate dean of faculty and academic affairs

John S. Mahoney, Ph.D.
Associate professor and assistant dean for undergraduate academic affairs

Simon Okoth, Ph.D.
Assistant professor and director of graduate studies

Sarah Jane Brubaker, Ph.D.
Associate professor and director of Ph.D. program

Richard F. Huff, Ph.D.
Assistant professor and program chair, M.P.A. program

Jay S. Albanese, Ph.D.
Professor and program chair, criminal justice program

William V. Pelfrey, Ph.D.
Associate professor and program chair, homeland security and emergency preparedness program

Meghan Z. Gough, Ph.D.
Associate professor and program chair, urban and regional studies program

Accreditation

Public administration (master’s degree)
National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration

Urban and regional planning (master’s degree)
Planning Accreditation Board

Program offerings

The school offers a variety of educational opportunities. Students may pursue three undergraduate programs and an additional three minors. Graduate programs provide options for full-time students and for practicing professionals interested in enhancing their skills or engaging in graduate-level work on a part-time basis. Current graduate offerings include nationally recognized master’s programs and seven graduate-level certificates, as well as a doctoral degree program. Wilder School programs include:

Baccalaureate degrees
Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice
Bachelor of Arts in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Studies

Minors
Criminal justice
Homeland security and emergency preparedness
Urban and regional studies

Post-baccalaureate graduate certificates
Certificate in Criminal Justice
Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention
Certificate in Geographic Information Systems
Certificate in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
Certificate in Nonprofit Management
Certificate in Public Management
Certificate in Urban Revitalization

Master’s degrees
Master of Arts in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
Master of Public Administration
Master of Science in Criminal Justice
Master of Urban and Regional Planning

Doctoral degree
Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration

The school also offers two dual degree programs with the University of Richmond’s T.C. Williams Law School. Through these programs students can simultaneously obtain a law degree (J.D.) and either the Master of Public Administration or the Master of Urban and Regional Planning.
Service-learning and internship opportunities

Shajuana Isom-Payne
Director of student success

The educational experience at the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs extends far beyond the classroom. Many students take advantage of service-learning (http://www.wilder.vcu.edu/service/servicelearning) and internship (http://www.wilder.vcu.edu/service/intern) opportunities, gaining valuable work experience and enhancing their resumes as they contribute in meaningful ways to governmental departments and agencies, legislative offices, nonprofit institutions, community initiatives, and businesses throughout Richmond.

Exceptionally qualified graduate students in the criminal justice, homeland security and emergency preparedness, public administration, and urban and regional planning programs are selected to be Wilder Graduate Scholars (http://www.wilder.vcu.edu/service/scholars) who undertake yearlong placements in which they benefit from professional work experience and financial support.

At the Wilder School, service is a tradition that is supported and cultivated by a faculty that reflects a tremendous commitment to community-based research. Each semester, VCU faculty offer a diverse selection of credit-bearing service-learning courses that provide students with the privilege of developing hands-on experience within their academic fields while engaging in meaningful projects that benefit local communities.

Guidelines for internships are available on the Wilder School website at wilder.vcu.edu/service/intern/guidelines.html (http://www.wilder.vcu.edu/service/intern/guidelines.html).

Graduate information

Admission

Admission to programs of the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs is available to qualified students on a rolling admissions basis. Since the demand for admission to some programs is high and space availability is limited, students are encouraged to apply well in advance of their proposed admission dates.

As outlined below, admission requirements vary by academic program. No application packet will be considered by the relevant program admissions committee until all the required materials have been submitted by the applicant.

Application forms and instructions for applying to all graduate programs are available on the Graduate School website (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu).

Admission to a master’s program from the certificate programs

The graduate Certificate in Public Management and the graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management are designed for persons in professional positions who require a limited number of courses in contemporary management theory and skills. However, if a student later decides to pursue the M.P.A. degree, successfully completed certificate courses may be applied toward the degree. Successful completion of either certificate does not guarantee admission into the M.P.A. degree program.

The courses in the post-baccalaureate Certificate in Criminal Justice program are the same as the master’s courses and, with grades of B or better and upon acceptance into the master’s degree program, are fully transferable to the Master of Science in Criminal Justice program.

All courses in the Certificate in Urban Revitalization may be applied to meet the requirement of the Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree. However, successful completion of the certificate program does not guarantee admission into the M.U.R.P. degree program.

Provisional admission

In rare cases, applicants who do not meet the requirements for full admission may be accepted provisionally upon recommendation of the program’s admissions committee. The conditions for earning full admission are stated in the provisional acceptance letter sent by the dean of the Graduate School. Conditions usually include the requirement that the student complete the first nine hours of departmental graduate courses with a minimum grade of B in each course.

Provisional admission does not constitute a waiver of the requirement to submit a GRE or other standardized test score.

Continuous enrollment requirements and expectations

To remain in good standing, students must maintain continuous registration for each fall and spring semester (except for approved leaves of absence) until they have completed all requirements. Students who fail to register for two consecutive semesters (summer sessions included) will be dropped automatically from the program and must reapply for admission in order to continue. Exceptions to this policy will be made on an individual basis by petition. Students who reapply after having been dropped for failure to register continuously will be evaluated under the bulletin requirements in effect at the time of readmittance.

A minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale must be maintained. Compliance with other university regulations also is required.

Part-time students

Since the school schedules many of its courses in the late afternoon or evening, its programs accommodate both full- and part-time students. Students also may take advantage of courses offered in the summer. Thus it is possible for a part-time student taking six credit hours per semester to finish the master’s degree in four years or less.

Nondegree-seeking students

Nondegree-seeking students must have an undergraduate degree from an accredited institution and the written approval of the instructor prior to registering for any graduate-level course. Nondegree-seeking students can take no more than six credit hours without authorization from the appropriate program coordinator.

Financial aid information

Information and application forms for financial aid may be secured from the VCU Office of Financial Aid, Harris Hall, 1015 Floyd Ave., First Floor, P.O. Box 843026, Richmond, VA 23284-3026.

The L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs also offers a limited amount of financial assistance. Individuals interested in
such assistance are urged to apply by March 30. Financial assistance available through the school includes:

- **Graduate teaching assistant positions** – Duties involve helping with the instruction of courses. The level of support varies according to the work level, financial need and scholarship.

- **Research assistant positions** – The stipend and number of positions depend upon the level of sponsored research carried out by the school each year.

- **Tuition fellowships** – There are a limited number of tuition fellowships for full-time students in the three master's degree programs.

- **T. Edward Temple Memorial Scholarship Award** – This award of approximately $500 per year is given to an outstanding graduate student in the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program each year.

- **The Senator Edward E. Willey Scholarship, the Virginia City Management Association/University Dr. T. Edward Temple Scholarship and the Leigh E. Grosenick Scholarship** – These scholarships are available to outstanding students in the Master of Public Administration program. Preference for these three scholarships is given to those who plan public careers in Virginia.

- **Internships** – Paid, on-the-job internships are widely available in the Richmond area and elsewhere and are encouraged. VCU graduates also have been successful in obtaining presidential management internships in the federal government, state-government professional positions and local government positions.

**Transfer credit**

With the consent of the admission committee or program coordinator, a maximum of six semester hours of appropriate graduate credit may be transferred and applied toward the Master of Science in Criminal Justice, the Master of Public Administration or the Master of Urban and Regional Planning. These hours will not have been credited toward another degree.

**Schoolwide master’s-level requirements**

In addition to the program-specific requirements of the Master of Public Administration, the Master of Science in Criminal Justice and the Master of Urban and Regional Planning as outlined elsewhere in this bulletin, the Wilder School requires all master’s-level graduate degree-seeking students to acquire competence in four broad areas:

1. Research methods
2. Planning and/or policy analysis
3. Public administration
4. Ethics

Competence can be demonstrated by completion of the following:

**Research methods**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URSP/CRJS/GVPA/</td>
<td>Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 623</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Planning/policy analysis**

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 625</td>
<td>Public Policy Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP/GVPA 632</td>
<td>Planning Theory and Processes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Public administration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 601</td>
<td>Principles of Public Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ETHICS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following options:

**Option A:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA/PHIL 683</td>
<td>Administrative Ethics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Option B:**

A program-specific course through which ethical issues are imbedded and discussed within a public sector context.

Such courses would include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRJS 550</td>
<td>Professional Ethics and Liability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 661</td>
<td>Nonprofit Law, Governance and Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 689</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Administration: Integration of Theory and Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP/GVPA 632</td>
<td>Planning Theory and Processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 635</td>
<td>Legal and Legislative Foundations of Planning</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Selection of courses to meet these competency requirements will be made by the student in consultation with his/her academic adviser. While each graduate of the Wilder School must demonstrate competence in each of the areas outlined above, substitutions for the specific courses may be made with the written approval of the appropriate graduate program coordinator.

**Criminal Justice, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)**

**Program goal**

The Certificate in Criminal Justice is a post-baccalaureate graduate program designed to help facilitate career advancement in the criminal justice and/or criminology field. The program seeks to develop critical-thinking skills among the students through the use of current criminal justice and criminological topics, reports and research findings.

This certificate program offers specialization for individuals interested or involved in law enforcement, corrections, juvenile justice or the courts. It combines survey and theory courses with research, management and policy courses on the justice system. The courses in the certificate program are the same as the master’s courses. With minimum grades of B and upon acceptance into the master’s degree program, these courses are fully transferable to the Master of Science (M.S.) in Criminal Justice degree program.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Students will identify concepts and issues that are relevant and/or appropriate for the research or content area.
2. Students will demonstrate logical connections in concepts, facts and information identified in the literature.
3. Students will be able to solve a problem, write a research paper or make a line of argument on a particular criminal justice topic.
4. Students will be able to exemplify the trivium of learning.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 1 (Mar 1 for financial aid)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Post-baccalaureate Certificate in Criminal Justice program offers an abbreviated graduate-level course sequence of 15 credit hours for individuals with an academic and/or professional background in criminal justice. Applicants must meet all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School. (p. 18)

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), five courses are required for the certificate, as specified in the chart list that follows. To receive the certificate, the student must achieve an average in the five courses, earn no more than one C grade and complete the 15-hour certificate program within three years.

Curriculum requirements

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRJS 501</td>
<td>Principles of Criminal Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRJS/GVPA/PADM/URSP 623</td>
<td>Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Select three of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRJS 550</td>
<td>Professional Ethics and Liability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRJS 616</td>
<td>Justice Policy and Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRJS 641</td>
<td>Jurisprudence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other graduate-level elective (only three credit hours of internship are applicable to the certificate)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 15

Graduate program director

Jay Albanese, Ph.D.
Program chair, Criminal Justice
Email: jsalbane@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-0844

Additional contact

Blythe A. Bowman, Ph.D.
Assistant chair, Criminal Justice
Email: babowman@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-5708

Program website: wilder.vcu.edu/academic/criminal/certificate.html
(http://wilder.vcu.edu/academic/criminal/certificate.html)

Criminal Justice, Master of Science (M.S.)

Program goal

The M.S. degree program in criminal justice assists in broadening and refining the understanding of criminal justice and criminological issues to facilitate career success and advancement. The goal of the program is to develop critical-thinking skills among the students through the use of current criminal justice and criminological topics, reports and research findings.

Student learning outcomes

1. Students will identify concepts and issues that are relevant and/or appropriate for the research or content area.
2. Students will demonstrate logical connections in concepts, facts and information identified in the literature.
3. Students will be able to solve a problem, write a research paper or make a line of argument on a particular criminal justice topic.
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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.

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<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 1 (Mar 1 for financial aid)</td>
<td>GRE, LSAT or GMAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- These deadlines are designed to allow sufficient time for application review and admission processing. Applications may be submitted after the deadline; however, there is no guarantee of sufficient time for processing. Any application submitted too late for current semester processing will be considered for the following semester. Please contact the program chair with specific application questions.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), admission to the Master of Science in Criminal Justice also will be based on:

1. An undergraduate GPA that exceeds 2.7 overall
2. A satisfactory score on the graduate standardized test (GRE, LSAT or GMAT)
3. Previous evidence of ability to perform graduate-level work (where applicable)
4. Professional experience in criminal justice (where applicable)

The courses in the post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Criminal Justice program are the same as the master’s courses. With grades B or better and, upon acceptance into the master’s degree program, courses from the certificate program are fully transferable to the Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree program.

Degree requirements

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the Master of Science in Criminal Justice requires a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours of course work, with a minimum overall grade-point average of 3.0. Students who do not have at least one year of professional-level experience are encouraged to take a three-credit-hour internship as part of the 36 semester hours.

To complete the M.S. curriculum, students must submit a portfolio of their work before they graduate. Contact the program director for format and submission details.

A maximum of nine semester hours of graduate credit from an accredited institution may be transferred and applied toward the master’s degree. All transfer requests require the approval of the graduate program coordinator and the Graduate School and may not have been counted toward another degree.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required courses</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CRJS 501 Principles of Criminal Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRJS 550 Professional Ethics and Liability</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRJS 616 Justice Policy and Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRJS 620 Seminar in Criminology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRJS/GVPA/PADM/URSP 623 Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Gender Violence Intervention, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)

Program mission
The graduate Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention is designed to prepare individuals for positions related to understanding, studying, responding to and preventing sexual and domestic violence in a variety of communities and settings. It provides specialized study in gender violence and can be earned on its own, or in conjunction with another graduate degree in the Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs or the School of Social Work.

Program goals
1. The program will guide students in the development of strong academic understanding related to gender violence intervention.
2. The program will guide students in the development of skills in applying academic concepts to the practice of gender violence intervention.

Student learning outcomes
1. Academic understanding
   a. Students will have knowledge of common types of gender violence.
   b. Students will have knowledge of theoretical perspectives of gender violence.
   c. Students will have knowledge of gender violence policies.
2. Skills
   a. Students will have the ability to demonstrate methods of applying concepts to problems, practice and policy.
   b. Students will demonstrate professional behaviors and boundaries while working in GVI settings and with diverse populations.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)
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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
Certificate Fall Apr 1 (Mar 1 for financial aid)
Spring

Applicants must meet all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18).

Students with a B.A. or B.S. degree are eligible for admission into the certificate program. Relevant course work or practical experience will be considered in evaluating admission and substitution of courses. No more than six hours of substitution or equivalency credit will be granted. An overall GPA of 3.0 is required to receive the certificate, and no more than one grade of C may be earned in the certificate program curriculum.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a total of 15 graduate credit hours is required to earn the Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention. Five courses are required, including an internship (three credit hours) that offers the opportunity for involvement in all phases of work in this field.

Curriculum requirements

Required courses
GVPA 623 Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs 3
GVPA 635 Theorizing Gender Violence 3

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 15

Total Hours 15

Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) [combined]

The combined Master of Social Work and Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention program is a collaborative effort among the L. Douglas Wilder School of Public Affairs, the School of Social Work and community advocates working in the area of sexual and domestic violence. The certificate requires a total of 18 credit hours comprising five required courses and one elective.

To enroll in the Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention simultaneously with the M.S.W., students must complete a graduate application for the certificate program and pay the required fee to Graduate Admissions; however, no supporting information is required for students who are already enrolled in good standing in the M.S.W. program.

Applicants will need to complete an online admission application and select from the drop down menu “GVI Certificate.” Applicants then pay the application fee and attach an essay on why they wish to be in the program. Students should also indicate on the right-hand side of the admission application that they are currently in the M.S.W. program, which will alert the admissions office that the application can be sent directly to the program chair for an admissions decision.

Please arrange for references and transcripts to be forwarded to the Wilder School graduate studies office from the School of Social Work and they will be added to the admission application. Students should indicate in the “Comments” section of the application form that they are already enrolled in the M.S.W. program.

Additional information may be obtained from Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Social Work, P.O. Box 842027, Richmond, VA 23284-2027. Attention: Elizabeth Cramer, Ph.D., [ecramer@vcu.edu; (804) 828-9027], Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention Adviser. Detailed information about the Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention is available from Sarah Jane Brubaker, Ph.D., Wilder School [sbrubaker@vcu.edu; (804) 827-2400]. Certificate courses can be completed after M.S.W. degree requirements have been completed as
long as there is continuous enrollment. All M.S.W. students interested in the certificate should check the course schedule for changes and other course offerings.

See the individual program pages for specific admission requirements, application deadlines, program goals, student learning outcomes, degree requirements and graduation requirements for the M.S.W. and Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention programs.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.W. and Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jul 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Curriculum requirements

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GVPA 623</td>
<td>Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GVPA 693</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 650</td>
<td>Principles of Nonprofit Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 761</td>
<td>Interpersonal Violence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 635</td>
<td>Theorizing Gender Violence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective

Select three elective credits | 3 |

Total Hours | 18 |

1. GVPA 623: satisfied by SLWK 706-SLWK 707 or SLWK 714-SLWK 715 (clinical or social work planning, administrative and policy practice research course [three credit hours]).

2. GVPA 693: satisfied by SLWK 693-SLWK 694, SLWK 695; or SLWK 793-SLWK 794, SLWK 795 (a social work field practicum in an agency providing sexual or domestic violence services [three credit hours]).

3. PADM 650: satisfied by SLWK 602-SLWK 606 (three credit hours).

Field placements

Once students are admitted and enrolled in the certificate program, they should consult the certificate adviser when they choose their field placements to ensure that at least one placement is conducted in a setting that addresses gender violence.

Director, Gender violence intervention program
Email: sbrubaker@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-2400

Additional contact
Simon H. Okoth, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Wilder School
Email: okothsh@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-1430

Program websites: socialwork.vcu.edu (http://socialwork.vcu.edu) and wilder.vcu.edu/academic/certificate/intervention.html (http://wilder.vcu.edu/academic/certificate/intervention.html)

Geographic Information Systems, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)

Program goal

The graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems emphasizes the core functions and applications of GIS. It provides specialized training in the operations and techniques related to the creation, analysis, modeling, visualization, interpretation and management of geographic information.

The certificate program is designed to meet the educational needs of both traditional and nontraditional students. The GIS program prepares traditional students to utilize GIS in their major areas of study. Nontraditional students can also take advantage of the certificate program to learn and/or upgrade GIS knowledge and skills that are applicable and important to their professions.

Student learning outcomes

1. Students should display evidence of having developed a multidisciplinary understanding of urban life.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of, and a willingness to act in accordance with, the ethics and values of the professional.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 1 (Mar 1 for financial aid)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special requirements**

- Only applicants with prior GIS training, course work or work experience are considered for spring admissions. Other applicants should apply for fall admission due to course sequencing and prerequisites.
- These deadlines are designed to allow sufficient time for application review and admission processing. Applications may be submitted after the deadline; however, there is no guarantee of sufficient time for processing. Any application submitted too late for current semester processing will be considered for the following semester.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the prerequisites and general criteria of eligibility for admission to the GIS certificate program include:

1. Completion of an official application form
2. Three letters of reference

3. Letter of intent describing interest in applying for the Certificate in Geographic Information Systems
4. An official transcript showing successful completion of baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university with a minimum grade point average of 2.7 (out of 4.0) in the last 60 hours of undergraduate study

At any time, students in the GIS certificate program may apply for admission into the Master of Urban and Regional Planning, the Master of Public Administration or the Master of Science in Criminal Justice degree programs. If accepted into a master’s program, students may then transfer credits earned in the GIS certificate program toward partial fulfillment of the master’s degree.

**Degree requirements**

The Certificate in Geographic Information Systems can be completed in one academic year. In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete 12 graduate credit hours of GIS course work that includes two required and two elective courses with a minimum grade-point average of 3.0 (out of 4.0).

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required courses</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URSP 621</td>
<td>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems (offered in fall semester)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 625</td>
<td>Spatial Database Management and GIS Modeling (offered in spring semester)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electives</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URSP 622</td>
<td>Community Socioeconomic Analysis Using GIS (offered in fall semester)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 626</td>
<td>Transportation Analytics and Modeling (offered in spring semester)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 627</td>
<td>GIS Applications in Urban Design (offered in spring semester)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 6

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 12**

Other GIS-related courses may be approved by the program chair or certificate program coordinator.

All credits earned in the certificate program are transferable to the Master of Science in Criminal Justice, the Master of Public Administration or the Master of Urban and Regional Planning programs. However, students must apply to the certificate and master’s degree programs separately.

**Sample plan of study**

The following schedule is suggested as a means of completing the certificate program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URSP 621</td>
<td>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One GIS-related elective (see list above) or other approved course</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Term Hours: 6

| Spring semester |
|-----------------|-------|
| | |
| | |
| | |
Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)

Program goal
This certificate program complements a student’s other fields of interest in public and government affairs. The curriculum focuses upon international and domestic security and preparedness issues related to terrorist threats, such as the 9/11 attack, and natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina. Since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, homeland security and emergency preparedness has become a critical aspect of governmental policy at the federal, state and local levels, as well as within the private sector. The L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs believes that a stable and productive evolution of public and private sector policies in this area can only be achieved if academe recognizes and accepts its role in developing scholars, professional policy analysts and informed governmental decision makers.

Student learning outcomes
Students will achieve comprehension of the theory and practice of homeland security and emergency preparedness and be able to analyze policy and synthesize information.

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.graduated.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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<th>Degree</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 1 (Mar 1 for financial aid)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements
- Admission applications that do not have a decision will automatically carry over to the next semester for consideration.

Applicants must meet all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School. (p. 18)

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the graduate certificate program requires 15 credit hours,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URSP 625</td>
<td>Spatial Database Management and GIS Modeling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One GIS-related elective (see list above) or other approved course</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Term Hours: 6
Total Hours: 12

Other GIS-related courses may be approved by the program chair or certificate program coordinator.

Graduate program director
Meghan Z. Gough, Ph.D.
Associate professor and program chair
Email: mzagough@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-0869

Additional contact
Simon H. Okoth, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Wilder School
Email: okothsh@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-1430

Program website: wilder.vcu.edu/academic/certificate/geographic.html (http://www.wilder.vcu.edu/academic/certificate/geographic.html)
comprising five three-credit-hour graduate courses delivered through a combination of online technology and one on-campus session (three days) as described below. The courses offered in the certificate program are the same as those taken by students in the master’s program. With minimum grades of B and upon acceptance into the master’s program, these courses are fully transferable to the Master of Arts in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness degree program.

Online study
Web-based course delivery in an asynchronous format is designed around each course’s own Blackboard site.

On-campus study
During the final week of the semester, the class will have a three-day in-class session from Thursday to Saturday. It will feature presentations and discussion of student projects and papers, as well as lectures, seminar sessions and exercises. Exceptions will be made for students who are unable to attend these sessions, such as active-duty military personnel or emergency managers involved in ongoing operations.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 501</td>
<td>Institutional Challenges of Security Preparedness</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 502</td>
<td>Survey of Terrorism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 601</td>
<td>Emergency Management: Response Planning and Incident Command</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 602</td>
<td>Government, Industry and Community Strategic Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 603</td>
<td>Risk Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 15

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 15

Graduate program director
William V. Pelfrey Jr., Ph.D.
Program chair, Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
Email: wpelfrey@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-8467

Additional contact
Simon H. Okoth, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Wilder School
Email: okothsh@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-1430

Program website: wilder.vcu.edu/academic/certificate/security.html (http://wilder.vcu.edu/academic/certificate/security.html)

Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, Master of Arts (M.A.)

Program goal
The Master of Arts in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness degree program is designed in the broadest interdisciplinary sense. Students will learn theoretical and practical knowledge that will prepare them for private or public sector employment in the expanding area of homeland security and emergency preparedness and/or further study in numerous areas of public policy. The curriculum focuses upon international and domestic security and preparedness issues related to terrorist threats, such as the 9/11 attack, and natural disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina. Since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, homeland security and emergency preparedness has become a critical aspect of governmental policy at the federal, state and local levels as well as within the private sector. The L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs believes that a stable and productive evolution of public and private sector policies in this area can only be achieved if academe recognizes and accepts its role in developing scholars, professional policy analysts and informed governmental decision makers.

The master’s degree is primarily an off-campus, online, distance-learning program. It has both off-campus (online) and on-campus (at VCU) components. VCU’s program takes a broad interdisciplinary approach to preparedness that will give students the ability to see the larger organizational, social, political, ethical and economic aspects of disaster studies, in addition to the policy-making and implementation aspects. The scholarly study of homeland security and emergency preparedness rests at the intersection of national defense, emergency management, law enforcement and policy management. With expertise in criminal justice, geography, government (local, state, federal and foreign), international affairs, policy planning and public administration, the Wilder School is particularly well-suited for such a program. Its location in the state capital and situated just 90 minutes from the nation’s capital also provides easy access to homeland security institutions and practitioners.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will achieve comprehension of the theory and practice of homeland security and emergency preparedness and be able to analyze policy and synthesize information in four key areas: risk and vulnerability analysis, strategic planning dilemmas of disasters and disaster preparedness, institutional coordination, and intelligence operations and legal/constitutional aspects.
2. Students will develop advanced skills in expository writing and oral presentation.
3. Students will achieve comprehension of the theoretical and practical principles of emergency preparedness for both natural disasters and terrorist incidents and be able to analyze key topics related to natural disasters, emergency planning, terrorism and counterterrorism.
4. Students will perform research, policy analysis and risk assessment using several methodological and theoretical approaches to homeland security and emergency preparedness.
5. Students will also be able to evaluate scholarly and practitioner analyses of homeland security and emergency preparedness.

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

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**Degree candidacy requirements**

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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.

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**Graduation requirements**

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<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 1 (Mar 1 for financial aid)</td>
<td>GRE, GMAT, MAT or LSAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>October 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special requirements**

- These deadlines are designed to allow sufficient time for application review and admission processing. Applications may be submitted after the deadline; however, there is no guarantee of sufficient time for processing. Any application submitted too late for current semester processing will be considered for the following semester.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), selection is made on the basis of prior academic performance, professional accomplishments and other indicators of the ability to pursue graduate studies and a professional career in a field related to homeland security and emergency preparedness. The application for admission requires:

1. A transcript documenting the completion of a bachelor’s degree,
2. Three letters of reference (including both academic and professional references if possible)
3. A current resume
4. Satisfactory standardized test score (GRE, GMAT, MAT, LSAT)
5. A minimum 2.7 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) in the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work

Students not meeting these requirements who have demonstrated advanced competency on a professional basis may be admitted to the program provisionally. The provisional period shall consist of the first nine hours of designated graduate work in which all grades must be no less than B. Provisional admission does not constitute a waiver of the requirement related to a standardized test.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours with a cumulative minimum GPA of 3.0.

**Off-campus study**

Web-based course delivery is designed around each course’s own web-based site utilizing the Blackboard education system, which provides the following:

1. Course syllabus
2. Course reference materials and links to supporting websites
3. Course lectures
4. Faculty-student and student-student communications via weekly discussion topics
5. Student writing assignments

Participation in online discussions is mandatory and will count for a significant percentage of each student’s grades. Written work is submitted, evaluated and returned to students via the Blackboard education system assignment function.

**On-campus study**

During the final week of the semester, each class will have a three-day in-class session from Thursday to Saturday. It features presentations and discussion of student projects and papers, as well as lectures, seminar sessions and exercises. These sessions will include the formation of working groups of students from a number of classes in the program. Exceptions will be made for students who are unable to attend these sessions, such as active-duty military personnel or emergency managers involved in ongoing operations with provisions for maximum possible inclusion via electronic means and/or the substitution of additional student assignments equivalent to the on-campus study requirements.

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EGMN 630</td>
<td>Technology, Security and Preparedness</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 501</td>
<td>Institutional Challenges of Security Preparedness</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 502</td>
<td>Survey of Terrorism</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 601</td>
<td>Emergency Management: Response Planning and Incident Command</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 602</td>
<td>Government, Industry and Community Strategic Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 603</td>
<td>Risk Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Program goal
The program mission is to empower community leaders with the knowledge, theory, research and real-world applications needed to creatively solve public issues and shape public policy. The program equips current and future executives, boards, staff and volunteers to lead, govern and manage nonprofit organizations collaboratively, thoughtfully and ethically.

In the graduate Certificate in Nonprofit Management program, students gain knowledge and skills in nonprofit governance, management, fundraising, and program development and evaluation that they will need to become leaders and change agents in this rapidly growing sector. The school welcomes degree applicants from any undergraduate major, as entry- and top-level employees in nonprofit organizations have a wide range of backgrounds, including the sciences and humanities, social sciences, and technology. Courses are scheduled in the evening and on weekends with the working professional in mind.

Student learning outcomes
1. To understand the nonprofit sector’s relationship to the for-profit and government sectors
2. To know how to build a fundraising and donor communication plan model
3. To understand how to budget and evaluate the financial management practices of nonprofit organizations
4. To have the skills to analyze and implement laws impacting nonprofit organizations and their governance

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.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.vcu.edu).
Special requirements

- Students who achieve a minimum GPA of 3.6 in certificate course work in the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs are eligible to apply to the Master of Public Administration program, provided they do so before the completion of the certificate. The student must still formally apply and be admitted to the M.P.A. program. A 3.6 GPA in certificate work does not guarantee admission to the M.P.A. program.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), admission to the certificate program requires the same procedure used in applying to the M.P.A., except that a standardized examination is not required.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the certificate requires a total of 15 graduate credit hours, comprising four courses in the graduate public administration program and one elective. The elective may be from the public administration curriculum or from elsewhere within the school or university.

Curriculum requirements

Required courses
- PADM 650 Principles of Nonprofit Management 3
- PADM 656 Fund Development for the Nonprofit Sector 3
- PADM 659 Financial Management for Nonprofit Organizations 3
- PADM 661 Nonprofit Law, Governance and Ethics 3

Total Hours 12

Elective
Select one of the following: 3
- PADM 583 Effective Managerial Communications
- PADM 584 Planned Organizational Change
- PADM 585 Power, Influence and Organizational Competence
- PADM 591 Topic Seminar
- PADM/GVPA 601 Principles of Public Administration
- PADM 602 Public Administration Theory
- PADM 603 Politics and Economics
- PADM 604 Comparative Public Institutions
- PADM/SOCY 605 Survey Research Methods
- PADM 606 Government Management Models
- PADM 607 Public Human Resource Management
- PADM 609 Financial Management in Government
- PADM 621 Organizational Behavior and Management in Government
- PADM 622 Public Sector Budgeting
- PADM/GVPA/CRJS/URSP 623 Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs
- PADM 624 Quantitative Methods for Public Administration (PADM 623 is a prerequisite for PADM 624)

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 15

Graduate program director
Richard F. Huff, Ph.D.
Program chair, Public Administration
Email: rhuff@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-9813

Additional contact
Simon H. Okoth, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Wilder School
Email: okothsh@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-1430

Program website: wilder.vcu.edu/academic/certificate/nonprofit.html (http://wilder.vcu.edu/academic/certificate/nonprofit.html)
Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.)/Nonprofit Management, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) [combined]

Through a cooperative arrangement with the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, Master of Social Work students pursuing the concentration in administration, planning and policy practice may simultaneously earn the post-baccalaureate graduate certificate in nonprofit management offered by the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs.

Application process

To earn the Certificate in Nonprofit Management simultaneously with the M.S.W., it is necessary to complete a graduate admissions application for the certificate program; however, no supporting documents are required for students who are already enrolled in good standing in the M.S.W. degree program.

Certificate requirements for M.S.W. students

Social work students enrolled in the SWAPPP concentration are required to complete three nonprofit courses: PADM 656, PADM 659 and PADM 661. Two social work SWAPPP courses are substituted for six credit hours of the certificate’s 15 credit-hour requirement. One of these courses is SLWK 712. The second course may be SLWK 711 or SLWK 713.

Note: M.S.W. students pursuing the clinical concentration must complete the entire 15 credit hours required for the Certificate in Nonprofit Management. Any six of the PADM nonprofit credit hours will satisfy the M.S.W. elective requirement for either concentration.

See the individual program pages for specific admission requirements, application deadlines, program goals, student learning outcomes, degree requirements and graduation requirements for the stand-alone M.S.W. and Certificate in Nonprofit Management programs.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 656</td>
<td>Fund Development for the Nonprofit Sector</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 659</td>
<td>Financial Management for Nonprofit Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 661</td>
<td>Nonprofit Law, Governance and Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 712</td>
<td>Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 711</td>
<td>Strategies for Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SLWK 713</td>
<td>Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 15

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) for the Certificate in Nonprofit Management for students in the M.S.W. program SWAPPP concentration 15

Graduate program directors
Melissa L. Abell, Ph.D.
Director, M.S.W. program

Email: mlabell@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-2007

Richard F. Huff, Ph.D.
Program chair, Public Administration
Email: rrhuff@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-9813

Additional contacts
Simon H. Okoth, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Wilder School
Email: okothsh@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-1430

Program websites: socialwork.vcu.edu (http://www.socialwork.vcu.edu) and wilder.vcu.edu/academic/certificate/nonprofit.html (http://www.wilder.vcu.edu/academic/certificate/nonprofit.html)

Public Administration, Master of (M.P.A.), generalist curriculum

Program accreditation
National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration

Program goals

The Master of Public Administration program’s mission supports a “generalist” conception of public administration. This seems quite appropriate as the students come from diverse academic and employment backgrounds and find jobs in a wide variety of government and nonprofit organizations.

M.P.A. students may pursue a generalist curriculum (in which the four elective courses are selected from the M.P.A. program or any department or school at VCU) or an area of concentration. Many students will benefit from the depth in a specific area that a concentration provides. If a student pursues a concentration, the elective courses must come from the approved list of courses for that concentration area.

The program’s mission includes the following goals:

1. Prepare professional public managers, public officials and citizens to meet the challenges of public service in both government and nonprofit sectors
2. Advance the state of knowledge in the field of public administration through scholarly research and publications
3. Serve the profession and local, state, federal and international communities by extending faculty expertise and intellectual resources

Student learning outcomes

1. Students will participate in and contribute to the policy process.
2. Students will lead and manage in public governance.
3. Students will solve problems and make decisions in public governance.
4. Students will communicate and interact with the workforce and citizenry.
5. Students will articulate and apply a public service perspective.
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.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>Apr 1 (Mar 1 for financial aid)</td>
<td>GRE, GMAT, MAT or LSAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- These deadlines are designed to allow sufficient time for application review and admission processing. Applications may be submitted after the deadline; however, there is no guarantee of sufficient time for processing. Any application submitted too late for current semester processing will be considered for the following semester. Please contact the program chair with specific application questions.

Master of Public Administration students may pursue a generalist curriculum (in which elective courses are selected from the M.P.A. program or any department or school at VCU) or an area of concentration (choose the generalist curriculum from the drop-down list of program options when applying online). Many students will benefit from the depth in a specific area that a concentration provides.

Students who may benefit from in-depth study in a specific area have the flexibility to build a concentration tailored to their interest. Students who wish to pursue a concentration should declare it no later than the completion of their 12th credit hour. To declare, students should submit the M.P.A. form “Plan of Study and Concentration Declaration” (found in Appendix B of the M.P.A. handbook) to the program chair. This form ensures the concentration will be listed on the student’s official graduation transcript.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), selection is made on the basis of prior academic performance, professional accomplishments and other indicators of the ability to pursue graduate studies and a professional career in public management successfully. Specifically, the application for admission requires a transcript documenting the completion of a bachelor’s degree, three letters of reference (including both academic and professional references if possible), a current resume and a satisfactory standardized test score (GRE, GMAT, MAT or LSAT). Students submitting LSAT scores must have taken an undergraduate math course (algebra, statistics or finite mathematics) and passed with a minimum grade of C.

No applicant will be considered for admission to the M.P.A. program within two years of having been terminated from the program or of having been rejected for admission to the program.

Degree requirements

The Master of Public Administration program is designed to meet the graduate educational needs of pre-service and in-service professionals for careers in public management and analysis in the public and nonprofit sectors. The degree requires a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours (39 credit hours for students with less than one year of experience in the public or nonprofit sector). In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), M.P.A. students must meet the following requirements:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours, as approved, with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0. Students who do not have at least one year of professional-level experience in the public sector or in a nonprofit agency are required to earn three additional hours of credit in a public service practicum/internship (for a total of 39 graduate credit hours for the degree).

2. Students may have no more than two C grades to graduate. Students who earn a D or F in a course will be dismissed from the program.
3. Students who are required to take the practicum/internship will usually do so during the summer between the first and second years or during the last semester of course work. The practicum must include a minimum of 300 hours as required by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. The scheduling of the practicum will be flexible enough to accommodate the needs of those students who pursue the degree on a part-time basis. Each practicum will be negotiated between VCU and the host agency, including the scope of work to be performed by the student, the type and extent of supervision, both within the agency and from the university, and the stipend. A learning contract will be executed among the department, the agency and the student. A written student project is required to complete the internship.

4. All students are required to complete the courses in the core curriculum unless competence in the subject matter can be demonstrated on the basis of previous experience or course work. Course work that is waived must be replaced by approved substitutions in order to meet the minimum 36 (or 39) graduate credit hours required for the degree.

### Curriculum requirements

#### Core courses (required)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 601</td>
<td>Principles of Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 602</td>
<td>Public Administration Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 607</td>
<td>Public Human Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 609</td>
<td>Financial Management in Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA/CRJS/URSP 623</td>
<td>Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 624</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods for Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 625</td>
<td>Public Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 689</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Administration: Integration of Theory and Practice (capstone)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PADM 690</td>
<td>Reading Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**: 24

#### Generalist curriculum electives

Select four courses from the following public administration curriculum:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 583</td>
<td>Effective Managerial Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 584</td>
<td>Planned Organizational Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 585</td>
<td>Power, Influence and Organizational Competence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 591</td>
<td>Topic Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 603</td>
<td>Politics and Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 604</td>
<td>Comparative Public Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/SOCY 605</td>
<td>Survey Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 606</td>
<td>Government Management Models</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 621</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior and Management in Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 622</td>
<td>Public Sector Budgeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 626</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Relations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 627</td>
<td>Workshop in Policy Analysis and Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/ENVS 628</td>
<td>Environmental Policy and Administration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 12

### Internship

The following is required for students with less than one year of professional experience in the public or nonprofit sector:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GVPA 693</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>0-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**: 0-3

### Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 36 or 39

Graduate program director

Richard F. Huff, Ph.D.
Chair, Public Administration
Email: r (nbstuts@vcu.edu)rhuff@vcu.edu (rrhuff@vcu.edu)
Phone: (804) 828-9813

Additional contact

Simon H. Okoth, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Wilder School
Email: okothsh@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-1430

Program website: wilder.vcu.edu/academic/pubadmin.html (http://wilder.vcu.edu/academic/pubadmin.html)

**Public Administration, Master of (M.P.A.) with a concentration in financial management**

Program accreditation
National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration

Program goals
The mission of the Master of Public Administration Program is to develop creative, principled leaders who understand the demands placed upon local, national and global public and nonprofit institutions and are equipped with skills in program management and policy analysis. Applying theory and practice, the program addresses complex social problems while advancing collaborative, effective, equitable, and ethical democratic governance.

The Master of Public Administration program’s mission supports a “generalist” conception of public administration. This seems quite appropriate as the students come from diverse academic and employment backgrounds and find jobs in a wide variety of government and nonprofit organizations.

M.P.A. students may pursue a generalist curriculum (in which the four elective courses are selected from the M.P.A. program or any department or school at VCU) or an area of concentration. Many students will benefit from the depth in a specific area that a concentration provides. If a student pursues a concentration, the elective courses must come from the approved list of courses for that concentration area.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students will participate in and contribute to the policy process.
2. Students will lead and manage in public governance.
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Degree candidacy requirements
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements
- These deadlines are designed to allow sufficient time for application review and admission processing. Applications may be submitted after the deadline; however, there is no guarantee of sufficient time for processing. Any application submitted too late for current semester processing will be considered for the following semester. Please contact the program chair with specific application questions.

Master of Public Administration students may pursue a generalist curriculum (in which elective courses are selected from the M.P.A. program or any department or school at VCU) or an area of concentration (choose the generalist curriculum from the drop-down list of program options when applying online). Many students will benefit from the depth in a specific area that a concentration provides.

Students who may benefit from in-depth study in a specific area have the flexibility to build a concentration tailored to their interest. Students who wish to pursue a concentration should declare it no later than the completion of their 12th credit hour. To declare, students should submit the M.P.A. form “Plan of Study and Concentration Declaration” (found in Appendix B of the M.P.A. handbook) to the program chair. This form ensures the concentration will be listed on the student’s official graduation transcript.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), selection is made on the basis of prior academic
performance, professional accomplishments and other indicators of the ability to pursue graduate studies and a professional career in public management successfully. Specifically, the application for admission requires a transcript documenting the completion of a bachelor’s degree, three letters of reference (including both academic and professional references if possible), a current resume and a satisfactory standardized test score (GRE, GMAT, MAT or LSAT). Students submitting LSAT scores must have taken an undergraduate math course (algebra, statistics or finite mathematics) and passed with a minimum grade of C.

No applicant will be considered for admission to the M.P.A. program within two years of having been terminated from the program or of having been rejected for admission to the program.

Degree requirements
The Master of Public Administration program is designed to meet the graduate educational needs of pre-service and in-service professionals for careers in public management and analysis in the public and nonprofit sectors. The degree requires a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours (39 credit hours for students with less than one year of experience in the public or nonprofit sector). In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), M.P.A. students must meet the following requirements:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours, as approved, with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0. Students who do not have at least one year of professional-level experience in the public sector or in a nonprofit agency are required to earn three additional hours of credit in a public service practicum/internship (for a total of 39 graduate credit hours for the degree).
2. Students may have no more than two C grades to graduate. Students who earn a D or F in a course will be dismissed from the program.
3. Students who are required to take the practicum/internship will usually do so during the summer between the first and second years or during the last semester of course work. The practicum must include a minimum of 300 hours as required by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. The scheduling of the practicum will be flexible enough to accommodate the needs of those students who pursue the degree on a part-time basis. Each practicum will be negotiated between VCU and the host agency, including the scope of work to be performed by the student, the type and extent of supervision, both within the agency and from the university, and the stipend. A learning contract will be executed among the department, the agency and the student. A written student project is required to complete the internship.
4. All students are required to complete the courses in the core curriculum unless competence in the subject matter can be demonstrated on the basis of previous experience or course work. Course work that is waived must be replaced by approved substitutions in order to meet the minimum 36 (or 39) graduate credit hours required for the degree.

Curriculum requirements

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</thead>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 602 Public Administration Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 607 Public Human Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 609 Financial Management in Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA/CRJS/URSP 623 Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required concentration course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 622 Public Sector Budgeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration electives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Select three of the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 609 Advanced International Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 616 Advanced Public Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 661 Information Systems for Managers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 642 Grants Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 662 Advanced Topics in Revenue and Taxation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 691 Topics in Public Administration (governmental fund accounting, assessing performance of government programs, performance management)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 With the approval of the public administration program chair, other appropriate courses may be applied toward the concentration.

Internship
The following is required for students with less than one year of professional experience in the public or nonprofit sector:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GVPA 693 Internship</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 36 or 39

Graduate program director
Richard F. Huff, Ph.D.
Program chair, Public Administration
Email: rrhuff@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-9813

Additional contact
Simon H. Okoth, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Wilder School
Email: okothsh@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-1430

Program website: wilder.vcu.edu/academic/pubadmin.html

Public Administration, Master of (M.P.A.) with a concentration in human resource management

Program accreditation
National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration
**Program goals**

The mission of the Master of Public Administration Program is to develop creative, principled leaders who understand the demands placed upon local, national and global public and nonprofit institutions and are equipped with skills in program management and policy analysis. Applying theory and practice, the program addresses complex social problems while advancing collaborative, effective, equitable, and ethical democratic governance.

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**Student learning outcomes**

1. Students will participate in and contribute to the policy process.
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**Degree candidacy requirements**

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<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
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<th>Core courses (required)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 601 Principles of Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>PADM 602 Public Administration Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 607 Public Human Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 609 Financial Management in Government</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA/CRJS/URSP 623 Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 624 Quantitative Methods for Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 625 Public Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 689 Seminar in Public Administration: Integration of Theory and Practice (capstone) or PADM 690 Reading Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Total Hours** 24

**Human resource management concentration**

**Required concentration course**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required concentration course</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 682 Advanced Public Human Resources Management</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Concentration electives**

Select three of the following: 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration electives</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADLT 601 Adult Learning and Development</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADLT 610 Consulting Skills In Adult Learning Environments</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ADLT 621 Skills Development for Human Resource Development</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 625 Group Insurance and Pension Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 637 Advanced Human Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 680 Health, Safety and Security Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 682 Human Resource Staffing</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MGMT 684 Issues in International Human Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 637 Organic Human Resources Management</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 682 Advanced Public Human Resources Management</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 646 Legal Foundations of Employment</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 677 Quality Management and Six Sigma</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Total Hours** 12

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<th></th>
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<td>GVPA 693 Internship</td>
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**Total Hours** 0-3

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 36 or 39**

**Graduate program director**

Richard F. Huff, Ph.D.
Program chair, Public Administration
Email: rhuff@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-9813

**Additional contact**

Simon H. Okoth, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Wilder School
Email: okothsh@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-1430
Public Administration, Master of (M.P.A.) with a concentration in nonprofit management

Program website: wilder.vcu.edu/academic/pubadmin.html

Program accreditation
National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration

Program goals
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**Curriculum requirements**

**Core courses (required)**

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<tr>
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<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 602</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 624</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods for Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 625</td>
<td>Public Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 659</td>
<td>Financial Management for Nonprofit Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 689</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Administration: Integration of Theory and Practice (capstone)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PADM 690</td>
<td>Reading Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 24

1 This course replaces PADM 609 for those seeking the nonprofit management concentration only.

**Nonprofit management concentration**

**Required concentration courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 650</td>
<td>Principles of Nonprofit Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADM 661</td>
<td>Nonprofit Law, Governance and Ethics</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Concentration electives**

Select two of the following: 1

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 654</td>
<td>Program Design and Evaluation in the Nonprofit Sector</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 656</td>
<td>Fund Development for the Nonprofit Sector</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 657</td>
<td>Nonprofit Advocacy and Government Relations</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 15

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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GVPA 693</td>
<td>Internship</td>
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Total Hours: 0-3

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**Graduate program director**

Richard F. Huff, Ph.D.
Program chair, Public Administration
Email: rrhuff@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-9813

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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), selection is made on the basis of prior academic performance, professional accomplishments and other indicators of the ability to pursue graduate studies and a professional career in public management successfully. Specifically, the application for admission requires a transcript documenting the completion of a bachelor’s degree, three letters of reference (including both academic and professional references if possible), a current resume and a satisfactory standardized test score (GRE, GMAT, MAT or LSAT). Students submitting LSAT scores must have taken an undergraduate math course (algebra, statistics or finite mathematics) and passed with a minimum grade of C.

No applicant will be considered for admission to the M.P.A. program within two years of having been terminated from the program or of having been rejected for admission to the program.

**Degree requirements**

The Master of Public Administration program is designed to meet the graduate educational needs of pre-service and in-service professionals for careers in public management and analysis in the public and nonprofit sectors. The degree requires a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours (39 credit hours for students with less than one year of experience in the public or nonprofit sector). In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), M.P.A. students must meet the following requirements:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours, as approved, with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0. Students who do not have at least one year of professional-level experience in the public sector or in a nonprofit agency are required to earn three additional hours of credit in a public service practicum/internship (for a total of 39 graduate credit hours for the degree).

2. Students may have no more than two C grades to graduate. Students who earn a D or F in a course will be dismissed from the program.

3. Students who are required to take the practicum/internship will usually do so during the summer between the first and second years or during the last semester of course work. The practicum must include a minimum of 300 hours as required by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. The scheduling of the practicum will be flexible enough to accommodate the needs of those students who pursue the degree on a part-time basis. Each practicum will be negotiated between VCU and the host agency, including the scope of work to be performed by the student, the type and extent of supervision, both within the agency and from the university, and the stipend. A learning contract will be executed among the department, the agency and the student. A written student project is required to complete the internship.

4. All students are required to complete the courses in the core curriculum unless competence in the subject matter can be demonstrated on the basis of previous experience or course work. Course work that is waived must be replaced by approved substitutions in order to meet the minimum 36 (or 39) graduate credit hours required for the degree.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Core courses (required)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 601</td>
<td>Principles of Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 602</td>
<td>Public Administration Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 607</td>
<td>Public Human Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 609</td>
<td>Financial Management in Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA/CRJS/URSP 623</td>
<td>Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 624</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods for Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 625</td>
<td>Public Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 689</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Administration: Integration of Theory and Practice (capstone)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PADM 690</td>
<td>Reading Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**

24

**Public policy and analysis evaluation concentration**

Select four of the following: 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 612</td>
<td>Econometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 642</td>
<td>Panel and Nonlinear Methods in Econometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 614</td>
<td>Data Mining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INFO 661</td>
<td>Information Systems for Managers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/URSP 630</td>
<td>Strategic Planning and Management in the Public Sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 654</td>
<td>Program Design and Evaluation in the Nonprofit Sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 723</td>
<td>Survey Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 645</td>
<td>Management Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCMA 669</td>
<td>Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 602</td>
<td>Policy, Community and Organizational Practice I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 606</td>
<td>Policy, Community and Organizational Practice II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 710</td>
<td>Concentration Social Policy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**

12

1 With the approval of the public administration program chair, other appropriate courses may be applied toward the concentration.

**Internship**

The following is required for students with less than one year of professional experience in the public or nonprofit sector:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GVPA 693</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**

0-3

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 36 or 39**

**Graduate program director**

Richard F. Huff, Ph.D.
Program chair, Public Administration
Email: rrhuff@vcu.edu
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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.P.A.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 1 (Mar 1 for financial aid)</td>
<td>GRE, GMAT, MAT or LSAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special requirements**

- These deadlines are designed to allow sufficient time for application review and admission processing. Applications may be submitted after the deadline; however, there is no guarantee of sufficient time for processing. Any application submitted too late for current semester processing will be considered for the following semester. Please contact the program chair with specific application questions.
Master of Public Administration students may pursue a generalist curriculum (in which elective courses are selected from the M.P.A. program or any department or school at VCU) or an area of concentration (choose the generalist curriculum from the drop-down list of program options when applying online). Many students will benefit from the depth in a specific area that a concentration provides.

Students who may benefit from in-depth study in a specific area have the flexibility to build a concentration tailored to their interest. Students who wish to pursue a concentration should declare it no later than the completion of their 12th credit hour. To declare, students should submit the M.P.A. form “Plan of Study and Concentration Declaration” (found in Appendix B of the M.P.A. handbook) to the program chair. This form ensures the concentration will be listed on the student’s official graduation transcript.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), selection is made on the basis of prior academic performance, professional accomplishments and other indicators of the ability to pursue graduate studies and a professional career in public management successfully. Specifically, the application for admission requires a transcript documenting the completion of a bachelor’s degree, three letters of reference (including both academic and professional references if possible), a current resume and a satisfactory standardized test score (GRE, GMAT, MAT or LSAT). Students submitting LSAT scores must have taken an undergraduate math course (algebra, statistics or finite mathematics) and passed with a minimum grade of C.

No applicant will be considered for admission to the M.P.A. program within two years of having been terminated from the program or of having been rejected for admission to the program.

**Degree requirements**

The Master of Public Administration program is designed to meet the graduate educational needs of pre-service and in-service professionals for careers in public management and analysis in the public and nonprofit sectors. The degree requires a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours (39 credit hours for students with less than one year of experience in the public or nonprofit sector). In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), M.P.A. students must meet the following requirements:

1. Students must complete a minimum of 36 graduate credit hours, as approved, with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0. Students who do not have at least one year of professional-level experience in the public sector or in a nonprofit agency are required to earn three additional hours of credit in a public service practicum/internship (for a total of 39 graduate credit hours for the degree).
2. Students may have no more than two C grades to graduate. Students who earn a D or F in a course will be dismissed from the program.
3. Students who are required to take the practicum/internship will usually do so during the summer between the first and second years or during the last semester of course work. The practicum must include a minimum of 300 hours as required by the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration. The scheduling of the practicum will be flexible enough to accommodate the needs of those students who pursue the degree on a part-time basis. Each practicum will be negotiated between VCU and the host agency, including the scope of work to be performed by the student, the type and extent of supervision, both within the agency and from the university, and the stipend. A learning contract will be executed among the department, the agency and the student. A written student project is required to complete the internship.
4. All students are required to complete the courses in the core curriculum unless competence in the subject matter can be demonstrated on the basis of previous experience or course work. Course work that is waived must be replaced by approved substitutions in order to meet the minimum 36 (or 39) graduate credit hours required for the degree.

### Curriculum requirements

**Core courses (required)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 601</td>
<td>Principles of Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 602</td>
<td>Public Administration Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 607</td>
<td>Public Human Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 609</td>
<td>Financial Management in Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA/CRJS/URSP 623</td>
<td>Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 624</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods for Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 625</td>
<td>Public Policy Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 689</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Administration: Integration of Theory and Practice (capstone)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PADM 690</td>
<td>Reading Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 24

**State and local government management concentration**

**Required concentration course**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 664</td>
<td>Local Government Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Concentration electives**

Select three of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GVPA 672</td>
<td>Social Equity and Public Policy Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/URSP 630</td>
<td>Strategic Planning and Management in the Public Sector</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 664</td>
<td>Local Government Administration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 682</td>
<td>Advanced Public Human Resources Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 625</td>
<td>Urban Sociology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 541</td>
<td>Urban Public Policy-making Processes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP/GVPA 632</td>
<td>Planning Theory and Processes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 635</td>
<td>Legal and Legislative Foundations of Planning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 662</td>
<td>Foundations for Development Planning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 12

With the approval of the public administration program chair, other appropriate courses may be applied toward the concentration.

**Internship**

The following is required for students with less than one year of professional experience in the public or nonprofit sector:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GVPA 693</td>
<td>Internship</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 0-3

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 36 or 39**

Graduate program director

Richard F. Huff, Ph.D.
This program permits selected students to earn the B.A. and M.P.A. in a minimum of five years by taking certain master’s-level courses during the senior year of their undergraduate program. The program is restricted to students with strong credentials and a clear interest in careers in the public or nonprofit sector. To be eligible, students must have completed 90 credit hours of undergraduate course work and have an overall GPA of 3.0, with a GPA of 3.3 in political science courses. The accelerated program is limited to students majoring in political science who have a minimum of 9 credit hours in political science courses.

To be considered for acceptance into the program and before enrolling in 600-level M.P.A. courses, students must complete the application to graduate study, submit standardized test scores and supply the supporting information required for admission. Upon being accepted into the accelerated program, students must meet the same standards of performance as a graduate student that are described in detail in the “Satisfactory academic progress (p. 39)” section of the Graduate Bulletin, must maintain a 3.0 GPA and must satisfactorily complete all of the requirements for the degree, as stated in this bulletin. Guidance to students admitted to the accelerated program is provided by the public administration program director. Students should contact the M.P.A. graduate director for more information about admission procedures.

To graduate with a bachelor’s degree, a student must complete 120 credit hours of course work. Of these credits, 33 must be in political science. Of the 33 political science credit hours, the following 15 are required:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLI 103</td>
<td>U.S. Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI/INTL 105</td>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 107</td>
<td>Political Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 109</td>
<td>Comparative Politics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI 490</td>
<td>Senior Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students enrolled in the accelerated program may take up to six credits of graduate public administration courses in each of the final two semesters of their undergraduate course work. These courses are shared credit hours with the graduate program, meaning that they will be applied toward the undergraduate degree requirement and the graduate degree requirement. A maximum of 12 credit hours may be taken prior to the completion of the baccalaureate degree. The bachelor’s degree will be awarded when the student has completed all requirements for the undergraduate degree, which may include the 12 graduate public administration credit hours.

The graduate courses that may be taken in the public administration program once a student is admitted to the accelerated program are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 601</td>
<td>Principles of Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 602</td>
<td>Public Administration Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 607</td>
<td>Public Human Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 609</td>
<td>Financial Management in Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA/CRJS/URSP 623</td>
<td>Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 624</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods for Public Administration (or a PADM elective course)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 650</td>
<td>Principles of Nonprofit Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

All accelerated program students must have their course schedules approved by the graduate public administration program director prior to registration.

**Graduate program director**
Richard F. Huff, Ph.D.
Program chair, Public Administration
Email: rhuff@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-9813

**Additional contact**
Simon H. Okoth, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Wilder School
Email: okothsh@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-1430

**Program website:** wilder.vcu.edu/academic/pubadmin.html (http://wilder.vcu.edu/academic/pubadmin.html)

### Public Administration, Master of (M.P.A.)/ Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the University of Richmond [combined]

**Program accreditation**
National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration

A cooperative arrangement with the University of Richmond School of Law makes it possible for students to receive a law degree from the University of Richmond and the Master of Public Administration from VCU. The dual degree program is designed to provide its graduates with competency in both public administration and law. This competency is applicable to areas of practice drawing upon knowledge and skills from each of these fields. The program brings together persons interested in both the broader aspects of public policy and government affairs and the law. It also brings together two fields that require complementary knowledge and skills that may be directed toward solving problems that are associated with the affairs of the government and nonprofit sectors. This integration of education in public administration and law draws
on the contributions that each discipline can make to a professional knowledge base for practice in both fields.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Application process**

Interested students must apply separately for and be admitted to the T.C. Williams School of Law at the University of Richmond and the Master of Public Administration program at VCU. Students who are accepted into the dual degree program are permitted to apply 12 credit hours of work in the M.P.A. degree program toward meeting the graduation requirements in the T.C. Williams School of Law and up to 12 credit hours of work in the University of Richmond law school toward meeting the graduation requirements for the M.P.A. This credit application enables participants in the dual degree program to complete the requirements for the J.D. and the M.P.A. in an estimated four years of full-time course work. Applicants for this program are required to meet all admission and academic standards of the T.C. Williams School of Law of the University of Richmond, the VCU Graduate School and the M.P.A. program.

**Graduate program director**
Richard F. Huff, Ph.D.
Program chair, Public Administration
Email: rhuff@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-9813

**Additional contact**
Simon H. Okoth, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Wilder School
Email: okothsh@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-1430

**Program website:** wilder.vcu.edu/academic/combined/masterpubadmin.html (http://wilder.vcu.edu/academic/combined/masterpubadmin.html)

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**Public Management, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)**

**Program goal**
The graduate certificate in public management is a program designed to enable practitioners in government and nonprofit organizations to acquire knowledge and skills in public administration without pursuing a full master’s degree.

**Student learning outcomes**
1. Students will participate in and contribute to the policy process.
2. Students will lead and manage in public governance.
3. Students will articulate and apply a public service perspective.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 1 (Mar 1 for financial aid)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special requirements**
- Students who achieve a minimum GPA of 3.6 in certificate course work in the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs are eligible to apply to the Master of Public Administration program, provided they do so before the completion of the certificate. The student must still formally apply and be admitted to the M.P.A.
In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), admission to the certificate program requires the same procedure in applying to the M.P.A., except that a standardized examination is not required.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the certificate requires a total of 18 hours of graduate credit hours involving a mix of required and elective courses. The courses are the same as those offered to M.P.A. students.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Required courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 601</td>
<td>Principles of Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 607</td>
<td>Public Human Resource Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 609</td>
<td>Financial Management in Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

Select three elective courses from the following: 9

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 583</td>
<td>Effective Managerial Communications</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 584</td>
<td>Planned Organizational Change</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 585</td>
<td>Power, Influence and Organizational Competence</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 591</td>
<td>Topic Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADM 602</td>
<td>Public Administration Theory</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADM 603</td>
<td>Politics and Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADM 604</td>
<td>Comparative Public Institutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADM/SOCY 605</td>
<td>Survey Research Methods</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADM 606</td>
<td>Government Management Models</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADM 621</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior and Management in Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADM 622</td>
<td>Public Sector Budgeting</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA/CRJS/URSP 623</td>
<td>Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 624</td>
<td>Quantitative Methods for Public Administration (PADM 623 is a prerequisite for PADM 624)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/GVPA 625</td>
<td>Public Policy Analysis</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 626</td>
<td>Intergovernmental Relations</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 627</td>
<td>Workshop in Policy Analysis and Evaluation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM/ENVS 628</td>
<td>Environmental Policy and Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADM/URSP 630</td>
<td>Strategic Planning and Management in the Public Sector</td>
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<td>PADM 637</td>
<td>Organic Human Resources Management</td>
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<td>PADM 642</td>
<td>Grants Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADM 650</td>
<td>Principles of Nonprofit Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>PADM 652</td>
<td>Administrative Law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 654</td>
<td>Program Design and Evaluation in the Nonprofit Sector</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 18**

**Graduate program director**

Richard F. Huff, Ph.D.

Program chair, Public Administration

Email: rrhuff@vcu.edu

Phone: (804) 828-9813

**Additional contact**

Simon H. Okoth, Ph.D.

Director of graduate studies, Wilder School

Email: okothsh@vcu.edu

Phone: (804) 827-1430

**Program website:** wilder.vcu.edu/academic/certificate/public.html (http://wilder.vcu.edu/academic/certificate/public.html)

**Public Policy and Administration, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

**Program mission**

The mission of the Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration program is to provide students with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to conduct original and scholarly research in academic institutions, governmental agencies and public policy research institutions. The purpose of the program is to prepare students for scholarly and leadership roles in government, universities, research organizations and other settings where knowledge and research skills in public policy and administration are needed. The doctoral program is committed to accomplishing this mission by creating an intellectually vibrant atmosphere for scholarship involving an active faculty from a broad
Program goals

1. Enable students to develop expertise in a particular area of public policy
2. Enable students to apply their knowledge and skills in order to conduct original and scholarly research

Student learning outcomes

1. Students will be able to expertly apply public policy theories, integrating relevant ideas, concepts and approaches from the humanities, social sciences, law and public administration to policy analysis, formulation and implementation.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate mastery of a particular area of public policy.
3. Students will be able to formulate appropriate research questions related to public policy and apply methodological knowledge to develop an appropriate research design for a research proposal.
4. Students will be able to conduct original and scholarly research on public policy issues.

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.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 requirements as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Dec 15 for assistantships</td>
<td>GRE, GMAT, MAT or LSAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 30 final date for admission consideration</td>
<td>International applicants TOEFL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- Master’s degree, J.D. or M.D. from an accredited university. Graduate assistantships are only awarded for fall admission. For students wishing to be considered for a limited number of fellowships, materials must be received no later than Dec. 15. Spring admissions are considered exceptions and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Admission is open to qualified persons without regard to age, physical disability, national origin, race, religion or gender. Admission is competitive. The admission process is intended to assure a reasonable fit between the student’s professional and research interests and faculty expertise. Consequently, otherwise qualified applicants may be denied admission.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the program must hold a master’s degree or a recognized post-baccalaureate degree in one of the professions such as law or medicine from an accredited institution of higher education. A standardized test score, fewer than five years old, is required. Accepted examinations include the Graduate Record Examination, the Graduate Management Admissions Test, the Miller Analogies Test and the Law School Admissions Test and the Test of English as a Foreign Language for international students. Professional experience is not required, but is considered desirable.

In order to apply for admission to the Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration program, prospective students must submit:

1. A VCU application for graduate study
2. Transcripts from all previous colleges or universities
3. Scores from a standardized examination (GRE, GMAT, MAT or LSAT and TOEFL for international students)
4. Three letters of reference
5. A personal statement describing reasons for applying to the program
6. A current professional resume

**Admission standards**

Applicants are evaluated based on the entire admission package; however, the following provides some guidelines for a competitive application.

1. Cumulative minimum GPA of 3.6 (on a four-point scale) or equivalent for graduate-level work
2. Standardized examination scores less than five years old (GRE preferred)
3. Three references – a minimum of one academic recommendation attesting to the applicant’s ability to succeed in doctoral-level work
4. Personal statement, resume, curriculum vitae that:
   a. Clearly articulates the applicant’s academic research interests whereby a decision can be made as to the applicant’s “fit” with the program
   b. Shows a clear indication of a faculty match and expertise for the applicant’s research interests
   c. Displays enthusiasm for the field of public policy and administration
   d. Is well-written and error-free
5. All students admitted to the program must have completed prior to admission, or are required to complete during the first year, the following graduate-level courses (or their equivalents):
   b. Statistics (equivalent of PADM 624)
   c. Public policy, economics or administration/management

The primary admission deadline is Jan. 30 for enrollment to begin the following fall semester; however, materials must be received no later than Dec. 15 from those students wishing to be considered for assistantships. A small number of special admissions may be offered (Oct. 15 application deadline) for entry the following spring semester; however, these are considered on a case-by-case basis. Assistantships are only offered to those admitted to the program and justifying early admission. If the request for early consideration is not accepted, the application will be held over to the Jan. 30 application deadline for consideration for the following fall semester; however, materials must be received no later than Dec. 15 from those students wishing to be considered for assistantships.

While VCU Graduate School policy allows up to six credit hours of course work to be taken as a nondegree-seeking student prior to formal admission, taking such courses in no way guarantees admission to the program. Also, transfer credit hours are only considered for elective courses. Core courses must be taken at VCU.

Application information is available from the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs Office of Graduate Advising or the Graduate Admissions Office. International applicant information and materials are available from International Admissions (http://international.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Curriculum requirements**

**Core courses (required)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 711</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Policy I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 712</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Policy II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 721</td>
<td>Survey of Applied Research Methods in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 722</td>
<td>Survey of Data Analysis Techniques in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 780</td>
<td>Synthesizing Seminar in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**: 15

**Concentration courses**

All students will select a concentration after the first year of study and after passing the comprehensive examination. They will take four courses in one of the following areas of concentration. Courses will be selected from a list designated by the concentration committee for each area. The concentration committee will approve the program of study for each student in the concentration.

Select four courses in one of the following concentrations: 12

- Criminal justice policy
- Public administration
- Public policy
- Urban and regional policy

**Total Hours**: 12

Refer to the program search function of the online VCU Bulletins for a complete description of concentration requirements.

**Electives outside of the concentration**

Students will take at least three elective courses outside the concentration with the approval of their advisers. Students may take courses at the 500-level or higher from other Ph.D. concentration areas (as listed under each concentration) and other programs, such as homeland security and emergency preparedness, criminal justice, public administration and urban and regional planning within the Wilder School.
In addition, students may choose elective courses from among the following three-credit courses:

Select three of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 544</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 544</td>
<td>Statistical Methods II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Econometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 612</td>
<td>Econometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 641</td>
<td>Econometric Time-series Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 642</td>
<td>Panel and Nonlinear Methods in Econometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 711</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 661</td>
<td>Themes in Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 603</td>
<td>Public Health Policy and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 602</td>
<td>Feminist Research Epistemology and Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 622</td>
<td>Women and Public Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 763</td>
<td>Applied Health Services Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 701</td>
<td>Health Services Research and Policy I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 702</td>
<td>Health Services Research and Policy II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTL/NURS 514</td>
<td>International Perspectives on Community Health in Developing Countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 613</td>
<td>Mass Media and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATX 601</td>
<td>Texts and Textuality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 770</td>
<td>Quantitative Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 772</td>
<td>Qualitative Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER/STAT 636</td>
<td>Machine Learning Algorithms</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
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Dissertation Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 898</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (minimum nine credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
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</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 45

Qualifying examinations

After completing all of the core courses in the Ph.D. program, each student takes a comprehensive qualifying examination on the core. The examination is designed to evaluate the mastery students have achieved over the body of knowledge represented by the core. It is intended to measure the ability of students to organize, integrate and creatively apply the knowledge in the field to important problems. Although organized around the courses in the core, the examination is not restricted to material covered in those courses. It is expected that doctoral students will read well beyond the confines of individual courses.

In order to continue in the program, students must attempt the qualifying examination no later than the next regular semester following the completion of the core course requirements. They must pass the exam by the end of the second regular semester after completing the core course requirements. A student may attempt the examination twice. Examinations are offered twice per year.

A student also must take a written or oral comprehensive examination in the concentration. The concentration faculty will determine the form of the examination. A student may attempt the examination twice.

Each student must pass this second examination before defending a dissertation proposal.

Dissertation

After completing all course work for the concentration and passing both qualifying examinations, students must prepare a dissertation involving original research that contributes to the body of knowledge in the field. A committee approved by the associate dean of the Wilder School supervises the dissertation work. The chair of the committee must be appointed as graduate faculty and be a core or affiliate faculty member of the Ph.D. program.

The first formal step in the dissertation process is the development and defense of a dissertation prospectus that frames the problem to be studied, provides background on the problem, presents a review of relevant literature and justifies the methodology to be used. The defense of the prospectus as well as the completed dissertation must be presented orally and be approved by the dissertation committee. The dissertation defense is conducted in a forum open to other students and faculty.

Sample plan of study

Year one

Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 711</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Policy I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 717</td>
<td>Law and Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 721</td>
<td>Survey of Applied Research Methods in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>9</td>
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</table>

Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 712</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Policy II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 716</td>
<td>Public Policy Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 722</td>
<td>Survey of Data Analysis Techniques in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>9</td>
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Summer semester

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other optional courses</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
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Year two

Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 780</td>
<td>Synthesizing Seminar in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration courses</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>First comprehensive examination on the core</td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>9</td>
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</table>

Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Concentration courses and electives</td>
<td>variable</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
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</table>

Year three

Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 898</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (variable credit hours)</td>
<td>1-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second comprehensive examination on the concentration</td>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>1-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Policy and Administration, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in criminal justice policy

Program mission

The mission of the Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration program is to provide students with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to conduct original and scholarly research in academic institutions, governmental agencies and public policy research institutions. The purpose of the program is to prepare students for scholarly and leadership roles in government, universities, research organizations and other settings where knowledge and research skills in public policy and administration are needed. The doctoral program is committed to accomplishing this mission by creating an intellectually vibrant atmosphere for scholarship involving an active faculty from a broad spectrum of academic disciplines and substantial interaction with government agencies and community groups.

Program goals

1. Enable students to develop expertise in a particular area of public policy
2. Enable students to apply their knowledge and skills in order to conduct original and scholarly research

Student learning outcomes

1. Students will be able to expertly apply public policy theories, integrating relevant ideas, concepts and approaches from the humanities, social sciences, law and public administration to policy analysis, formulation and implementation.
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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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).
Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
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Special requirements

- Master’s degree, J.D. or M.D. from an accredited university. Graduate assistantships are only awarded for fall admission. For students wishing to be considered for a limited number of fellowships, materials must be received no later than Dec. 15. Spring admissions are considered exceptions and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Admission is open to qualified persons without regard to age, physical disability, national origin, race, religion or gender. Admission is competitive. The admission process is intended to assure a reasonable fit between the student’s professional and research interests and faculty expertise. Consequently, otherwise qualified applicants may be denied admission.

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Applicants are evaluated based on the entire admission package; however, the following provides some guidelines for a competitive application.

1. Cumulative minimum GPA of 3.6 (on a four-point scale) or equivalent for graduate-level work
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4. Personal statement, resume, curriculum vitae that:
   a. Clearly articulates the applicant’s academic research interests whereby a decision can be made as to the applicant’s “fit” with the program
   b. Shows a clear indication of a faculty match and expertise for the applicant’s research interests
   c. Displays enthusiasm for the field of public policy and administration
   d. Is well-written and error-free

5. All students admitted to the program must have completed prior to admission, or are required to complete during the first year, the following graduate-level courses (or their equivalents):
   b. Statistics (equivalent of PADM 624)
   c. Public policy, economics or administration/management

The primary admission deadline is Jan. 30 for enrollment to begin the following fall semester; however, materials must be received no later than Dec. 15 from those students wishing to be considered for assistantships. A small number of special admissions may be offered (Oct. 15 application deadline) for entry the following spring semester; however, these are considered on a case-by-case basis. Assistantships are only offered to those offered full-time admission in the fall. Applicants who wish to be considered for the Oct. 15 deadline must include a letter requesting and justifying early admission. If the request for early consideration is not accepted, the application will be held over to the Jan. 30 application deadline for consideration for the following fall admission.

While VCU Graduate School policy allows up to six credit hours of course work to be taken as a nondegree-seeking student prior to formal admission, taking such courses in no way guarantees admission to the program. Also, transfer credit hours are only considered for elective courses. Core courses must be taken at VCU.

Application information is available from the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs Office of Graduate Advising or the Graduate Admissions Office. International applicant information and materials are available from International Admissions (http://international.admissions.vcu.edu).

Degree requirements

The doctoral program is structured around a core curriculum and four areas of concentration. The curriculum is designed to provide a sound intellectual foundation for the pursuit of scholarly research in areas of public policy, urban and regional policy, public administration and criminal justice policy. Students will select a concentration after the first year of study and after passing the comprehensive examination.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students take a minimum of 45 graduate credit hours of course work and dissertation research in addition to any prerequisites that might be necessary. Five of these courses are part of the core, and at least four are concentration courses. The remaining three electives are to be taken outside the concentration with additional methodology courses highly recommended. Required courses generally will be available on an evening or weekend schedule.

Course work in the Ph.D. program has a strong orientation toward research, both applied and theoretical. Where appropriate, course work may be linked to funded university projects or to external agency-based
analytical work. Courses emphasize research, writing and presentation skills.

All students must take a comprehensive qualifying examination on the core course requirements and a written or oral comprehensive examination in the concentration and must be approved by the VCU Graduate School for degree candidacy before beginning work on their dissertations.

Curriculum requirements

Core courses (required)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 711</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Policy I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 712</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Policy II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 721</td>
<td>Survey of Applied Research Methods in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 722</td>
<td>Survey of Data Analysis Techniques in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 780</td>
<td>Synthesizing Seminar in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 15

Criminal justice policy concentration

Concentration courses (required)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 761</td>
<td>Risk Assessment in Criminal Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional research methods or statistics course (within or outside the Wilder School)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 760</td>
<td>Criminal Justice Policy and Program Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 791</td>
<td>Topical Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 792</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 6

Electives outside of the concentration

Students will take at least three elective courses outside the concentration with the approval of their advisors. Students may take courses at the 500-level or higher from other Ph.D. concentration areas (as listed under each concentration) and other programs such as homeland security, criminal justice, public administration and urban and regional planning within the Wilder School. In addition, students may choose elective courses from among the following 3-credit courses:

Select three of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 544</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 544</td>
<td>Statistical Methods II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Econometrics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 612</td>
<td>Econometrics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 641</td>
<td>Econometric Time-series Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 642</td>
<td>Panel and Nonlinear Methods in Econometrics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 711</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 661</td>
<td>Themes in Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 603</td>
<td>Public Health Policy and Politics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 602</td>
<td>Feminist Research Epistemology and Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 9

Dissertation research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 898</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (variable credit hours)</td>
<td>1-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 45

Qualifying examinations

After completing all of the core courses in the Ph.D. program, each student takes a comprehensive qualifying examination on the core. The examination is designed to evaluate the mastery students have achieved over the body of knowledge represented by the core. It is intended to measure the ability of students to organize, integrate and creatively apply the knowledge in the field to important problems. Although organized around the courses in the core, the examination is not restricted to material covered in those courses. It is expected that doctoral students will read well beyond the confines of individual courses.

In order to continue in the program, students must attempt the qualifying examination no later than the next regular semester following the completion of the core course requirements. They must pass the exam by the end of the second regular semester after completing the core course requirements. A student may attempt the examination twice. Examinations are offered twice per year.

A student also must take a written or oral comprehensive examination in the concentration. The concentration faculty will determine the form of the examination. A student may attempt the examination twice. Each student must pass this second examination before defending a dissertation proposal.

Dissertation

After completing all course work for the concentration and passing both qualifying examinations, students must prepare a dissertation involving original research that contributes to the body of knowledge in the field. A committee approved by the associate dean of the Wilder School supervises the dissertation work. The chair of the committee must be appointed as graduate faculty and be a core or affiliate faculty member of the Ph.D. program.

The first formal step in the dissertation process is the development and defense of a dissertation prospectus that frames the problem to be studied, provides background on the problem, presents a review
of relevant literature and justifies the methodology to be used. The defense of the prospectus as well as the completed dissertation must be presented orally and be approved by the dissertation committee. The dissertation defense is conducted in a forum open to other students and faculty.

**Sample plan of study**

**Year one**

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 711</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Policy I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 717</td>
<td>Law and Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 721</td>
<td>Survey of Applied Research Methods in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:** 9

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 712</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Policy II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 716</td>
<td>Public Policy Economics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 722</td>
<td>Survey of Data Analysis Techniques in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:** 9

**Summer semester**

| Electives | variable |
| Other optional courses | variable |

**Term Hours:** 0

**Year two**

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 780</td>
<td>Synthesizing Seminar in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concentration courses</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First comprehensive examination on the core</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:** 9

**Spring semester**

| Concentration courses and electives | variable |

**Term Hours:** 0

**Year three**

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 898</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (variable credit hours)</td>
<td>1-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Second comprehensive examination on the concentration Electives | variable |

**Term Hours:** 1-12

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 898</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (variable credit hours)</td>
<td>1-12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:** 1-12

**Total Hours:** 29-51

1. Recommended: See concentration listings for required and elective courses.
2. Students on 12-month assistantships are required to register for a minimum of three graduate credit hours.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 45**

**Graduate program director**

Sarah Jane Brubaker, Ph.D.

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**Public Policy and Administration, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in public administration**

**Program mission**

The mission of the Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration program is to provide students with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to conduct original and scholarly research in academic institutions, governmental agencies and public policy research institutions. The purpose of the program is to prepare students for scholarly and leadership roles in government, universities, research organizations and other settings where knowledge and research skills in public policy and administration are needed. The doctoral program is committed to accomplishing this mission by creating an intellectually vibrant atmosphere for scholarship involving an active faculty from a broad spectrum of academic disciplines and substantial interaction with government agencies and community groups.

**Program goals**

1. Enable students to develop expertise in a particular area of public policy
2. Enable students to apply their knowledge and skills in order to conduct original and scholarly research

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Students will be able to expertly apply public policy theories, integrating relevant ideas, concepts and approaches from the humanities, social sciences, law and public administration to policy analysis, formulation and implementation.
2. Students will be able to demonstrate mastery of a particular area of public policy.
3. Students will be able to formulate appropriate research questions related to public policy and apply methodological knowledge to develop an appropriate research design for a research proposal.
4. Students will be able to conduct original and scholarly research on public policy issues.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Dec 15 for assistantships</td>
<td>GRE, GMAT, MAT or LSAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 30 final date for admission consideration</td>
<td>International applicants TOEFL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- Master’s degree, J.D. or M.D. from an accredited university. Graduate assistantships are only awarded for fall admission. For students wishing to be considered for a limited number of fellowships, materials must be received no later than Dec. 15. Spring admissions are considered exceptions and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Admission is open to qualified persons without regard to age, physical disability, national origin, race, religion or gender. Admission is competitive. The admission process is intended to assure a reasonable fit between the student’s professional and research interests and faculty expertise. Consequently, otherwise qualified applicants may be denied admission.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the program must hold a master’s degree or a recognized post-baccalaureate degree in one of the professions such as law or medicine from an accredited institution of higher education. A standardized test score, fewer than five years old, is required. Accepted examinations include the Graduate Record Examination, the Graduate Management Admissions Test, the Miller Analogies Test and the Law School Admissions Test and the Test of English as a Foreign Language for international students. Professional experience is not required, but is considered desirable.

In order to apply for admission to the Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration program, prospective students must submit:

1. A VCU application for graduate study
2. Transcripts from all previous colleges or universities
3. Scores from a standardized examination (GRE, GMAT, MAT or LSAT and TOEFL for international students)
4. Three letters of reference
5. A personal statement describing reasons for applying to the program
6. A current professional resume

Admission standards

Applicants are evaluated based on the entire admission package; however, the following provides some guidelines for a competitive application.

1. Cumulative minimum GPA of 3.6 (on a four-point scale) or equivalent for graduate-level work
2. Standardized examination scores less than five years old (GRE preferred)
3. Three references – a minimum of one academic recommendation attesting to the applicant’s ability to succeed in doctoral-level work
4. Personal statement, resume, curriculum vitae that:
   a. Clearly articulates the applicant’s academic research interests whereby a decision can be made as to the applicant’s “fit” with the program
   b. Shows a clear indication of a faculty match and expertise for the applicant’s research interests
   c. Displays enthusiasm for the field of public policy and administration
   d. Is well-written and error-free
5. All students admitted to the program must have completed prior to admission, or are required to complete during the first year, the following graduate-level courses (or their equivalents):
   b. Statistics (equivalent of PADM 624)
   c. Public policy, economics or administration/management
The primary admission deadline is Jan. 30 for enrollment to begin the following fall semester; however, materials must be received no later than Dec. 15 from those students wishing to be considered for assistantships. A small number of special admissions may be offered (Oct. 15 application deadline) for entry the following spring semester; however, these are considered on a case-by-case basis. Assistantships are only offered to those offered full-time admission in the fall. Applicants who wish to be considered for the Oct. 15 deadline must include a letter requesting and justifying early admission. If the request for early consideration is not accepted, the application will be held over to the Jan. 30 application deadline for consideration for the following fall admission.

While VCU Graduate School policy allows up to six credit hours of course work to be taken as a nondegree-seeking student prior to formal admission, taking such courses in no way guarantees admission to the program. Also, transfer credit hours are only considered for elective courses. Core courses must be taken at VCU.

Application information is available from the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs Office of Graduate Advising or the Graduate Admissions Office. International applicant information and materials are available from International Admissions (http://international.admissions.vcu.edu).

Degree requirements
The doctoral program is structured around a core curriculum and four areas of concentration. The curriculum is designed to provide a sound intellectual foundation for the pursuit of scholarly research in areas of public policy, urban and regional policy, public administration and criminal justice policy. Students will select a concentration after the first year of study and after passing the comprehensive examination.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students take a minimum of 45 graduate credit hours of course work and dissertation research in addition to any prerequisites that might be necessary. Five of these courses are part of the core, and at least four are concentration courses. The remaining three electives are to be taken outside the concentration with additional methodology courses highly recommended. Required courses generally will be available on an evening or weekend schedule.

Course work in the Ph.D. program has a strong orientation toward research, both applied and theoretical. Where appropriate, course work may be linked to funded university projects or to external agency-based analytical work. Courses emphasize research, writing and presentation skills.

All students must take a comprehensive qualifying examination on the core course requirements and a written or oral comprehensive examination in the concentration and must be approved by the VCU Graduate School for degree candidacy before beginning work on their dissertations.

Curriculum requirements
Core courses (required)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 711</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Policy I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 712</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Policy II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 721</td>
<td>Survey of Applied Research Methods in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 722</td>
<td>Survey of Data Analysis Techniques in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 780</td>
<td>Synthesizing Seminar in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Public administration concentration

Concentration courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 740</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 741</td>
<td>Advanced Theory in Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select six credits from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GVPA 672</td>
<td>Social Equity and Public Policy Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 630</td>
<td>Strategic Planning and Management in the Public Sector</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 650</td>
<td>Principles of Nonprofit Management</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 654</td>
<td>Program Design and Evaluation in the Nonprofit Sector</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 680</td>
<td>Executive Leadership Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 681</td>
<td>Governmental Administrative Decision-making Processes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 715</td>
<td>U.S. Political Processes and Institutions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 716</td>
<td>Public Policy Economics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 717</td>
<td>Law and Public Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 723</td>
<td>Survey Research Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 726</td>
<td>Advanced Research Design</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 791</td>
<td>Topical Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 792</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours

<table>
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<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 780</td>
<td>Synthesizing Seminar in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives outside of the concentration

Students will take at least three elective courses outside the concentration with the approval of their advisers. Students may take courses at the 500-level or higher from other Ph.D. concentration areas (as listed under each concentration) and other programs such as homeland security, criminal justice, public administration and urban and regional planning within the Wilder School. In addition, students may choose elective courses from among the following 3-credit courses:

Select three of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Econometrics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 612</td>
<td>Econometrics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 641</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDUS 711</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 661</td>
<td>Themes in Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 603</td>
<td>Public Health Policy and Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSW 602</td>
<td>Feminist Research Epistemology and Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSW 622</td>
<td>Women and Public Policy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 763</td>
<td>Applied Health Services Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCRP 701</td>
<td>Health Services Research and Policy I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCRP 702</td>
<td>Health Services Research and Policy II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTL/NURS 514</td>
<td>International Perspectives on Community Health in Developing Countries</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 613</td>
<td>Mass Media and Society</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 780</td>
<td>Synthesizing Seminar in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Policy and Administration, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in public administration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATX 601</td>
<td>Texts and Textuality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 770</td>
<td>Quantitative Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 772</td>
<td>Qualitative Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER/STAT 636</td>
<td>Machine Learning Algorithms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 544</td>
<td>Statistical Methods II</td>
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<tr>
<td>SWKD 704</td>
<td>Multiparadigmatic Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWKD 705</td>
<td>Multivariate Analysis in Social Work and Human Services Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 9

**Dissertation research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 898</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (minimum nine credits)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 45**

**Qualifying examinations**

After completing all of the core courses in the Ph.D. program, each student takes a comprehensive qualifying examination on the core. The examination is designed to evaluate the mastery students have achieved over the body of knowledge represented by the core. It is intended to measure the ability of students to organize, integrate and creatively apply the knowledge in the field to important problems. Although organized around the courses in the core, the examination is not restricted to material covered in those courses. It is expected that doctoral students will read well beyond the confines of individual courses.

In order to continue in the program, students must attempt the qualifying examination no later than the next regular semester following the completion of the core course requirements. They must pass the exam by the end of the second regular semester after completing the core course requirements. A student may attempt the examination twice. Examinations are offered twice per year.

A student also must take a written or oral comprehensive examination in the concentration. The concentration faculty will determine the form of the examination. A student may attempt the examination twice. Each student must pass this second examination before defending a dissertation proposal.

**Dissertation**

After completing all course work for the concentration and passing both qualifying examinations, students must prepare a dissertation involving original research that contributes to the body of knowledge in the field. A committee approved by the associate dean of the Wilder School supervises the dissertation work. The chair of the committee must be appointed as graduate faculty and be a core or affiliate faculty member of the Ph.D. program.

The first formal step in the dissertation process is the development and defense of a dissertation prospectus that frames the problem to be studied, provides background on the problem, presents a review of relevant literature and justifies the methodology to be used. The defense of the prospectus as well as the completed dissertation must be presented orally and be approved by the dissertation committee. The dissertation defense is conducted in a forum open to other students and faculty.

**Sample plan of study**

**Year one**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>PPAD 711</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Policy I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PPAD 721</td>
<td>Survey of Applied Research Methods in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PPAD 740</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Management</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>PPAD 712</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Policy II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PPAD 722</td>
<td>Survey of Data Analysis Techniques in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PPAD 741</td>
<td>Advanced Theory in Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>0-3</td>
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</table>

**Term Hours:** 0-3

**Year two**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>PPAD 780</td>
<td>Synthesizing Seminar in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Concentration courses or electives</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Concentration courses or electives</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Term Hours:</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Year three**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>PPAD 898</td>
<td>Dissertation Research</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Second comprehensive examination on the concentration</td>
<td>6-9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>6-9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>PPAD 898</td>
<td>Dissertation Research</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>0-3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>3-9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours:** 45-57

1. Recommended: See concentration listings for required and elective courses.
2. Students on 12-month assistantships are required to register for a minimum of three graduate credit hours.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 45**

**Graduate program director**

Sarah Jane Brubaker, Ph.D.
Associate professor
Email: sbrubaker@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-2400

**Additional contact**

Simon H. Okoth, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Wilder School
Email: okothsh@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-1430
Public Policy and Administration, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in public policy

Program mission
The mission of the Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration program is to provide students with the knowledge and skills that will enable them to conduct original and scholarly research in academic institutions, governmental agencies and public policy research institutions. The purpose of the program is to prepare students for scholarly and leadership roles in government, universities, research organizations and other settings where knowledge and research skills in public policy and administration are needed. The doctoral program is committed to accomplishing this mission by creating an intellectually vibrant atmosphere for scholarship involving an active faculty from a broad spectrum of academic disciplines and substantial interaction with government agencies and community groups.

Program goals
1. Enable students to develop expertise in a particular area of public policy
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Student learning outcomes
1. Students will be able to expertly apply public policy theories, integrating relevant ideas, concepts and approaches from the humanities, social sciences, law and public administration to policy analysis, formulation and implementation.
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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.

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Admission requirements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Dec 15 for assistantships</td>
<td>GRE, GMAT, MAT or LSAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Jan 30 final date for admission consideration</td>
<td>International applicants TOEFL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements
- Master's degree, J.D. or M.D. from an accredited university. Graduate assistantships are only awarded for fall admission. For students wishing to be considered for a limited number of fellowships, materials must be received no later than Dec. 15. Spring admissions are considered exceptions and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Admission is open to qualified persons without regard to age, physical disability, national origin, race, religion or gender. Admission is competitive. The admission process is intended to assure a reasonable fit between the student’s professional and research interests and faculty
expertise. Consequently, otherwise qualified applicants may be denied admission.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the program must hold a master’s degree or a recognized post-baccalaureate degree in one of the professions such as law or medicine from an accredited institution of higher education. A standardized test score, fewer than five years old, is required. Accepted examinations include the Graduate Record Examination, the Graduate Management Admissions Test, the Miller Analogies Test and the Law School Admissions Test and the Test of English as a Foreign Language for international students. Professional experience is not required, but is considered desirable.

In order to apply for admission to the Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration program, prospective students must submit:

1. A VCU application for graduate study
2. Transcripts from all previous colleges or universities
3. Scores from a standardized examination (GRE, GMAT, MAT or LSAT and TOEFL for international students)
4. Three letters of reference
5. A personal statement describing reasons for applying to the program
6. A current professional resume

**Admission standards**

Applicants are evaluated based on the entire admission package; however, the following provides some guidelines for a competitive application.

1. Cumulative minimum GPA of 3.6 (on a four-point scale) or equivalent for graduate-level work
2. Standardized examination scores less than five years old (GRE preferred)
3. Three references – a minimum of one academic recommendation attesting to the applicant’s ability to succeed in doctoral-level work
4. Personal statement, resume, curriculum vitae that:
   a. Clearly articulates the applicant’s academic research interests whereby a decision can be made as to the applicant’s “fit” with the program
   b. Shows a clear indication of a faculty match and expertise for the applicant’s research interests
   c. Displays enthusiasm for the field of public policy and administration
   d. Is well-written and error-free
5. All students admitted to the program must have completed prior to admission, or are required to complete during the first year, the following graduate-level courses (or their equivalents):
   b. Statistics (equivalent of PADM 624)
   c. Public policy, economics or administration/management

The primary admission deadline is Jan. 30 for enrollment to begin the following fall semester; however, materials must be received no later than Dec. 15 from those students wishing to be considered for assistantships. A small number of special admissions may be offered (Oct. 15 application deadline) for entry the following spring semester; however, these are considered on a case-by-case basis. Assistantships are only offered to those offered full-time admission in the fall. Applicants who wish to be considered for the Oct. 15 deadline must include a letter requesting and justifying early admission. If the request for early consideration is not accepted, the application will be held over to the Jan. 30 application deadline for consideration for the following fall admission.

While VCU Graduate School policy allows up to six credit hours of course work to be taken as a nondegree-seeking student prior to formal admission, taking such courses in no way guarantees admission to the program. Also, transfer credit hours are only considered for elective courses. Core courses must be taken at VCU.

Application information is available from the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs Office of Graduate Advising or the Graduate Admissions Office. International applicant information and materials are available from International Admissions (http://international.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Degree requirements**

The doctoral program is structured around a core curriculum and four areas of concentration. The curriculum is designed to provide a sound intellectual foundation for the pursuit of scholarly research in areas of public policy, urban and regional policies, public administration and criminal justice policy. Students will select a concentration after the first year of study and after passing the comprehensive examination.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students take a minimum of 45 graduate credit hours of course work and dissertation research in addition to any prerequisites that might be necessary. Five of these courses are part of the core, and at least four are concentration courses. The remaining three electives are to be taken outside the concentration with additional methodology courses highly recommended. Required courses generally will be available on an evening or weekend schedule.

Course work in the Ph.D. program has a strong orientation toward research, both applied and theoretical. Where appropriate, course work may be linked to funded university projects or to external agency-based analytical work. Courses emphasize research, writing and presentation skills.

All students must take a comprehensive qualifying examination on the core course requirements and a written or oral comprehensive examination in the concentration and must be approved by the VCU Graduate School for degree candidacy before beginning work on their dissertations.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Core courses (required)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 711</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Policy I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 712</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Policy II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 721</td>
<td>Survey of Applied Research Methods in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 722</td>
<td>Survey of Data Analysis Techniques in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 780</td>
<td>Synthesizing Seminar in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**: 15

**Public policy concentration**

**Concentration courses (required)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 716</td>
<td>Public Policy Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 717</td>
<td>Law and Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Concentration electives

Select six credits from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GPVA 672</td>
<td>Social Equity and Public Policy Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 715</td>
<td>U.S. Political Processes and Institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 723</td>
<td>Survey Research Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 726</td>
<td>Advanced Research Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 730</td>
<td>Seminar in Health Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 740</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 741</td>
<td>Advanced Theory in Public Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 791</td>
<td>Topical Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 792</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graduate-level courses in other PPAD concentration areas

**Total Hours**: 12

### Electives outside of the concentration

Students will take at least three elective courses outside the concentration with the approval of their advisers. Students may take courses at the 500-level or higher from other Ph.D. concentration areas (as listed under each concentration) and other programs such as homeland security, criminal justice, public administration and urban and regional planning within the Wilder School. In addition, students may choose elective courses from among the following 3-credit courses:

Select three of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 544</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 544</td>
<td>Statistical Methods II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Econometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 612</td>
<td>Econometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 641</td>
<td>Econometric Time-series Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 642</td>
<td>Panel and Nonlinear Methods in Econometrics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 711</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 661</td>
<td>Themes in Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 603</td>
<td>Public Health Policy and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 602</td>
<td>Feminist Research Epistemology and Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 622</td>
<td>Women and Public Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 763</td>
<td>Applied Health Services Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 701</td>
<td>Health Services Research and Policy I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 702</td>
<td>Health Services Research and Policy II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTL/NURS 514</td>
<td>International Perspectives on Community Health in Developing Countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 613</td>
<td>Mass Media and Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATX 601</td>
<td>Texts and Textuality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 770</td>
<td>Quantitative Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 772</td>
<td>Qualitative Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER/STAT 636</td>
<td>Machine Learning Algorithms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWKD 704</td>
<td>Multiparadigmatic Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**: 9

#### SWKD 705
Multivariate Analysis in Social Work and Human Services Research

**Total Hours**: 9

### Dissertation research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 898</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (minimum nine credits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 45**

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<tr>
<th>Semester</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Public Policy and Administration, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in urban and regional policy

Program mission

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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**Special requirements**

- Master’s degree, J.D. or M.D. from an accredited university. Graduate assistantships are only awarded for fall admission. For students wishing to be considered for a limited number of fellowships, materials must be received no later than Dec. 15. Spring admissions are considered exceptions and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Admission is open to qualified persons without regard to age, physical disability, national origin, race, religion or gender. Admission is competitive. The admission process is intended to assure a reasonable fit between the student’s professional and research interests and faculty expertise. Consequently, otherwise qualified applicants may be denied admission.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants to the program must hold a master’s degree or a recognized post-baccalaureate degree in one of the professions such as law or medicine from an accredited institution of higher education. A standardized test score, fewer than five years old, is required. Accepted examinations include the Graduate Record Examination, the Graduate Management Admissions Test, the Miller Analogies Test and the Law School Admissions Test and the Test of English as a Foreign Language for international students. Professional experience is not required, but is considered desirable.

In order to apply for admission to the Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration program, prospective students must submit:

1. A VCU application for graduate study
2. Transcripts from all previous colleges or universities
3. Scores from a standardized examination (GRE, GMAT, MAT or LSAT and TOEFL for international students)
4. Three letters of reference
5. A personal statement describing reasons for applying to the program
6. A current professional resume

**Admission standards**

Applicants are evaluated based on the entire admission package; however, the following provides some guidelines for a competitive application.

1. Cumulative minimum GPA of 3.6 (on a four-point scale) or equivalent for graduate-level work
2. Standardized examination scores less than five years old (GRE preferred)
3. Three references – a minimum of one academic recommendation attesting to the applicant’s ability to succeed in doctoral-level work
4. Personal statement, resume, curriculum vitae that:
   a. Clearly articulates the applicant’s academic research interests whereby a decision can be made as to the applicant’s “fit” with the program
   b. Shows a clear indication of a faculty match and expertise for the applicant’s research interests
   c. Displays enthusiasm for the field of public policy and administration
   d. Is well-written and error-free
5. All students admitted to the program must have completed prior to admission, or are required to complete during the first year, the following graduate-level courses (or their equivalents):
   b. Statistics (equivalent of PADM 624)
   c. Public policy, economics or administration/management

The primary admission deadline is Jan. 30 for enrollment to begin the following fall semester; however, materials must be received no later than Dec. 15 from those students wishing to be considered for assistantships. A small number of special admissions may be offered (Oct.15 application deadline) for entry the following spring semester; however, materials must be received no later than Dec.15 from those students wishing to be considered for assistantships. Assistantships are only offered to those offered full-time admission in the fall. Applicants who wish to be considered for the Oct.15 deadline must include a letter requesting and justifying early admission. If the request for early consideration is not accepted, the application will be held over to the Jan. 30 application deadline for consideration for the following fall admission.
While VCU Graduate School policy allows up to six credit hours of course work to be taken as a nondegree-seeking student prior to formal admission, taking such courses in no way guarantees admission to the program. Also, transfer credit hours are only considered for elective courses. Core courses must be taken at VCU.

Application information is available from the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs Office of Graduate Advising or the Graduate Admissions Office. International applicant information and materials are available from International Admissions (http://international.admissions.vcu.edu).

Degree requirements

The doctoral program is structured around a core curriculum and four areas of concentration. The curriculum is designed to provide a sound intellectual foundation for the pursuit of scholarly research in areas of public policy, urban and regional policy, public administration and criminal justice policy. Students will select a concentration after the first year of study and after passing the comprehensive examination.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students take a minimum of 45 graduate credit hours of course work and dissertation research in addition to any prerequisites that might be necessary. Five of these courses are part of the core, and at least four are concentration courses. The remaining three electives are to be taken outside the concentration with additional methodology courses highly recommended. Required courses generally will be available on an evening or weekend schedule.

Course work in the Ph.D. program has a strong orientation toward research, both applied and theoretical. Where appropriate, course work may be linked to funded university projects or to external agency-based analytical work. Courses emphasize research, writing and presentation skills.

All students must take a comprehensive qualifying examination on the core course requirements and a written or oral comprehensive examination in the concentration and must be approved by the VCU Graduate School for degree candidacy before beginning work on their dissertations.

Curriculum requirements

Core courses (required)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 711</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Policy I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 712</td>
<td>Seminar in Public Policy II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 721</td>
<td>Survey of Applied Research Methods in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 722</td>
<td>Survey of Data Analysis Techniques in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 780</td>
<td>Synthesizing Seminar in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Urban planning and policy concentration

Concentration courses (required)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 716</td>
<td>Public Policy Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 750</td>
<td>Seminar in Urban Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concentration electives

Select six credits from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 791</td>
<td>Topical Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP/GVPA 632</td>
<td>Planning Theory and Processes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives outside of the concentration

Students will take at least three elective courses outside the concentration with the approval of their advisers. Students may take courses at the 500-level or higher from other Ph.D. concentration areas (as listed under each concentration) and other programs such as homeland security, criminal justice, public administration and urban and regional planning within the Wilder School. In addition, students may choose elective courses from among the following three-credit courses:

Select three of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 544</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods II</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Econometrics</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 612</td>
<td>Econometrics</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 641</td>
<td>Econometric Time-series Analysis</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 642</td>
<td>Panel and Nonlinear Methods in Econometrics</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUS 711</td>
<td>Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENGL 661</td>
<td>Themes in Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 603</td>
<td>Public Health Policy and Politics</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 602</td>
<td>Feminist Research Epistemology and Methods</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 622</td>
<td>Women and Public Policy</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 763</td>
<td>Applied Health Services Research</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 701</td>
<td>Health Services Research and Policy I</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 702</td>
<td>Health Services Research and Policy II</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INTL/NURS 514</td>
<td>International Perspectives on Community Health in Developing Countries</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MASC 613</td>
<td>Mass Media and Society</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATX 601</td>
<td>Texts and Textuality</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 770</td>
<td>Quantitative Research</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 772</td>
<td>Qualitative Research</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPER/STAT 636</td>
<td>Machine Learning Algorithms</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWKD 704</td>
<td>Multiparadigmatic Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWKD 705</td>
<td>Multivariate Analysis in Social Work and Human Services Research</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dissertation research nine (minimum)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 898</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (minimum nine credits)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 45

Qualifying examinations

After completing all of the core courses in the Ph.D. program, each student takes a comprehensive qualifying examination on the core. The examination is designed to evaluate the mastery students have achieved over the body of knowledge represented by the core. It is intended to measure the ability of students to organize, integrate and creatively apply the knowledge in the field to important problems. Although organized around the courses in the core, the examination is not restricted to material covered in those courses. It is expected that doctoral students will read well beyond the confines of individual courses.

In order to continue in the program, students must attempt the qualifying examination no later than the next regular semester following the completion of the core course requirements. They must pass the exam by the end of the second regular semester after completing the core course requirements. A student may attempt the examination twice. Examinations are offered twice per year.

A student also must take a written or oral comprehensive examination in the concentration. The concentration faculty will determine the form of the examination. A student may attempt the examination twice. Each student must pass this second examination before defending a dissertation proposal.

Dissertation

After completing all course work for the concentration and passing both qualifying examinations, students must prepare a dissertation involving original research that contributes to the body of knowledge in the field. A committee approved by the associate dean of the Wilder School supervises the dissertation work. The chair of the committee must be appointed as graduate faculty and be a core or affiliate faculty member of the Ph.D. program.

The first formal step in the dissertation process is the development and defense of a dissertation prospectus that frames the problem to be studied, provides background on the problem, presents a review of relevant literature and justifies the methodology to be used. The defense of the prospectus as well as the completed dissertation must be presented orally and be approved by the dissertation committee. The dissertation defense is conducted in a forum open to other students and faculty.

Sample plan of study

Year one

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 711 Seminar in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 717 Law and Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 721 Survey of Applied Research Methods in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring semester</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 712 Seminar in Public Policy II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 716 Public Policy Economics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 722 Survey of Data Analysis Techniques in Public Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summer semester

| Electives | variable |

Other optional courses | variable |

Term Hours: 0

Year two

| Fall semester |
|---------------|-------|
| PPAD 780 Synthesizing Seminar in Public Policy | 3 |
| Concentration courses | 6 |
| First comprehensive examination on the core | 9 |
| Term Hours: | 0 |

| Spring semester |
|-----------------|-------|
| Concentration courses and electives | variable |
| Term Hours: | 0 |

Year three

| Fall semester |
|---------------|-------|
| PPAD 898 Dissertation Research (variable credit hours) | 1-12 |
| Second comprehensive examination on the concentration | |
| Electives | variable |
| Term Hours: | 1-12 |

| Spring semester |
|-----------------|-------|
| PPAD 898 Dissertation Research (variable credit hours) | 1-12 |
| Term Hours: | 1-12 |

Total Hours: 29-51

1 Recommended: See concentration listings for required and elective courses.

2 Students on 12-month assistantships are required to register for a minimum of three graduate credit hours.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 45

Graduate program director
Sarah Jane Brubaker, Ph.D.
Associate professor
Email: sbrubaker@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-2400

Additional contact
Simon H. Okoth, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Wilder School
Email: okothsh@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-1430

Program website: wilder.vcu.edu/academic/pubpolicy.html (http://wilder.vcu.edu/academic/pubpolicy.html)

Urban and Regional Planning, Master of (M.U.R.P.)

Program accreditation
Planning Accreditation Board

Program goals
The Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree program envisions a better future by enhancing the quality of life in mature communities and regions, particularly in Virginia, but also elsewhere in the United States.
and abroad, through strong planning education, high-quality scholarship and professional planning practices. The goals for the program are to:

1. Create a diverse learning environment that cultivates engagement of diverse participants — both students and faculty — in the program.
2. Prepare students to be effective practitioners in a variety of planning-related organizations, especially in mature communities and regions, with competence in the preparation, presentation and implementation of professional plans and in doing planning-related work.
3. Produce scholarship that increases knowledge and understanding of sustainability and planning support systems as well as the development of innovative methodological approaches and solutions to address issues related to sustainable community development.
4. Provide useful planning services to mature communities and regions, in cooperation with private and public planners, as appropriate.

Student learning outcomes

1. Students should display evidence of having developed a multidisciplinary understanding of urban life.
2. Students will display an understanding of the theory and practice of planning for cities and regions.
3. Students will display the skills necessary to work effectively and competently as planners in a variety of settings.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of, and a willingness to act in accordance with, the ethics and values of the professional planner, as well as the social and environmental responsibilities of planners.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 the degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.U.R.P.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 1 (Mar 1 for assistantship consideration or financial aid)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td>GRE, GMAT, LSAT or MAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- These deadlines are designed to allow sufficient time for application review and admission processing. Applications may be submitted after the deadline; however, there is no guarantee of sufficient time for processing. Any application submitted too late for current semester processing will be considered for the following semester.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following specifications apply:

1. Students must have a minimum 2.7 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) in their last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work. In addition, a minimum GPA of 3.0 must have been maintained in their undergraduate majors. Finally, applicants are expected to receive satisfactory scores on each of the categories in the GRE, LSAT, GMAT or MAT examinations.
2. Students not meeting these requirements may be admitted to the program on a provisional basis. The provisional period shall consist of the first nine to 12 hours of designated graduate work in which all grades must be no less than B. Provisional admission does not constitute a waiver of the requirement related to a standardized test.
3. Generally, at least two of the three letters of reference should come from former faculty.

All courses in the post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Urban Revitalization and the post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems may be applied to meet the requirement of the Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree. However,
successful completion of either certificate does not guarantee admission into the M.U.R.P. degree program.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the M.U.R.P. degree program must:

1. Complete a minimum of 48 graduate credit hours plus an internship (not for credit). A core of required courses accounts for 27 of these credit hours; the remaining 21 are electives. A minimum overall GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) is required for receipt of the M.U.R.P. degree. In addition, students must receive a minimum grade of B for all core courses.

2. Complete either a six-credit thesis (URSP 764) or prepare a six-credit professional plan project through the professional plan course (URSP 762). Program administrators request permission to utilize the grade of PR, in addition to normal letter grades (A, B, C, D or F) in URSP 762. This will allow students the ability to work on their plans over a more extended period of time, if necessary.

In selecting their elective courses, students may (1) opt for exposure to a wide array of planning-related subject matter (the generalist or comprehensive approach), (2) select one of the areas of specialization defined by the department’s faculty (see the list that follows) or (3) develop an individualized program, focusing on one or more self-defined topics. Regardless of the approach selected, students are expected to meet regularly with their faculty advisers for discussion of their courses of study in relation to their career plans.

The following faculty-defined areas of specialization are offered by the department:

1. Community revitalization
2. Environmental planning
3. Metropolitan planning
4. Planning management

**Curriculum requirements**

**Required courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URSP 610</td>
<td>Introduction to Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 622</td>
<td>Community Socioeconomic Analysis Using GIS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP/GVPA/PADM/PADM 623</td>
<td>Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP/GVPA 632</td>
<td>Planning Theory and Processes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 635</td>
<td>Legal and Legislative Foundations of Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 662</td>
<td>Foundations for Development Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 761</td>
<td>Planning Studio</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 762</td>
<td>Professional Plan or URSP 764 Thesis or Projects</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

Select seven of the following: 21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URSP 502</td>
<td>Global Economic Change and Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 517</td>
<td>Historic Preservation in Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 520</td>
<td>Park Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 525</td>
<td>Site Planning and Graphics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 541</td>
<td>Urban Public Policy-making Processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 567</td>
<td>The American Suburb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 605</td>
<td>Urban Planning History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 611</td>
<td>Principles of Urban Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 621</td>
<td>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 625</td>
<td>Spatial Database Management and GIS Modeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 626</td>
<td>Transportation Analytics and Modeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 627</td>
<td>GIS Applications in Urban Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 628</td>
<td>Land Use Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP/PADM 630</td>
<td>Strategic Planning and Management in the Public Sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 637</td>
<td>Sustainable Community Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 641</td>
<td>Citizen Participation and Negotiation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 643</td>
<td>Housing Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 645</td>
<td>Sustainable Energy Planning and Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 647</td>
<td>Adaptive Reuse of Buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 650</td>
<td>Natural Resources and Environmental Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 651</td>
<td>Transportation Policy and Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 652</td>
<td>Environmental Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 653</td>
<td>Transportation Projects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP/ENVS/BIOL 654</td>
<td>Environmental Remote Sensing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 655</td>
<td>Environmental Policy and Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 658</td>
<td>Transportation Finance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 659</td>
<td>Transportation Project Development and Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 664</td>
<td>Urban Economic Development Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 666</td>
<td>Urban Commercial Revitalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 672</td>
<td>Food Systems, Rural Development and Landscape Conservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 681</td>
<td>International Urban Policy and Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 691</td>
<td>Topics in Urban and Regional Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 794</td>
<td>Planning Practicum Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 797</td>
<td>Directed Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

With the approval of the program chair, other appropriate graduate courses may be applied as electives.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48**

**Concentrations**

If a student chooses to pursue a specific concentration, the concentration courses and corresponding credit hours will take the place of electives in the above list.

**Internship**

The internship is designed to give students practical experience in planning-related activities in an institutional context. Normally, the internship is taken during the summer between the first and second year or during the second year. Many opportunities for internship
positions, as well as part- and full-time jobs in planning at all levels of government, exist within the Richmond area. Upon request, the internship requirement may be waived for students with substantial planning-related professional experience.

## Sample plan of study

### Year one

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 1</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URSP 610</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 622</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 662</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 2</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URSP 623 or GVPA 623 or PADM 623 or URSP 623</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 632 or GVPA 632</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or Planning Theory and Processes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 635</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
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### Year two

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Hours</th>
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<td>Elective</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Semester 2</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URSP 762</td>
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<tr>
<td>or URSP 764</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or Professional Plan or Thesis or Projects</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours:</strong></td>
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</table>

### Urban and Regional Planning, Master of (M.U.R.P.) with a concentration in community revitalization

#### Program accreditation

Planning Accreditation Board

#### Program goals

The Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree program envisions a better future by enhancing the quality of life in mature communities and regions, particularly in Virginia, but also elsewhere in the United States and abroad, through strong planning education, high-quality scholarship and professional planning practices. The goals for the program are to:

1. Create a diverse learning environment that cultivates engagement of diverse participants — both students and faculty — in the program.
2. Prepare students to be effective practitioners in a variety of planning-related organizations, especially in mature communities and regions, with competence in the preparation, presentation and implementation of professional plans and in doing planning-related work.
3. Produce scholarship that increases knowledge and understanding of sustainability and planning support systems as well as the development of innovative methodological approaches and solutions to address issues related to sustainable community development.
4. Provide useful planning services to mature communities and regions, in cooperation with private and public planners, as appropriate.

#### Student learning outcomes

1. Students should display evidence of having developed a multidisciplinary understanding of urban life.
2. Students will display an understanding of the theory and practice of planning for cities and regions.
3. Students will display the skills necessary to work effectively and competently as planners in a variety of settings.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of, and a willingness to act in accordance with, the ethics and values of the professional planner, as well as the social and environmental responsibilities of planners.

### 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree: M.U.R.P.</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 1 (Mar 1 for assistantship consideration or financial aid)</td>
<td>GRE, GMAT, LSAT or MAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements
- These deadlines are designed to allow sufficient time for application review and admission processing. Applications may be submitted after the deadline; however, there is no guarantee of sufficient time for processing. Any application submitted too late for current semester processing will be considered for the following semester.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following specifications apply:

1. Students must have a minimum 2.7 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) in their last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work. In addition, a minimum GPA of 3.0 must have been maintained in their undergraduate majors. Finally, applicants are expected to receive satisfactory scores on each of the categories in the GRE, LSAT, GMAT or MAT examinations.
2. Students not meeting these requirements may be admitted to the program on a provisional basis. The provisional period shall consist of the first nine to 12 hours of designated graduate work in which all grades must be no less than B. Provisional admission does not constitute a waiver of the requirement related to a standardized test.
3. Generally, at least two of the three letters of reference should come from former faculty.

All courses in the post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Urban Revitalization and the post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems may be applied to meet the requirement of the Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree. However, successful completion of either certificate does not guarantee admission into the M.U.R.P. degree program.

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the M.U.R.P. degree program must:

1. Complete a minimum of 48 graduate credit hours plus an internship (not for credit). A core of required courses accounts for 27 of these credit hours; the remaining 21 are electives. A minimum overall GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) is required for receipt of the M.U.R.P. degree. In addition, students must receive a minimum grade of B for all core courses.
2. Complete either a six-credit thesis (URSP 764) or prepare a six-credit professional plan project through the professional plan course (URSP 762). Program administrators request permission to utilize the grade of PR, in addition to normal letter grades (A, B, C, D or F) in URSP 762. This will allow students the ability to work on their plans over a more extended period of time, if necessary.

In selecting their elective courses, students may (1) opt for exposure to a wide array of planning-related subject matter (the generalist or comprehensive approach), (2) select one of the areas of specialization defined by the department’s faculty (see the list that follows) or (3) develop an individualized program, focusing on one or more self-defined topics. Regardless of the approach selected, students are expected to meet regularly with their faculty advisers for discussion of their courses of study in relation to their career plans.

The following faculty-defined areas of specialization are offered by the department:

1. Community revitalization
2. Environmental planning
3. Metropolitan planning
4. Planning management

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required courses</th>
<th>Introduction to Planning</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URSP 610</td>
<td>Community Socioeconomic Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 622</td>
<td>Using GIS</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP/GVPA/PADM/URSP 623</td>
<td>Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP/GVPA 632</td>
<td>Planning Theory and Processes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 635</td>
<td>Legal and Legislative Foundations of Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 662</td>
<td>Foundations for Development Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 761</td>
<td>Planning Studio</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 762</td>
<td>Professional Plan</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
or URSP 764  Thesis or Projects

Total Hours  27

Community revitalization concentration (12 credits)

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URSP 664</td>
<td>Urban Economic Development Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 666</td>
<td>Urban Commercial Revitalization</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Concentration electives

Select six credit hours from the following:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 629</td>
<td>Real Estate Investment Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 609</td>
<td>Financial Management in Government</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 650</td>
<td>Principles of Nonprofit Management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>PADM 656</td>
<td>Fund Development for the Nonprofit</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 517</td>
<td>Historic Preservation in Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 541</td>
<td>Urban Public Policy-making Processes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 611</td>
<td>Principles of Urban Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 621</td>
<td>Introduction to Urban Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 627</td>
<td>GIS Applications in Urban Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 628</td>
<td>Land Use Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 641</td>
<td>Citizen Participation and Negotiation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 643</td>
<td>Housing Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 647</td>
<td>Adaptive Reuse of Buildings</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 659</td>
<td>Transportation Project Development and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 672</td>
<td>Food Systems, Rural Development and Landscape Conservation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 691</td>
<td>Topics in Urban and Regional Planning</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 With the approval of the program chair, other appropriate graduate courses may be applied toward the concentration.

2 URSP 691 when the topic is race, gender and ethnicity in planning; digital graphic design and desktop publishing; historic preservation applications; architectural analysis and historic preservation; or fundamentals of design for planners.

Electives

Select nine credit hours from the following:  

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URSP 502</td>
<td>Global Economic Change and Development</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 520</td>
<td>Park Planning</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 521</td>
<td>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 525</td>
<td>Site Planning and Graphics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 567</td>
<td>The American Suburb</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 605</td>
<td>Urban Planning History</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 625</td>
<td>Spatial Database Management and GIS Modeling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 626</td>
<td>Transportation Analytics and Modeling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP/PADM 630</td>
<td>Strategic Planning and Management in the Public Sector</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 637</td>
<td>Sustainable Community Development</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 645</td>
<td>Sustainable Energy Planning and Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 650</td>
<td>Natural Resources and Environmental Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 651</td>
<td>Transportation Policy and Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 652</td>
<td>Environmental Analysis</td>
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<td>URSP 653</td>
<td>Transportation Projects</td>
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<td>URSP/ENVS/BIO 654</td>
<td>Environmental Remote Sensing</td>
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<td>URSP 655</td>
<td>Environmental Policy and Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 658</td>
<td>Transportation Finance</td>
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<td>URSP 681</td>
<td>International Urban Policy and Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 691</td>
<td>Topics in Urban and Regional Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 794</td>
<td>Planning Practicum Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 797</td>
<td>Directed Research</td>
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Total Hours  9

1 With the approval of the program chair, other appropriate courses may be applied as electives.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48

Internship

The internship is designed to give students practical experience in planning-related activities in an institutional context. Normally, the internship is taken during the summer between the first and second year or during the second year. Many opportunities for internship positions, as well as part- and full-time jobs in planning at all levels of government, exist within the Richmond area. Upon request, the internship requirement may be waived for students with substantial planning-related professional experience.

Graduate program director
Meghan Z. Gough, Ph.D.
Associate professor and program chair
Email: mzgough@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-0869

Additional contact
Simon H. Okoth, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Wilder School
Email: okothsh@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-1430

Program website: wilder.vcu.edu/academic/urban/grad.html (http://wilder.vcu.edu/academic/urban/grad.html)

Urban and Regional Planning, Master of (M.U.R.P.) with a concentration in environmental planning

Program accreditation
Planning Accreditation Board

Program goals

The Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree program envisions a better future by enhancing the quality of life in mature communities and regions, particularly in Virginia, but also elsewhere in the United States and abroad, through strong planning education, high-quality scholarship and professional planning practices. The goals for the program are to:
1. Create a diverse learning environment that cultivates engagement of diverse participants — both students and faculty — in the program.
2. Prepare students to be effective practitioners in a variety of planning-related organizations, especially in mature communities and regions, with competence in the preparation, presentation and implementation of professional plans and in doing planning-related work.
3. Produce scholarship that increases knowledge and understanding of sustainability and planning support systems as well as the development of innovative methodological approaches and solutions to address issues related to sustainable community development.
4. Provide useful planning services to mature communities and regions, in cooperation with private and public planners, as appropriate.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students should display evidence of having developed a multidisciplinary understanding of urban life.
2. Students will display an understanding of the theory and practice of planning for cities and regions.
3. Students will display the skills necessary to work effectively and competently as planners in a variety of settings.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of, and a willingness to act in accordance with, the ethics and values of the professional planner, as well as the social and environmental responsibilities of planners.

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

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.U.R.P.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 1 (Mar 1 for assistantship consideration or financial aid)</td>
<td>GRE, GMAT, LSAT or MAT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- These deadlines are designed to allow sufficient time for application review and admission processing. Applications may be submitted after the deadline; however, there is no guarantee of sufficient time for processing. Any application submitted too late for current semester processing will be considered for the following semester.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following specifications apply:

1. Students must have a minimum 2.7 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) in their last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work. In addition, a minimum GPA of 3.0 must have been maintained in their undergraduate majors. Finally, applicants are expected to receive satisfactory scores on each of the categories in the GRE, LSAT, GMAT or MAT examinations.
2. Students not meeting these requirements may be admitted to the program on a provisional basis. The provisional period shall consist of the first nine to 12 hours of designated graduate work in which all grades must be no less than B. Provisional admission does not constitute a waiver of the requirement related to a standardized test.
3. Generally, at least two of the three letters of reference should come from former faculty.

All courses in the post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Urban Revitalization and the post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems may be applied to meet the requirement of the Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree. However,
successful completion of either certificate does not guarantee admission into the M.U.R.P. degree program.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the M.U.R.P. degree program must:

1. Complete a minimum of 48 graduate credit hours plus an internship (not for credit). A core of required courses accounts for 27 of these credit hours; the remaining 21 are electives. A minimum overall GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) is required for receipt of the M.U.R.P. degree. In addition, students must receive a minimum grade of B for all core courses.

2. Complete either a six-credit thesis (URSP 764) or prepare a six-credit professional plan project through the professional plan course (URSP 762). Program administrators request permission to utilize the grade of PR, in addition to normal letter grades (A, B, C, D or F) in URSP 762. This will allow students the ability to work on their plans over a more extended period of time, if necessary.

In selecting their elective courses, students may (1) opt for exposure to a wide array of planning-related subject matter (the generalist or comprehensive approach), (2) select one of the areas of specialization defined by the department’s faculty (see the list that follows) or (3) develop an individualized program, focusing on one or more self-defined topics. Regardless of the approach selected, students are expected to meet regularly with their faculty advisers for discussion of their courses of study in relation to their career plans.

The following faculty-defined areas of specialization are offered by the department:

1. Community revitalization
2. Environmental planning
3. Metropolitan planning
4. Planning management

**Curriculum requirements**

**Required courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URSP 610</td>
<td>Introduction to Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 622</td>
<td>Community Socioeconomic Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Using GIS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP/GVPA/PADM/URSP 623</td>
<td>Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP/GVPA 632</td>
<td>Planning Theory and Processes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 635</td>
<td>Legal and Legislative Foundations of Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 662</td>
<td>Foundations for Development Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 761</td>
<td>Planning Studio</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 762</td>
<td>Professional Plan</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 27

**Environmental planning concentration (12 credits)**

**Required courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URSP 645</td>
<td>Sustainable Energy Planning and Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 650</td>
<td>Natural Resources and Environmental Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Concentration electives**

Select six credit hours from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 629</td>
<td>Real Estate Investment Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 609</td>
<td>Financial Management in Government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 650</td>
<td>Principles of Nonprofit Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 656</td>
<td>Fund Development for the Nonprofit Sector</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 517</td>
<td>Historic Preservation in Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 541</td>
<td>Urban Public Policy-making Processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 611</td>
<td>Principles of Urban Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 621</td>
<td>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 627</td>
<td>GIS Applications in Urban Design</td>
</tr>
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<td>URSP 691</td>
<td>Topics in Urban and Regional Planning</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

1. With the approval of the program chair, other appropriate graduate courses may be applied toward the concentration.

2. URSP 691 when the topic is race, gender and ethnicity in planning; digital graphic design and desktop publishing; historic preservation applications; architectural analysis and historic preservation; or fundamentals of design for planners.

**Electives**

Select nine credit hours from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>URSP 605</td>
<td>Urban Planning History</td>
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<td>URSP 625</td>
<td>Spatial Database Management and GIS Modeling</td>
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<td>URSP 626</td>
<td>Transportation Analytics and Modeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP/PADM 630</td>
<td>Strategic Planning and Management in the Public Sector</td>
</tr>
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<td>Sustainable Community Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 645</td>
<td>Sustainable Energy Planning and Policy</td>
</tr>
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<td>URSP 650</td>
<td>Natural Resources and Environmental Planning</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 652</td>
<td>Environmental Analysis</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Transportation Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP/ENVS/BIOL 654</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>
The goals for the program are to:

1. Create a diverse learning environment that cultivates engagement of diverse participants — both students and faculty — in the program.
2. Prepare students to be effective practitioners in a variety of planning-related organizations, especially in mature communities and regions, with competence in the preparation, presentation and implementation of professional plans and in doing planning-related work.
3. Produce scholarship that increases knowledge and understanding of sustainability and planning support systems as well as the development of innovative methodological approaches and solutions to address issues related to sustainable community development.
4. Provide useful planning services to mature communities and regions, in cooperation with private and public planners, as appropriate.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Students should display evidence of having developed a multidisciplinary understanding of urban life.
2. Students will display an understanding of the theory and practice of planning for cities and regions.
3. Students will display the skills necessary to work effectively and competently as planners in a variety of settings.
4. Students will demonstrate an understanding of, and a willingness to act in accordance with, the ethics and values of the professional planner, as well as the social and environmental responsibilities of planners.

**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.grad.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
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<th>Test requirements</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

• These deadlines are designed to allow sufficient time for application review and admission processing. Applications may be submitted after the deadline; however, there is no guarantee of sufficient time for processing. Any application submitted too late for current semester processing will be considered for the following semester.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following specifications apply:

1. Students must have a minimum 2.7 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) in their last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work. In addition, a minimum GPA of 3.0 must have been maintained in their undergraduate majors. Finally, applicants are expected to receive satisfactory scores on each of the categories in the GRE, LSAT, GMAT or MAT examinations.

2. Students not meeting these requirements may be admitted to the program on a provisional basis. The provisional period shall consist of the first nine to 12 hours of designated graduate work in which all grades must be no less than B. Provisional admission does not constitute a waiver of the requirement related to a standardized test.

3. Generally, at least two of the three letters of reference should come from former faculty.

All courses in the post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Urban Revitalization and the post-baccalaureate graduate Certificate in Geographic Information Systems may be applied to meet the requirement of the Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree. However, successful completion of either certificate does not guarantee admission into the M.U.R.P. degree program.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the M.U.R.P. degree program must:

1. Complete a minimum of 48 graduate credit hours plus an internship (not for credit). A core of required courses accounts for 27 of these credit hours; the remaining 21 are electives. A minimum overall GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) is required for receipt of the M.U.R.P. degree. In addition, students must receive a minimum grade of B for all core courses.

2. Complete either a six-credit thesis (URSP 764) or prepare a six-credit professional plan project through the professional plan course (URSP 762). Program administrators request permission to utilize the grade of PR, in addition to normal letter grades (A, B, C, D or F) in URSP 762. This will allow students the ability to work on their plans over a more extended period of time, if necessary.

In selecting their elective courses, students may (1) opt for exposure to a wide array of planning-related subject matter (the generalist or comprehensive approach), (2) select one of the areas of specialization defined by the department’s faculty (see the list that follows) or (3) develop an individualized program, focusing on one or more self-defined topics. Regardless of the approach selected, students are expected to meet regularly with their faculty advisers for discussion of their courses of study in relation to their career plans.

The following faculty-defined areas of specialization are offered by the department:

1. Community revitalization
2. Environmental planning
3. Metropolitan planning
4. Planning management

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required courses</th>
<th>URSP 610</th>
<th>Introduction to Planning</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URSP 622</td>
<td>Community Socioeconomic Analysis Using GIS</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP/GVPA/PADM/</td>
<td>Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 623</td>
<td>Planning Theory and Processes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 635</td>
<td>Legal and Legislative Foundations of Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 662</td>
<td>Foundations for Development Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 761</td>
<td>Planning Studio</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 762 or URSP 764</td>
<td>Professional Plan or Thesis or Projects</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 27

Metropolitan planning concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required courses</th>
<th>URSP 628</th>
<th>Land Use Planning</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URSP 651</td>
<td>Transportation Policy and Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concentration electives

Select six credit hours from the following: 1

- FIRE 627 Real Estate Development
- URSP 520 Park Planning
- URSP 541 Urban Public Policy-making Processes
- URSP 611 Principles of Urban Design
- URSP 621 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
- URSP 625 Spatial Database Management and GIS Modeling
- URSP 626 Transportation Analytics and Modeling
- URSP 627 GIS Applications in Urban Design
- URSP 641 Citizen Participation and Negotiation
- URSP 643 Housing Policy
URSP 659  Transportation Project Development and Evaluation
URSP 664  Urban Economic Development Policy
URSP 672  Food Systems, Rural Development and Landscape Conservation
URSP 681  International Urban Policy and Planning
URSP 691  Topics in Urban and Regional Planning (.902)

Total Hours  12

1 With the approval of the program chair, other appropriate graduate courses may be applied toward the concentration.
2 URSP 691-902 when the topic is race, gender, ethnicity in planning; digital graphic design and desktop publishing; or fundamentals of design for planners.

**Electives**
Select nine credit hours from the following:  9

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<td>URSP 502</td>
<td>Global Economic Change and Development</td>
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<td>Transportation Finance</td>
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<td>URSP 666</td>
<td>Urban Commercial Revitalization</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 691</td>
<td>Topics in Urban and Regional Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 794</td>
<td>Planning Practicum Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 797</td>
<td>Directed Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours  9

1 With the approval of the program chair, other appropriate courses may be applied as electives.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48**

**Internship**
The internship is designed to give students practical experience in planning-related activities in an institutional context. Normally, the internship is taken during the summer between the first and second year or during the second year. Many opportunities for internship positions, as well as part- and full-time jobs in planning at all levels of government, exist within the Richmond area. Upon request, the internship requirement may be waived for students with substantial planning-related professional experience.

**Program website:** wilder.vcu.edu/academic/urban/grad.html (http://wilder.vcu.edu/academic/urban/grad.html)

**Urban and Regional Planning, Master of (M.U.R.P.) with a concentration in planning management**

**Program accreditation**
Planning Accreditation Board

**Program goals**
The Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree program envisions a better future by enhancing the quality of life in mature communities and regions, particularly in Virginia, but also elsewhere in the United States and abroad, through strong planning education, high-quality scholarship and professional planning practices. The goals for the program are to:

1. Create a diverse learning environment that cultivates engagement of diverse participants — both students and faculty — in the program.
2. Prepare students to be effective practitioners in a variety of planning-related organizations, especially in mature communities and regions, with competence in the preparation, presentation and implementation of professional plans and in doing planning-related work.
3. Produce scholarship that increases knowledge and understanding of sustainability and planning support systems as well as the development of innovative methodological approaches and solutions to address issues related to sustainable community development.
4. Provide useful planning services to mature communities and regions, in cooperation with private and public planners, as appropriate.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Students should display evidence of having developed a multidisciplinary understanding of urban life.
2. Students will display an understanding of the theory and practice of planning for cities and regions.
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Special requirements

- These deadlines are designed to allow sufficient time for application review and admission processing. Applications may be submitted after the deadline; however, there is no guarantee of sufficient time for processing. Any application submitted too late for current semester processing will be considered for the following semester.
- Students who wish to pursue this concentration must contact the program chair for additional information.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following specifications apply:

1. Students must have a minimum 2.7 GPA (on a 4.0 scale) in their last 60 semester hours of undergraduate work. In addition, a minimum GPA of 3.0 must have been maintained in their undergraduate majors. Finally, applicants are expected to receive satisfactory scores on each of the categories in the GRE, LSAT, GMAT or MAT examinations.
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In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the M.U.R.P. degree program must:

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1. Community revitalization
2. Environmental planning
3. Metropolitan planning
4. Planning management

Curriculum requirements

Required courses

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>or URSP 764</td>
<td>Thesis or Projects</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

Total Hours: 27

Planning management concentration

Concentration electives

Select nine credit hours from the following:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVS/PADM 628</td>
<td>Environmental Policy and Administration</td>
</tr>
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<td>FIRE 627</td>
<td>Real Estate Development</td>
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<td>PADM 609</td>
<td>Financial Management in Government</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 611</td>
<td>Principles of Urban Design</td>
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<td>URSP 628</td>
<td>Land Use Planning</td>
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<td>URSP 641</td>
<td>Citizen Participation and Negotiation</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 664</td>
<td>Urban Economic Development Policy</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 666</td>
<td>Urban Commercial Revitalization</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 9

Notes:

1. With the approval of the program chair, other appropriate courses may be applied toward the concentration.

Electives

Select 12 credit hours from the following:

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<tr>
<td>URSP 525</td>
<td>Site Planning and Graphics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 541</td>
<td>Urban Public Policy-making Processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 567</td>
<td>The American Suburb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 605</td>
<td>Urban Planning History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 621</td>
<td>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 625</td>
<td>Spatial Database Management and GIS Modeling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 626</td>
<td>Transportation Analytics and Modeling</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sustainable Energy Planning and Policy</td>
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<td>URSP/ENVS/Biol 654</td>
<td>Environmental Remote Sensing</td>
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<td>URSP 655</td>
<td>Environmental Policy and Planning</td>
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<td>URSP 681</td>
<td>International Urban Policy and Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 691</td>
<td>Topics in Urban and Regional Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 794</td>
<td>Planning Practicum Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 797</td>
<td>Directed Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 12

Notes:

1. With the approval of the program chair, other appropriate courses may be applied as electives.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48

Internship

The internship is designed to give students practical experience in planning-related activities in an institutional context. Normally, the internship is taken during the summer between the first and second year or during the second year. Many opportunities for internship positions, as well as part- and full-time jobs in planning at all levels of government, exist within the Richmond area. Upon request, the internship requirement may be waived for students with substantial planning-related professional experience.

Graduate program director

Meghan Z. Gough, Ph.D.
Associate professor and program chair
Email: mzgough@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-0869
Additional contact
Simon H. Okoth, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Wilder School
Email: okothsh@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-1430

Program website: wilder.vcu.edu/academic/urban/grad.html (http://wilder.vcu.edu/academic/urban/grad.html)

Urban and Regional Planning, Master of (M.U.R.P.)/Juris Doctor (J.D.) with the University of Richmond [combined]

Program accreditation
Planning Accreditation Board

A cooperative arrangement with the University of Richmond School of Law makes it possible for students to receive a law degree (J.D.) and an urban and regional planning degree (M.U.R.P.) in four years rather than the five years ordinarily required.

The purpose of the program is to integrate the two professional curricula and to provide the expertise necessary to apply legal analytical skills and planning methods and analysis to urban and regional policy issues and problems. The dual degree program is designed to equip graduates for a variety of professional positions, including staff for legislative committees and government agencies and commissions, government legal staff, private consulting, neighborhood advocacy, directorships of planning and related agencies and executive aides to elected officials.

Refer to individual program pages for admission requirements, application deadlines, program goals, student learning outcomes, degree requirements, curriculum requirements and graduation requirements specific to the separate programs and concentrations.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Application process
Interested students must apply separately for and be admitted to the University of Richmond School of Law and the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program at VCU. Students will spend the entire first year in either the University of Richmond School of Law or the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, and the second year in the program not selected the first year. Twelve credit hours of the planning program will be applied toward meeting the graduation requirements of the law school, and 12 credit hours in the law school will be applied toward meeting requirements of the M.U.R.P. program.

Upon admission to the dual-degree program, every student will be assigned an adviser in each program who will assist in planning a course of study that will include all of the required courses in each program plus such elective courses that will best serve the interests of the individual student.

Students deciding not to complete the dual degree program must meet all of the regular requirements of either the J.D. or M.U.R.P. to receive the degree of their choice.

Graduate program director
Meghan Z. Gough, Ph.D.
Associate professor and program chair

Email: mzgough@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-0869

Urban Revitalization, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)

Program accreditation
Planning Accreditation Board

Program goal
The Certificate in Urban Revitalization provides specialized training in the techniques and processes of city and neighborhood revitalization. Topics include adaptive reuse of buildings, historic preservation, real estate market analysis and the role of private-public partnerships in financing development projects. The certificate is useful for midcareer professionals who wish to learn new skills to expand their career options. It also is useful for recent college graduates who desire advanced training beyond the baccalaureate level and accelerated entry into the job market.

At any time, students in the certificate program may apply for admission into the Master of Urban and Regional Planning program and, if accepted, may transfer the certificate credits toward partial fulfillment of the master’s degree requirements.

Student learning outcomes
1. Students should display evidence of having developed a multidisciplinary understanding of urban life.
2. Students will demonstrate an understanding of, and a willingness to act in accordance with, the ethics and values of the professional.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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.

Degree candidacy policy as published in the VCU Graduate Bulletin for complete information and instructions.

Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 1 (Mar 1 for financial aid)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- These deadlines are designed to allow sufficient time for application review and admission processing. Applications may be submitted after the deadline; however, there is no guarantee of sufficient time for processing. Any application submitted too late for current semester processing will be considered for the following semester.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the prerequisites and general criteria of eligibility for admission to the urban revitalization certificate program include:

1. Completion of an official application form
2. Three letters of reference
3. Letter of intent describing interest in applying for the Certificate in Urban Revitalization
4. An official transcript showing successful completion of a baccalaureate degree or its equivalent from an accredited college or university with a minimum grade point average of 2.7 (out of 4.0) in the last 60 hours of undergraduate study
5. Demonstration of professional experience in planning or work related to the certificate program (The experience requirement may be waived for candidates who demonstrate professional promise.)

All courses in the graduate Certificate in Urban Revitalization may be applied to meet the requirement of the Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree. However, successful completion of the certificate does not guarantee admission into the M.U.R.P. degree program.

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the Certificate in Urban Revitalization program requires 18 graduate credit hours of course work, which blends instruction in planning, urban design, economics and finance.

Curriculum requirements

Select six of the following: 18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FIRE 629</td>
<td>Real Estate Investment Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 517</td>
<td>Historic Preservation in Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 610</td>
<td>Introduction to Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 611</td>
<td>Principles of Urban Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 643</td>
<td>Housing Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 647</td>
<td>Adaptive Reuse of Buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 664</td>
<td>Urban Economic Development Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 666</td>
<td>Urban Commercial Revitalization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 691</td>
<td>Topics in Urban and Regional Planning (architectural analysis and historical preservation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 691</td>
<td>Topics in Urban and Regional Planning (historical preservation application)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other elective, if approved by the program chair or certificate program coordinator

Total Hours 18

1 Either URSP 647 or FIRE 629, but not both, may be applied toward the degree requirements.

For students who wish to focus primarily on historic preservation 12 of the program's 18 hours should include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>URSP 517</td>
<td>Historic Preservation in Planning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 647</td>
<td>Adaptive Reuse of Buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 691</td>
<td>Topics in Urban and Regional Planning (architectural analysis and historical preservation)</td>
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<tr>
<td>URSP 691</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 12

Graduate program director
Meghan Z. Gough, Ph.D.
Associate professor and program chair
Email: mzgough@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-0869
**Additional contact**
Simon H. Okoth, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Wilder School
Email: okothsh@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-1430

**Program website:** wilder.vcu.edu/academic/certificate/urban.html
(http://wilder.vcu.edu/academic/certificate/urban.html)
The School of Medicine opened on Nov. 5, 1838, as the medical department of Hampden-Sydney College, and became the Medical College of Virginia in 1854. Full-time clinical faculty members were first appointed in 1928, and improved facilities became available between 1936 and 1941 with the completion of the 600-bed West Hospital, A. D. Williams Clinic and Hunton Hall dormitory, located on the current site of the Main Hospital building. Growth in faculty, students and facilities continued after World War II, leading to the development of today's academic health center.

Hospital facilities on the MCV Campus include both in-patient and outpatient facilities. MCV Hospitals of the VCU Health System is licensed for 902 beds. In addition, the hospital at the McGuire Veterans Affairs Medical Center (600 beds) provides excellent patient care, training and research opportunities for the School of Medicine through its affiliation programs.

In the School of Medicine, advanced degree programs are coordinated through the Office of the Associate Dean for Graduate Education, who acts for the dean on all issues related to administration of advanced degree programs. Each advanced-degree program is represented by a faculty member who serves as director for graduate programs. Directors are appointed either by the chair of the department offering graduate degrees or, in the case of interdisciplinary programs, by the dean in consultation with the chairs of participating departments. The directors of graduate programs act on behalf of the programs and hold the responsibility and authority to represent the respective department(s) and their faculty to the school.

Administration

1201 East Marshall Street
P.O. Box 980565
Richmond, Virginia 23298-0565
medschool.vcu.edu (http://www.medschool.vcu.edu)

Peter F. Buckley, M.D.
Executive vice president for medical affairs (VCU Health) and dean

Julie Beales, M.D.
Associate dean for veterans affairs

Diane Biskobing, M.D.
Assistant dean for advancement of curriculum

Leila Brinegar, Ed.D.
Assistant dean for curriculum

Samantha Buery-Joyner, M.D.
Assistant dean for student affairs – Inova Campus

Teresa Carter, Ed.D.
Associate dean for professional instructions and faculty development

Pemra Cetin
Assistant dean for student affairs and financial aid

Craig E. Cheifetz, M.D.
Associate dean for medical education – Inova Campus

Jan F. Chlebowski, Ph.D.

Associate dean for graduate education

Ralph (Ron) Clark III, M.D.
Associate dean for clinical activities

Susan DiGiovanni, M.D.
Interim senior associate dean for medical education and student affairs

Michael S. Donnenberg, M.D.
Senior associate dean for research and research training

Alicia Freedy, M.D.
Assistant dean for curriculum – Inova Campus

Darrell Griffith
Senior associate dean for finance and administration and executive director, MCV Physicians

Thomas Holland
Associate dean for alumni relations and development

Donna Jackson, Ed.D.
Assistant dean for admissions

Paul E. Mazmanian, Ph.D.
Associate dean for assessment and evaluation studies

Linda Meloy, M.D., and John Boothby
Interim senior associate deans for professional education programs

Jose Munoz, M.D.
Interim associate dean for patient safety and quality care

Mary Alice O'Donnell, Ph.D.
Associate dean for graduate medical education

Paul Peterson
Assistant dean for administration

Elizabeth Ripley, M.D.
Interim senior associate dean for faculty affairs

Michael Ryan, M.D.
Assistant dean for clinical medical education

Joy Sanders
Assistant dean for development and alumni affairs

Gregory Trimble, M.D.
Assistant dean for faculty – Inova Campus

Constance Tucker, Ph.D.
Assistant dean for faculty development

John Ward, M.D.
Senior associate dean for clinical affairs and president, MCV Physicians

Michelle Whitehurst-Cook, M.D.
Associate dean for admissions

Christopher Woleben, M.D.
Associate dean for student affairs

Vacant
Assistant dean for advanced degree administration
Accreditation

Geconic counseling (master’s degree)
American Board of Genetic Counseling

Medical physics
Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Educational Programs

Medicine (M.D.)
Liaison Committee on Medical Education

Public health (master’s degree)
Council on Education in Public Health

Mission statement

The mission of the VCU School of Medicine is to provide pre-eminent education to physicians and scientists in order to improve the quality of health care for humanity. Through innovative, scholarly activity and a diverse educational context, the school seeks to create and apply new knowledge and to provide and continuously improve systems of medical and science education. Furthermore, the mission includes the development of more effective health care practices to address the needs of diverse populations and to provide distinguished leadership in the advancement of medicine and science.

The primary aim of the School of Medicine is to provide an academic environment appropriate for the education of its students, including undergraduate medical students, advanced-degree (graduate) students and graduate physician house officers, as well as continuing education directed toward the needs of practicing physicians. In the classroom, laboratory, clinic and hospital, the faculty and students are brought together in teaching-learning experiences that promote scientific scholarship and personal growth in knowledge and professional skills applicable to careers in a diverse workplace environment.

The School of Medicine and its faculty have vested responsibilities for the advancement of knowledge through research and for service to the community through application of skills in biomedical knowledge, health care leadership and patient care. Therefore, the school shares with teaching the interdependent and almost inseparable objectives of research and service.

The School of Medicine is located on the MCV Campus of VCU.

For comprehensive information on the School of Medicine departments, programs and faculty, please go to the school website at medschool.vcu.edu (http://www.medschool.vcu.edu).

Faculty and facilities

The School of Medicine consists of 700 full-time faculty, including affiliates, assisted by 630 residents and fellows and more than 700 clinical voluntary faculty. Programs of instruction and research are conducted on campus, at the McGuire VA Medical Center and at affiliated hospitals in an effort to expose the students to the variety of clinical disorders encountered in the eastern U.S. The School of Medicine has established a geographically separate campus at the Inova Fairfax Hospital. Each year, 24 third-year students take all their clinical clerkships at Inova Fairfax Hospital. Their fourth year elective program also is based at the Inova Fairfax Hospital.

Health policies

Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine requires that all medical students carry active health insurance. Health insurance benefits must be equal to or greater than those provided by the university health carrier. In addition, it is required that all students complete required immunizations within six months of matriculation and have repeat tuberculosis screening performed prior to the third-year clerkships. For details related to these policies, please visit medschool.vcu.edu (http://www.medschool.vcu.edu).

The School of Medicine requires that all students enrolled in the graduate academic programs administered by the school hold active health insurance coverage. This requirement applies to students at all degree categories: doctoral, master’s and certificate. Compliance is monitored by administrative offices of the school and departments. Failure to comply with this requirement is grounds for dismissal.

Graduate programs

A complete listing of advanced degree programs including links to departments, programs, contact information and application requirements can be found at medschool.vcu.edu/audience/prospective (http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/audience/prospective).

Graduate programs offering Master of Science and doctoral training in the School of Medicine include:

- Anatomy and neurobiology
- Biochemistry
- Biostatistics
- Epidemiology (doctoral training only)
- Healthcare policy and research (doctoral training only)
- Human genetics
- Medical physics
- Microbiology and immunology
- Neuroscience (doctoral training only)
- Pharmacology and toxicology
- Physiology
- Social and behavioral sciences (doctoral training only)

The Department of Human and Molecular Genetics offers a Master of Science in Genetic Counseling and the Division of Epidemiology in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health offers the Master of Public Health degree. Both of these degree programs are accredited by the appropriate national organizations.

The Department of Human and Molecular Genetics offers a combined degree program that pairs the M.S. in Genetic Counseling and the Ph.D. in Human Genetics.

Recognizing that graduate education should prepare students for a variety of career options, and that developments in the basic sciences have expanded the breadth of scholarship, the school has developed approaches to interdisciplinary education, particularly in the areas of neuroscience, molecular biology and genetics, immunology, and structural biology.

A two-semester post-baccalaureate certificate program offering training for students seeking admission to professional school (i.e., School
of Medicine, School of Dentistry) is available as the Certificate in Pre-
medical Graduate Health Sciences.

Application and admission to graduate programs

Application forms and instructions for applying to all graduate programs are available on the VCU Office of Admissions’ Graduate Admissions website at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu/apply (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu/apply). International applicants should access materials at international.admissions.vcu.edu/apply/graduate (http://international.admissions.vcu.edu/apply/graduate).

1. The purpose of admission requirements and procedures is to ensure selection of competent students whose motivation, ability, education and character qualify them for graduate study in preparation for a career in science.

2. The following credentials constitute an application and should be sent to the VCU Office of Admissions as described on the Graduate Admissions website.
   a. Application for admission including the Application for Virginia in-state tuition
   b. Payment for the application fee
   c. Official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work sent directly from college or university registrars to the Graduate School
   d. Letters of recommendation from three present or former teachers or others the applicant believes to be qualified to evaluate fitness to engage in graduate study for the degree in the field of choice
   e. A personal statement from the applicant summarizing motivation, education and aims in pursuing graduate study
   f. Verbal, quantitative and analytical portions of the Graduate Record Examination (required) (Medical College Admission Test or Dental Aptitude Test may be acceptable in lieu of the GRE for selected programs.)
   g. Transcripts from all institutions of higher learning attended
   h. Program expectations for performance on the Test of English as a Foreign Language or IELTS examination for international applicants for whom English is not the native language (Please note that required academic record documents submitted in the native language must be accompanied by an official English translation. Please see the Admissions website for detailed information.)

3. Acceptance of an applicant is based upon the recommendation of the director of graduate programs of the relevant program.

While most students matriculate in the fall semester, arrangements may be made to initiate graduate work at other times during the academic year.

Ph.D. programs

Advanced graduate study leading to a Doctor of Philosophy degree is offered in the departments of Anatomy and Neurobiology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Biostatistics, Family Medicine and Population Health (Epidemiology Division), Healthcare Policy and Research, Human and Molecular Genetics, Radiation Oncology (medical physics), Microbiology and Immunology, Pharmacology and Toxicology, Physiology and Biophysics, and Social and Behavioral Health, as well as an interdisciplinary neuroscience degree and molecular biology and genetics curricula in a number of disciplines.

General requirements for graduate degrees

1. All full-time graduate students are expected to register for a minimum of 15 credit hours for the fall and spring semesters and three credit hours for the summer session. This requirement includes research. As an example, when students are registered for 10 credits in formal courses, they are expected to undertake five credits of research under the direction of their adviser or any approved faculty member. Research courses shall be graded as S (satisfactory), U (unsatisfactory) or F (fail). Registration for one credit hour is permitted only with prior permission.

2. Students enrolled in all Master of Science and doctoral programs are required to receive training in the responsible conduct of research in accord with federal guidelines.

3. Students are required to remain in good academic standing through the course of their degree program. Unsatisfactory student performance includes:
   a. The assignment of a grade of U, D or F in any course
   b. Failure to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater
   c. Failure to pass the written or oral comprehensive examination
   d. Failure to pass the final examination

   A student whose performance is unsatisfactory must obtain the approval of the MCV Campus graduate committee to gain permission for continuing in the graduate program. The committee elicits the recommendation of the department/ program (as represented by the director of graduate studies of the appropriate program) and, as appropriate, the student’s adviser in making a determination. Unsatisfactory performance also constitutes grounds for the termination of financial assistance to the student.

4. Students may not take the comprehensive examination for the Ph.D. degree if their overall GPA is less than 3.0 or if the GPA for courses within the major department is below 3.0. Students may not take the final oral examination for the M.S. or Ph.D. degree if their overall GPA is below 3.0. The examining body for the administration of the comprehensive examinations and the final examination is the student advisory committee. For the oral comprehensive examination for Ph.D. students and the final examinations for M.S. students, the body is supplemented by the addition of a representative of the MCV Campus graduate committee who chairs the examining body. The representative must be a member of the graduate faculty and is appointed by the chair of the MCV Campus graduate committee. The representative holds the responsibility for compliance with protocols appropriate to the examination, including the equitable treatment of the candidate.

5. Copies of the thesis/dissertation consistent with university standards shall be provided to the members of the student’s advisory committee three weeks or more before the date of the defense of the thesis/dissertation. Following acceptance of the thesis/dissertation defense schedule by the committee, the student must submit a copy of the thesis/dissertation and a request for scheduling of the final examination to the chair of the MCV Campus graduate committee a minimum of 10 working days in advance of the examination date. After passing the final examination, it shall be the responsibility of the candidate to present to the dean’s office the approved original thesis/dissertation plus the minimum required number of copies (three for M.S., four for Ph.D.) in final form suitable for binding. In
consultation with the office staff, the candidate shall be responsible for the binding and the processing of the thesis through VCU Libraries and for the payment of all charges for these services.

6. A degree is granted only after all requirements have been fulfilled, including payment of all fees to the university, and after submission of the copies of the thesis for binding.

7. VCU currently requires registration for a defined credit hour level during both the didactic and research phases of advanced degree training. For programs requiring the preparation of a thesis or dissertation, there is therefore no obligatory linkage between the accumulation of credit hours and an expectation that a degree be awarded.

As a guide to monitoring the timely completion of the degree within the present enrollment framework, the accumulation of 80 credit hours for a M.S. degree and 180 credit hours for a Ph.D. degree can be taken as a reasonable measure. These credit hour totals refer to degree programs requiring the preparation of a thesis or dissertation. Unless explicitly stated, the figures cited above apply to Master of Science (M.S.) and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) programs offered by the School of Medicine.

Change in academic program

A student in good standing who is nearing the completion of their degree program may wish to be considered for admission to a more advanced degree administered by the School of Medicine. On more rare occasions, a student may wish to leave (withdraw) from the program in which he/she is currently enrolled and join another program at the same academic level in the School of Medicine.

In all cases the student seeking the change shall submit a hard-copy version of the VCU Application for Graduate School to the Office of Graduate Education in the School of Medicine. The one-page application must be accompanied by a letter written by the student providing the rationale for the change and the program into which the student is seeking admission. The Office of Graduate Education will review the application and the record of the student and then alert the department to the interest of the student if deemed appropriate. Students who are not making satisfactory academic progress (i.e. a student who is not in good academic standing) in a given program would not be considered candidates for a program change. In the absence of prior approval from the Office of the Dean, neither an “application” by a student directly to a program nor the “acceptance” of a student by a program will be valid. Neither students nor programs may initiate admission to a program in the School of Medicine in the absence of the approval by the Office of Graduate Education acting in consultation with the MCV Campus graduate committee.

The above applies to all changes in program (e.g. certificate level to master’s, master’s to Ph.D., program change at the same degree level).

The student adviser and advisory committee

Students receive guidance and counsel from the director of graduate programs for the appropriate program prior to appointment of the permanent adviser. The permanent adviser holds the primary responsibility for monitoring the development of the student in the program and providing the appropriate guidance and counsel essential to the scholarly development of the student.

An advisory committee, appointed shortly after the permanent adviser is appointed, serves as both an examining and consultative body, functioning to assist the development of the student. Committee members hold a special responsibility as a source of counsel for each student.

To fulfill these objectives, committee membership must avoid the existence or appearance of conflict of interest.

A conflict of interest is a set of circumstances that increases a risk that the judgment or actions regarding a primary interest will be or may appear to be unduly influenced by a secondary interest. In the case of service as a member of a student advisory committee, the primary interest is the independent evaluation of the performance of the student, the counsel provided to the student and adviser in the planning and implementation of the scholarly project, and the counsel provided to student and adviser to ensure satisfactory academic progress and an appropriate relationship between adviser and student. Secondary interests include personal or professional relationships with the adviser which could compromise or be seen to compromise the fulfillment of the primary interest of the individual as a member of the student advisory committee.

An individual having a formal personal relationship with the adviser can provide the appearance of a conflict of interest compromising the wholly independent participation of the individual as a committee member. Similarly, the presence of multiple members of a laboratory “team,” accentuated in cases where there is employer-employee relationship of the “team” members, can raise concerns with respect to a potential conflict of interest. In addition, a committee composed largely of members of a single research operation replicates the counsel already available in group meetings and is not fully consistent with the purpose and objectives of committee appointments.

The advisory committee architecture exists for multiple reasons. The guidelines for committee composition are intended to provide a balance between expertise in a disciplinary area coupled with an interdisciplinary perspective to enrich the contributions of the committee to the evaluation of the scholarly work to the benefit of student and adviser. The committee provides the framework for the “inter-rater reliability” of the evaluation of the student performance and development in achieving the degree of scholarly independence consistent with the awarding of the degree. The independence of the “raters” in establishing a collective judgment with respect to student performance is central to the quality of the system and the perception of the evaluation process as equitable and not capricious.

For the above reasons the faculty of the School of Medicine shall avoid the proposed appointment to a student advisory committee individuals who have a personal relationship with the adviser or are members of the laboratory/research group of the adviser.

1. Each student shall have an adviser and an advisory committee.

2. Appointment of the adviser:
   a. The initial adviser will be the director of the graduate program or his/her designee prior to appointment of the permanent adviser.
   b. A permanent adviser shall be appointed from the graduate faculty by the chair of the MCV Campus graduate committee upon recommendation of the chair of the student’s major department. Appointment should be made no later than the beginning of the fall semester following matriculation. A change in the permanent adviser may be made by the chair of the MCV Campus graduate committee upon recommendation of the chair of the major department.

3. Duties of the adviser:
a. The adviser shall, with the student’s advisory committee, have responsibility for guiding the student’s academic program.

b. The adviser shall develop a plan for the student’s didactic program with the student.

c. The adviser shall, on the basis of the proposed didactic and scholarly program for the student, identify members of the faculty to comprise the student’s advisory committee and elicit their agreement to serve, the adviser serving as the chair of the committee.

d. The adviser shall supervise the student’s research work and dissertation preparation and be one of the examiners of the dissertation (Ph.D.).

e. At the close of the spring semester, the adviser shall submit to the program director or the chair of the MCV Campus graduate committee a report covering the progress of the student. Copies of the report should be provided to the student and the membership of the student advisory committee by the adviser.

4. The student’s advisory committee:

a. The student’s advisory committee shall be appointed no later than the end of the fall semester of the second year after matriculation by the chair of the MCV Campus graduate committee, upon recommendation of the student’s adviser, review by the graduate program director and recommendation of the chair of the department of the permanent adviser. Appointment of the student advisory committee must be done within three months of the appointment of the permanent adviser and prior to the administration of comprehensive (or final) examinations. The composition of the advisory committee shall be such that significant areas of the student’s scholarly program are represented in the expertise of the faculty members.

i. The committee for the Ph.D. candidate shall consist of a minimum of five members as follows: the student’s adviser; two other members of the graduate faculty of the department/program in which the student is enrolled; and at least two other members of the graduate faculty from departments other than the one in which the student is enrolled (where feasible, from two different departments).

ii. A faculty member who is not a member of the graduate faculty may be appointed to a student advisory committee if approved by the MCV Campus graduate committee. Appointment is made by the dean of the Graduate School.

iii. The student adviser is identified as the chair of the student advisory committee as the default option. This creates the potential for a conflict of interest with respect to the management of the research project of the student. As a means of exploring options to existing protocol, the student advisory committee has the option of electing a member of the committee to serve as the chair. Should this be the case, the revised committee structure will be submitted to the graduate program director for review and approval.

b. Duties of the student’s advisory committee:

i. The advisory committee functions as an advisory body to ensure that timely progress toward degree completion is being achieved, as an examining body participating as appropriate for the intended degree in written qualifying examinations and conducting the oral qualifying examination and final examination, and as a consultative body to provide scholarly counsel.

ii. The student’s advisory committee shall work with the student’s adviser in guiding the student’s graduate program and shall meet at least annually. It is strongly recommended that the advisory committee meet with the student prior to administration of the comprehensive examination(s) by the committee.

iii. The student’s advisory committee shall recommend and approve a degree program (including foreign language if applicable) for the student as soon as it is practical. The proposed program should be filed with the chair of the MCV Campus graduate committee no later than the third semester of study.

iv. The student’s advisory committee shall conduct the oral comprehensive and final examination.

Doctor of Philosophy

1. A minimum of 30 credit hours exclusive of research credits is generally required. In practice, a minimum of four years of study, including research, is necessary to complete all requirements.

2. For all Ph.D. programs, a period of residence of at least two consecutive semesters is required. In the context of Ph.D. training, “residence” refers to full-time enrollment, equivalent to enrollment of nine or more credit hours in a given academic term. The School of Medicine recommends that doctoral students maintain “residency” status for one academic year (fall and spring semesters), usually during the initial year of study. This recommendation is to ensure that the didactic component of training is not prolonged. Students should register in each academic term as a means of ensuring that timely progress toward degree completion is achieved. The specific requirements for residency will be detailed by the individual programs. A time limit of seven calendar years, beginning at the time of first registration, is placed on work to be credited toward the Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Admission to candidacy

The development of the individual as an independent research scientist is a critical component of the Ph.D. degree. The potential for such development is assessed on the basis of both mastery of subject matter and research competency as judged in the context of written and oral examinations administered at the level of department or program. Students are admitted to candidacy by the dean on the basis of completing examinations as required and the recommendation of the faculty adviser, student advisory committee and graduate program director.

Individual development plan

In order to assist trainees and advisers in the efficient completion of degree training and considered identification of a strategy for career development once the degree has been awarded, all graduate students will be required to create an individual development plan. The IDP will have two components, both of which are critical to the achievement of a successful career outcome.

The first component will address the action plan for the research project over the next 12-month period. This should take a form analogous to the “Specific Aims” section of an NIH grant proposal, identifying key experimental objectives. In addition, objectives in professional development (e.g. attendance at a national meeting, delivery of a seminar) are also identified. The student adviser works with the student to develop this component of the IDP. The IDP is then used as a resource
for consideration and comment by the student advisory committee in the annual meeting with the student.

The second component of the IDP will explore the long-term "career objectives" of the student. Career objectives must look beyond a period of postdoctoral training. The nature of this component of the plan will vary widely depending on the individual. For the individual who has identified a particular career position, the IDP might, for example, seek to gain a more complete understanding of the requirements of such a position or the identification of "soft" skills critical to success in the position. If undecided, the individual might explore the variety of career options for which the biomedical science degree can serve as a foundation. While the student's research adviser can play a role in developing this component of the plan, students should be encouraged to identify a mentor who can provide critical, concrete and confidential counsel to the student.

The use of the career planning tool distributed by the American Association for the Advancement of Science as "myIDP" to both guide the creation of a plan and convert entries into a report format is strongly recommended. A copy of the IDP will be submitted to the graduate program director in June of each year. The plans will be forwarded to the School of Medicine Office of Graduate Education. A record of the receipt of the IDP is placed in the student file.

**Progress to degree completion**

The timely completion of advanced degrees is in the best interests of the student. In order to ensure that impediments to degree completion are addressed at an early stage the Office of Graduate Education in the School of Medicine houses a record of the meetings of the student advisory committee in GradTrak. On an annual basis, programs will provide to the Office of Graduate Education a record of the date(s) on which the student advisory committee has met, a copy of the minutes of the meeting and/or the memorandum provided to the student describing the progress made to degree completion, along with the expression of compliments, concerns and corrective action as appropriate. A copy of the IDP prepared by the student accompanies the report of the actions of the student advisory committee meeting.

While recognizing that the research enterprise is subject to unknowns including unanticipated problems in the successful conduct of experiments, the duration of training should not be unduly extended as a consequence. The adviser and student advisory committee have a responsibility to ensure that the scope of the research project is such that a doctoral degree can be completed in five to six years. The student advisory committee plays a central role to ensure that the treatment of the student is equitable and that the student displays appropriate effort, commitment and development.

Advisers have an obligation to ensure that in circumstances where student performance is not deemed to be satisfactory, the presence of the potential problem is communicated to the student advisory committee and the program director. The interests of the adviser and student are best served when the evaluation of the situation is made with multiple inputs. In cases where a problem does exist, communication of the substandard performance, along with a course and timeline for remediation, should be formally communicated to the student as soon as possible. Documenting the existence of problem areas should not await the end of a semester or be delayed until a scheduled assessment is to take place.

If the student has not completed all degree requirements at the end of 15 semesters (inclusive of summer terms) of study, the adviser will provide specific information on the timeline for completion of the degree and submit to the student advisory committee and the graduate program director (with a copy forwarded to the Office of Graduate Education) for review and action if warranted.

**Comprehensive examinations**

In order to advance to doctoral candidacy, the student must pass both written and oral comprehensive examinations. The written examination(s) generally focus(es) on the subject matter deemed critical as a foundation in the particular program. The written examination is largely based on material covered in required course work and its application to theoretical and practical problems. The oral examination, which follows successful completion of the written examination(s), is administered to assess the ability of the candidate to integrate information and display an appropriate mastery of problem-solving capabilities.

1. To advance to candidacy, the student shall take written and oral examinations designed to determine the potential of the individual for development as an independent research scientist. Advancement to candidacy should preferably take place prior to initiating the third academic year in the program. The written examination is administered by the student's department/program. In the event of failure of the written comprehensive examination, the student, with the approval of the MCV Campus graduate committee, may be permitted to repeat the written examination.

2. After passing the written examination(s), the student is eligible for the oral examination. The oral examination is conducted by the student's advisory committee and is chaired by a graduate faculty member representing the MCV Campus graduate committee who serves as a voting member of the examining committee. The oral examination is to be administered no later than six months after passing the written examination. (Departments/programs may require a shorter interval.)

3. The oral examination is scheduled through the Office of Graduate Education. An announcement of the candidate's name, department/program and the time and place of the examination shall be posted at least 10 working days in advance of the examination. If a written document prepared by the candidate is a component of the examination, the document shall be provided to the members of the examining committee at least 10 working days in advance of the examination. The oral comprehensive examination is open to all members of the faculty. Faculty members in attendance may ask questions of the candidate, but their questions shall not be presented until after the advisory committee has completed its questions. Faculty members other than those on the advisory committee shall not vote on the success or failure of the candidate. If a student fails the oral examination, the student may be re-examined with the approval of the MCV Campus graduate committee.

4. A favorable vote of the examining committee (all members of body being required to vote) with no more than one negative vote, is required to pass the examination. Members of the examining committee must vote on the performance as either pass or fail.

5. The oral examination must be completed successfully at least six months before submission of the dissertation.

**Dissertation research**

1. The student must conduct a substantial original investigation under the supervision of the permanent adviser and prepare a dissertation reporting the results of this research and analyzing its significance in relation to existing scientific knowledge.
2. The body of experimental work to be incorporated into the dissertation is subject to the approval of the membership of the student advisory committee. The advisory committee should, therefore, be formally consulted as the research project nears completion to ensure that there is agreement with respect to the material deemed necessary and sufficient for incorporation into the dissertation. Such consultation will normally occur in the form of a meeting of the advisory committee with the student. The faculty adviser has a responsibility to advise the student when the meeting of the advisory committee for this purpose should take place.

3. The dissertation is prepared in an acceptable form and style with the counsel of the faculty adviser. The faculty adviser determines when the dissertation document can serve as the basis for the final oral examination (or dissertation defense). With the approval of the faculty adviser, the final oral examination by the advisory committee is scheduled and the dissertation document is distributed to the advisory committee. Distribution of the dissertation document to the advisory committee will usually occur at least 10 working days in advance of the final oral examination. The Office of Graduate Education is informed of the scheduling of the final oral examination 10 working days in advance of the examination. The Office of Graduate Education will then post an announcement of the final oral examination to include the name and department of the candidate together with the title of the dissertation and the day, place and time of the final oral examination.

4. The final oral examination is conducted by the student advisory committee at a specified time and place, is chaired by the faculty adviser and is open to all members of the faculty. The subject matter of the examination is limited to the content of the candidate’s dissertation and related areas. A favorable vote of the advisory committee with no more than one negative vote shall be required to indicate that the candidate has passed the final oral examination. All advisory committee members must vote. The outcome of the final oral examination is reported to the Office of Graduate Education. If the examination is not passed, the student advisory committee must recommend a course of action for the student. The committee might, for example, recommend that a re-examination be scheduled, or that a major revision of the dissertation (including added data collection and/or analysis) be required prior to rescheduling of the examination, or that the student be terminated from the program or other action as deemed appropriate by the committee. A majority of the committee membership must concur in the recommended course of action. The recommendation must be communicated in writing to the appropriate graduate program director for approval within five working days of the examination. The program, acting through the graduate program director, shall accept the recommendation of the committee or determine an alternative within an additional five working days. The course of action approved by the program will be communicated in writing to the student by the graduate program director. The graduate program director shall inform the Office of Graduate Education of the School of Medicine in writing as to the action taken.

If a re-examination is the recommended course of action, a representative of the MCV Campus graduate committee will be appointed to serve as the chair of the examining committee.

5. The student advisory committee approves the dissertation document as acceptable following the final oral examination. Approval of the dissertation as acceptable is indicated by the signature of all members of the advisory committee on the signature page of the dissertation. Approval of the dissertation by the advisory committee must be unanimous.

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**Termination of enrollment**

The university reserves the right to terminate the enrollment of any student for unlawful, disorderly or immoral conduct or for persistent failure to fulfill the purposes for which he or she was matriculated.

A student enrolled in a graduate program under the supervision of the MCV Campus graduate committee may be dismissed from the school in which he is enrolled for failure to meet academic requirements prescribed by his school or failure to exhibit the attitudes and skills deemed necessary to function within his chosen scientific discipline.

Any action by a graduate student in a program under the supervision of the MCV Campus graduate committee considered to be unprofessional conduct shall constitute cause for disciplinary action.

Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. Fraud or deceit in gaining admission to the university, i.e., false or obviously misleading representations on the admission application
2. An act that violates the established legal standards regarding conduct of one person toward society (i.e., stealing, lying, cheating and slander)
3. Conviction of a felony involving moral turpitude
4. Plagiarism or other scientific misconduct

**Master’s programs**

Advanced graduate study leading to the Master of Science degree is offered in the departments of Anatomy and Neurobiology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Biostatistics, Human and Molecular Genetics, Microbiology and Immunology, Pharmacology and Toxicology, and Physiology and Biophysics. The Department of Family Medicine and Population Health, through the Division of Epidemiology, offers the Master of Public Health degree; the Department of Human and Molecular Genetics offers the Master of Science degree in genetic counseling; and the Department of Radiation Oncology administers the Master of Science degree in medical physics.

**General requirements for graduate degrees**

1. All full-time graduate students are expected to register for a minimum of five credit hours for the fall and spring semesters and six credit hours for the summer session. This requirement includes research. As an example, when students are registered for 10 credits in formal courses, they are expected to undertake five credits of research under the direction of their adviser or any approved faculty member. Research courses shall be graded as S (satisfactory), U (unsatisfactory) or F (fail). Registration for one credit hour is permitted only with prior permission.

2. Students are required to remain in good academic standing through the course of their degree program. Unsatisfactory student performance includes:
   a. The assignment of a grade of U, D or F in any course
   b. Failure to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5
   c. Failure to pass the written or oral comprehensive examination
   d. Failure to pass the final examination

A student whose performance is unsatisfactory must obtain the approval of the MCV Campus graduate committee to gain permission for continuing in the graduate program. The committee elicits the recommendation of the department/program (as represented by the director of graduate studies
of the appropriate program) and, as appropriate, the student’s adviser in making a determination. Unsatisfactory performance also constitutes grounds for the termination of financial assistance to the student.

3. Students may not take the comprehensive examination for the Ph.D. degree if their overall GPA is less than 2.5 or if the GPA for courses within the major department is below 3.0. Students may not take the final oral examination for the M.S. or Ph.D. degree if their overall GPA is below 3.0. The examining body for the administration of the comprehensive examinations and the final examination is the student advisory committee. For the oral comprehensive examination for Ph.D. students and the final examinations for M.S. students, the body is supplemented by the addition of a representative of the MCV Campus graduate committee who chairs the examining body. The representative must be a member of the graduate faculty and is appointed by the chair of the MCV Campus graduate committee. The representative holds the responsibility for compliance with protocols appropriate to the examination, including the equitable treatment of the candidate.

4. Copies of the thesis/dissertation consistent with university standards shall be provided to the members of the student’s advisory committee three weeks or more before the date of the defense of the thesis/dissertation. Following acceptance of the thesis/dissertation defense schedule by the committee, the student must submit a copy of the thesis/dissertation and a request for scheduling of the final examination to the chair of the MCV Campus graduate committee a minimum of 10 working days in advance of the examination date. After passing the final examination, it shall be the responsibility of the candidate to present to the dean’s office the approved original thesis/dissertation plus the minimum required number of copies (three for M.S., four for Ph.D.) in final form suitable for binding. In consultation with the office staff, the candidate shall be responsible for the binding and the processing of the thesis through VCU Libraries and for the payment of all charges for these services.

5. A degree is granted only after all requirements have been fulfilled, including payment of all fees to the university, and after submission of the copies of the thesis for binding.

6. VCU currently requires registration for a defined credit hour level during both the didactic and research phases of advanced degree training. For programs requiring the preparation of a thesis or dissertation, there is therefore no obligatory linkage between the accumulation of credit hours and an expectation that a degree be awarded.

As a guide to monitoring the timely completion of the degree within the present enrollment framework, the accumulation of 80 credit hours for a M.S. degree and 180 credit hours for a Ph.D. degree can be taken as a reasonable measure. These credit hour totals refer to degree programs requiring the preparation of a thesis or dissertation. Unless explicitly stated, the figures cited above apply to Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy programs offered by the School of Medicine.

Change in academic program

A student in good standing who is nearing the completion of their degree program may wish to be considered for admission to a more advanced degree administered by the School of Medicine. On more rare occasions, a student may wish to leave (withdraw) from the program in which he/she is currently enrolled and join another program at the same academic level in the School of Medicine.

In all cases the student seeking the change shall submit a hard-copy version of the VCU Application for Graduate School to the Office of Graduate Education in the School of Medicine. The one-page application must be accompanied by a letter written by the student providing the rationale for the change and the program into which the student is seeking admission. The Office of Graduate Education will review the application and the record of the student and then alert the department to the interest of the student if deemed appropriate. Students who are not making satisfactory academic progress (i.e. a student who is not in good academic standing) in a given program would not be considered candidates for a program change. In the absence of prior approval from the Office of the Dean, neither an “application” by a student directly to a program nor the “acceptance” of a student by a program will be valid. Neither students nor programs may initiate admission to a program in the School of Medicine in the absence of the approval by the Office of Graduate Education acting in consultation with the MCV Campus graduate committee.

The above applies to all changes in program (e.g. certificate level to master’s, master’s to Ph.D., program change at the same degree level).

The student adviser and advisory committee

Students receive guidance and counsel from the director of graduate programs for the appropriate program prior to appointment of the permanent adviser. The permanent adviser holds the primary responsibility for monitoring the development of the student in the program and providing the appropriate guidance and counsel essential to the scholarly development of the student.

An advisory committee, appointed shortly after the permanent adviser is appointed, serves as both an examining and consultative body, functioning to assist the development of the student. Committee members hold a special responsibility as a source of counsel for each student.

To fulfill these objectives, committee membership must avoid the existence or appearance of conflict of interest.

A conflict of interest is a set of circumstances that increases a risk that the judgment or actions regarding a primary interest will be or may appear to be unduly influenced by a secondary interest. In the case of service as a member of a student advisory committee, the primary interest is the independent evaluation of the performance of the student, the counsel provided to the student and adviser in the planning and implementation of the scholarly project, and the counsel provided to student and adviser to ensure satisfactory academic progress and an appropriate relationship between adviser and student. Secondary interests include personal or professional relationships with the adviser which could compromise or be seen to compromise the fulfillment of the primary interest of the individual as a member of the student advisory committee.

An individual having a formal personal relationship with the adviser can provide the appearance of a conflict of interest compromising the wholly independent participation of the individual as a committee member. Similarly, the presence of multiple members of a laboratory “team,” accentuated in cases where there is employer-employee relationship of the “team” members, can raise concerns with respect to a potential conflict of interest. In addition, a committee composed largely of members of a single research operation replicates the counsel already available in group meetings and is not fully consistent with the purpose and objectives of committee appointments.
The advisory committee architecture exists for multiple reasons. The guidelines for committee composition are intended to provide a balance between expertise in a disciplinary area coupled with an interdisciplinary perspective to enrich the contributions of the committee to the evolution of the scholarly work to the benefit of student and adviser. The committee provides the framework for the “inter-rater reliability” of the evaluation of the student performance and development in achieving the degree of scholarly independence consistent with the awarding of the degree. The independence of the “raters” in establishing a collective judgment with respect to student performance is central to the quality of the system and the perception of the evaluation process as equitable and not capricious.

For the above reasons the faculty of the School of Medicine shall avoid the proposed appointment to a student advisory committee individuals who have a personal relationship with the adviser or are members of the laboratory/research group of the adviser.

1. Each student shall have an adviser and an advisory committee.
2. Appointment of the adviser
   a. The initial adviser will be the director of the graduate program or his/her designee prior to appointment of the permanent adviser.
   b. A permanent adviser shall be appointed from the graduate faculty by the chair of the MCV Campus graduate committee upon recommendation of the chair of the student's major department. Appointment should be made no later than the beginning of the fall semester following matriculation. A change in the permanent adviser may be made by the chair of the MCV Campus graduate committee upon recommendation of the chair of the major department.
3. Duties of the adviser
   a. The adviser shall, with the student’s advisory committee, have responsibility for guiding the student’s academic program.
   b. The adviser shall develop a plan for the student’s didactic and scholarly program for the student, identify members of the faculty to comprise the student’s advisory committee and elicit their agreement to serve, the adviser serving as the chair of the committee.
   d. The adviser shall supervise the student’s research work and thesis preparation and be one of the examiners of the thesis (M.S.).
   e. At the close of the spring semester, the adviser shall submit to the program director or the chair of the MCV Campus graduate committee a report covering the progress of the student. Copies of the report should be provided to the student and the membership of the student advisory committee by the adviser.
4. The student's advisory committee
   a. The student’s advisory committee shall be appointed no later than the end of the fall semester of the second year after matriculation by the chair of the MCV Campus graduate committee, upon recommendation of the student’s adviser, review by the graduate program director and recommendation of the chair of the department of the permanent adviser. Appointment of the student advisory committee must be done within three months of the appointment of the permanent adviser and prior to the administration of comprehensive (or final) examinations. The composition of the advisory committee shall be such that significant areas of the student’s scholarly program are represented in the expertise of the faculty members.
      i. The committee for the M.S. candidate shall consist of a minimum of three members as follows: the student’s adviser (who serves as chair of the committee); one other member of the graduate faculty of the department programas in which the student is enrolled; and one other member of the graduate faculty from a department other than the one in which the student is enrolled.
      ii. A faculty member who is not a member of the graduate faculty may be appointed to a student advisory committee if approved by the MCV Campus graduate committee. Appointment is made by the dean of the Graduate School.
   b. Duties of the student’s advisory committee:
      i. The advisory committee functions as an advisory body to ensure that timely progress toward degree completion is being achieved, as an examining body participating as appropriate for the intended degree in written qualifying examinations and conducting the oral qualifying examination and final examination, and as a consultative body to provide scholarly counsel.
      ii. The student’s advisory committee shall work with the student's adviser in guiding the student's graduate program and shall meet at least annually. It is strongly recommended that the advisory committee meet with the student prior to administration of the comprehensive examination(s) by the committee.
      iii. The student’s advisory committee shall recommend and approve a degree program (including foreign language if applicable) for the student as soon as it is practical. The proposed program should be filed with the chair of the MCV Campus graduate committee no later than the third semester of study.
   iv. The student’s advisory committee shall conduct the oral comprehensive and final examination.

Master of Science

1. A minimum of 24 semester course hours is required, exclusive of research credits. In practice, it is found that two years of study are usually necessary to complete the requirements. A time limit of five calendar years, beginning at the time of first registration, is placed on work to be credited toward the Master of Science degree. Generally a maximum of one-third of the hours required for a master’s degree may be transferred from another VCU program or outside institution and applied toward the degree upon recommendation of the student’s director of graduate programs with the concurrence by the chair of the MCV Campus graduate committee.
2. Each student must conduct an original investigation under the supervision of the permanent adviser, prepare a thesis reporting the results of this research and analyze its significance in relation to existing scientific knowledge. This study is reported in a thesis prepared in acceptable form and style.
3. The body of experimental work to be incorporated into the thesis is subject to the approval of the student advisory committee members. The advisory committee should, therefore, be formally consulted as the research project nears completion to ensure that there is agreement with respect to the material deemed necessary and sufficient for incorporation into the thesis. Such consultation will normally occur in the form of a meeting of the advisory committee...
Termination of enrollment

The university reserves the right to terminate the enrollment of any student for unlawful, disorderly or immoral conduct or for persistent failure to fulfill the purposes for which he or she was matriculated.

A student enrolled in a graduate program under the supervision of the MCV Campus graduate committee may be dismissed from the school in which he is enrolled for failure to meet academic requirements prescribed by his school or failure to exhibit the attitudes and skills deemed necessary to function within his chosen scientific discipline.

Any action by a graduate student in a program under the supervision of the MCV Campus graduate committee considered to be unprofessional conduct shall constitute cause for disciplinary action.

Unprofessional conduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. Fraud or deceit in gaining admission to the university, i.e., false or obviously misleading representations on the admission application
2. An act that violates the established legal standards regarding conduct of one person toward society (i.e., stealing, lying, cheating and slander)
3. Conviction of a felony involving moral turpitude
4. Plagiarism or other scientific misconduct

MCV Campus graduate committee

The assembled directors of graduate programs and the associate dean for graduate education form the MCV Campus graduate committee, with the associate dean serving as chair of the committee. This committee holds the responsibility for ensuring appropriate administration of graduate programs, reviewing modifications of didactic courses, new course offerings and new programs, reviewing proposed modifications of program curricula to ensure maintenance of standards of quality, avoid duplication and comply with the missions of the school, and for recommending action to the dean. The committee members provide the pool of candidates from which the school representatives to the University Graduate Council are chosen.

The School of Medicine follows the policies of the Graduate School with regard to the modification of existing courses, curricula and programs as well as the introduction of new offerings. Proposals will normally come from the faculty acting through departmental bodies charged with the responsibility of monitoring academic training. In the case of offerings in interdisciplinary areas, these will normally require the input and approval of departments whose faculty and students are participants. The associate dean for graduate education in the School of Medicine may assist in the coordination of the proposal process. Proposed changes and additions are, under university guidelines, subject to review by the curriculum committee of the school. The MCV Campus graduate committee serves as the curriculum committee for the School of Medicine. On approval by the MCV Campus graduate committee, the approval of the dean of the School of Medicine is required prior to submission to University Graduate Council for review.

For comprehensive information on the School of Medicine departments, programs and faculty, please go to the school website at medschool.vcu.edu (http://www.medschool.vcu.edu).

Monitoring satisfactory academic progress

The School of Medicine employs an electronic system given the trivial name “GradTrak” as a means of consolidating student records and the achievement of milestones in the progress to degree completion in a convenient and appropriately accessible format. Nomination and approvals of the permanent adviser and student advisory committee
members are performed in this system as are the announcements of the scheduling of comprehensive and final program examinations and their outcomes. The system incorporates the continuing record of the student transcript and provides a repository for the archiving of documents associated with the matriculation of the individual as well as progress reports and other relevant documents. Access to the electronic student file is password-protected and restricted to faculty with program oversight or participation on the student advisory committee.

School of Medicine Registrar

The School of Medicine houses a registrar’s office to meet the needs of physician trainees and alumni. Visit the School of Medicine website for more information at medschool.vcu.edu/studentaffairs/registrar (http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/studentaffairs/registrar).

Criminal background checks

All applicants to the VCU School of Medicine who receive an acceptance will have a criminal background check performed by Certiﬁpi Screening Inc. If there is a positive finding the applicant will be notiﬁed by Certiﬁpi ﬁrst; this will allow the applicant to make corrections to the report and verify the information. If there is no change in status Certiﬁpi will then notify VCU of their positive ﬁndings. VCU’s criminal background committee will meet to discuss the applicant’s Certiﬁpi report to determine if acceptance is to be withdrawn. The school encourages full disclosure at all times on the AMCAS and supplemental applications, as dishonesty will impact the committee’s decision. If an applicant has a legal ﬁnding or institutional action against them after the supplemental application is submitted they should notify the school’s admissions ofﬁce immediately. Once an applicant is matriculated, full disclosure is also required throughout the student’s time in medical school. Criminal background checks are repeated for all students at the end of the second year and for speciﬁc program participations throughout medical school.

Addiction Studies, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) with a concentration in advanced international addiction studies

VCU, King’s College London and the University of Adelaide collaborate to offer a fully online Certiﬁcate in Addiction Studies available to students around the globe. No on-campus attendance is required, and students receive a degree from all three participating universities.

Program mission

The mission of the addiction studies certiﬁcate with a concentration in advanced international addiction studies is to offer students around the world an in-depth, evidence-based, multidimensional and cross-cultural understanding of both essential and advanced topics in the ﬁeld of addiction studies, including biological, psychological and public health perspectives on the etiology and treatment of addiction and evidence-based addiction policy. This will be accomplished through distance-learning technologies.

Program goals

1. Knowledge of ﬁeld of addiction science: Students in the program will develop an in-depth knowledge of the ﬁeld of addiction science to enhance their ability to succeed in a variety of addiction-related settings.
2. Ability to synthesize and apply advanced addiction-related knowledge: Students of the program will be able to synthesize and apply advanced addiction-related knowledge, including comparative international perspectives and approaches, to address key issues related to the treatment or prevention of addiction.
3. Understanding and application of experimental results from addiction-related research: Students will develop the ability to interpret experimental approaches and results, and apply them to address key questions in addiction science and policy, as well as conceptualize the translation from research to policy, treatment or prevention.
4. Communication skills related to addiction: Students will develop skills in communicating both core knowledge of addiction as well as the interpretation of research ﬁndings in a variety of formats.

Student learning outcomes

1. Written communication skills: The candidate will use effective written communication skills to present information related to addiction causes, interventions, treatments and policies using appropriate vocabulary, ﬁgures, tables and citations.
2. Advanced knowledge of addiction science: The student will demonstrate an advanced level of knowledge of the current elements of addiction science.
3. Familiarity and understanding of research: Students will demonstrate an advanced level of ﬂuency with the research literature, become familiar with research methods used in addiction science and demonstrate the ability to evaluate and critique publications.

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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jul 13</td>
<td>TOEFL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Prospective students should apply through the VCU graduate admissions portal at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu). Application to all three participating universities is accomplished through submission of the VCU graduate application. Once accepted, students are enrolled in all three universities and have access to the resources associated with all three schools. No on-campus classroom time is required to complete the degree.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must:

1. Have qualified in a related discipline for an honors degree (level 2A or 1) or a bachelor’s degree from a recognized tertiary institution in the U.S. Any applicant who does not meet this criterion should have (in addition to an honors or bachelor’s degree) significant professional work experience and approval of the program committee.

2. Have a high level of proficiency in English, demonstrated by completion of a university qualification studied in the English language, or by meeting one of the following English language requirements: an IELTS score of 7.0, a TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based) or 260 (computer-based), or a minimum grade of C in GCSE English.

Students who are enrolled in the Certificate in Addiction Studies intermediate concentration and are maintaining a minimum GPA of 3.0 may elect to change their concentration to the advanced concentration at any time during their enrollment with the permission of the program director. Students will be awarded only one certificate, however, which will reflect their highest level of attainment.

Students who have completed the Certificate in Addiction Studies intermediate concentration may also, after a period away from study, choose to apply for the advanced concentration addiction studies certificate. Students wishing to continue their studies through this mechanism may count the earlier courses toward the advanced concentration, as long as they meet all admission requirements of the Graduate School and pending surrender of the lower-level credential before being awarded the more-advanced credential. Courses taken more than four years prior to the time of the student’s application will not be considered transferable and will need to be repeated.

Students completing either concentration in the Certificate in Addiction Studies may apply to the Master of Science in Addiction Studies program, also known as the International Programme in Addiction Studies and, if accepted, have their courses count toward that degree as long as they meet all admission requirements of the Graduate School. Courses taken more than four years prior to enrollment in the M.S. program will not be considered current and must be repeated.

Degree requirements

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to successfully complete 24 credit hours in the six required graduate courses.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IPAS 600</td>
<td>The Biological Basis of Addiction</td>
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</tr>
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<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPAS 605</td>
<td>Treatment of Addiction: Critical Issues</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 24

Admission Studies, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) with a concentration in intermediate international addiction studies

VCU, King's College London and the University of Adelaide collaborate to offer students the opportunity to complete a fully online program of study to obtain a Certificate in Addiction Studies conferred by all three universities.

Program mission

The mission of the addiction studies certificate with a concentration in intermediate international addiction studies is to offer students around the world an in-depth, evidence-based, multidimensional and cross-cultural understanding of essential topics in the field of addiction studies,
including biological, psychological and public health perspectives on the etiology and treatment of addiction and evidence-based addiction policy. This will be accomplished through distance-learning technologies.

Program goals

1. Knowledge of field of addiction science: Students in the program will develop an in-depth knowledge of the field of addiction science to enhance their ability to succeed in a variety of addiction-related settings.

2. Ability to synthesize and apply advanced addiction-related knowledge: Students of the program will be able to synthesize and apply advanced addiction-related knowledge, including comparative international perspectives and approaches, to address key issues related to the treatment or prevention of addiction.

3. Understanding and application of experimental results from addiction-related research: Students will develop the ability to interpret experimental approaches and results, and apply them to address key questions in addiction science and policy, as well as conceptualize the translation from research to policy, treatment or prevention.

4. Communication skills related to addiction: Students will develop skills in communicating both core knowledge of addiction as well as the interpretation of research findings in a variety of formats.

Student learning outcomes

1. Written communication skills: The candidate will use effective written communication skills to present information related to addiction causes, interventions, treatments and policies using appropriate vocabulary, figures, tables and citations.

2. Advanced knowledge of addiction science: The student will demonstrate an advanced level of knowledge of the current elements of addiction science.

3. Familiarity and understanding of research: Students will demonstrate an advanced level of fluency with the research literature, become familiar with research methods used in addiction science and demonstrate the ability to evaluate and critique publications.

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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Admission requirements

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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must:

1. Have qualified in a related discipline for an honors degree (level 2A or 1) or a bachelor’s degree from a recognized tertiary institution in the U.S. Any applicant who does not meet this criterion should have (in addition to an honors or bachelor’s degree) significant professional work experience and approval of the program committee.

2. Have a high level of proficiency in English, demonstrated by completion of a university qualification studied in the English language, or by meeting one of the following English language requirements: an IELTS score of 7.0, a TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based) or 260 (computer-based), or grade C or above in GCSE English.

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Students completing either concentration in the Certificate in Addiction Studies may apply to the Master of Science in Addiction Studies program, also known as the International Programme in Addiction Studies and, if accepted, have their courses count toward that degree as long as they meet all admission requirements of the Graduate School. Courses taken more than four years prior to enrollment in the M.S. program will not be considered current and must be repeated.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to successfully complete 12 credit hours in the three required graduate courses.

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPAS 602</td>
<td>Public Health Issues and Approaches to Addictions</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 12

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 12**

**Graduate program director**

Mary E. Loos, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Psychology
mелоos@vcu.edu
(804) 828-8019

Program website: ipas.vcu.edu (http://ipas.vcu.edu)

**Addiction Studies, Master of Science (M.S.)**

VCU, King’s College London and the University of Adelaide collaborate to offer students the opportunity to complete a fully online program of study to obtain a Master of Science in Addiction Studies conferred by all three universities.

**Program goal**

The mission of the International Program in Addiction Studies leading to a Master of Science in Addiction Studies degree is to offer students cross-cultural exposure to the critical prevention, treatment, research and policy issues facing the field. Through a collaboration arrangement including VCU, King’s College London and the University of Adelaide in Australia, students complete a program of study using distance-learning technologies to obtain the degree. The program is designed to prepare students for local, national and international policy positions, prevention/treatment program management and other leadership positions in the addictions field. This program will speed the dissemination of the latest international addictions-related knowledge, especially to remote locations around the world, and help students compare international perspectives and translate this knowledge into more effective prevention and treatment practices and evidence-based policies within their own countries.

Students in the program will:

1. Demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the field of addiction science (including comparative international policies and practices) to prepare them for leadership roles in a variety of settings (including addiction research, policy and treatment venues).
2. Be able to synthesize and apply addiction-related knowledge, including comparative international perspectives and approaches, to address key issues related to the advancement of addiction science.
3. Develop the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address key questions in addiction science.
4. Communicate both core knowledge of addiction as well as experimental design, result and interpretation in a variety of formats.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Integrated knowledge of addiction science: The student will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of addiction science as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publication.
2. Problem-solving skills: Students will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in addiction research and practice, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.
3. Research design: Students will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, develop and implement research studies.
4. Written communication skills: The candidate will use effective written communication skills to present information related to addiction causes, interventions, treatments and policies using appropriate vocabulary, figures, tables and citations.

**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.

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published on the VCU Graduate Bulletin and Graduate School websites, take precedence over individual program policies and guidelines.

Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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.

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information

School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must:

1. Have qualified in a related discipline for an honors degree (level 2A or 1) or a bachelor’s degree from a recognized tertiary institution in the U.S. Any applicant who does not meet this criterion should have (in addition to an honors or bachelor’s degree) significant professional work experience and approval of the program committee.

2. Have a high level of proficiency in English, demonstrated by completion of a university qualification studied in the English language, or by meeting one of the following English language requirements: an IELTS score of 7.0, a TOEFL score of 600 (paper-based) or 260 (computer-based), or minimum grade C in GCSE English.

Degree requirements

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to successfully complete a minimum of 36 credit hours, which can be done either full time (12 months) or part time (24 months). Six of the required credit hours are assigned to a final research project examining a relevant addictions-related topic. VCU, King’s College London and the University of Adelaide confer degrees jointly through a single diploma.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IPAS 600</th>
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</tr>
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<td>IPAS 605</td>
<td>Treatment of Addiction: Critical Issues</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPAS 606</td>
<td>Research Methodology in Addictions</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPAS 692</td>
<td>Research Project in Addictions</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours (minimum) 36

Graduate program director
Mary E. Loos, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Psychology
meloons@vcu.edu
(804) 828-8019

Program website: ipas.vcu.edu (http://ipas.vcu.edu)

Anatomy and Neurobiology, Master of Science (M.S.)

Program mission

The M.S. in Anatomy and Neurobiology program offers a two-year graduate curriculum of formal instructional activities and research training mentored by the members of the faculty leading to the terminal M.S. degree. The program prepares students for technical careers in neurobiological research laboratories in academic, private and government institutions. The program also provides a strong foundation for students who choose to continue onto doctoral training.

This is a research-oriented degree program comprised of graduate course work and supervised research leading to a master’s thesis. The M.S. program involves approximately one year of course work and a research thesis performed under the supervision of a faculty adviser.
Program goals

1. The program is designed to provide students with the skills required to advance to positions as bioscience researchers, trainers and technicians in a broad spectrum of positions. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of bioscience, an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation/experimentation in bioscience.

2. The program relates the above framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified.

3. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of bioscience knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences. The program will prepare students to secure positions in their chosen career goals (medical school, doctoral studies, employment in academic or private laboratories).

Student learning outcomes

1. Experimental design: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments.

2. Communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids. The candidate will also demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skills with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations.

3. Problem-solving skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems.

4. General knowledge of neurobiology and biosciences: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of neurobiology and the biosciences as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications.

5. Employment or acceptance to advanced degree program: Degree candidates will secure positions in their chosen career goals (medical school, doctoral studies, employment in academic or private laboratories).

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).
Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
M.S. Fall preferred Applications received prior to Jan 15 given priority GRE, MCAT or DAT TOEFL if international

Special requirements

- Domestic students apply through the Graduate Admissions office (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu); international students apply through International Admissions (http://international.admissions.vcu.edu).

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), successful applicants will typically have the following credentials:

1. Baccalaureate degree or its equivalent at the time of enrollment with a minimum overall GPA of 3.2
2. Combined GRE scores of at least 300 for the verbal plus quantitative (1200 based on the previous scale) and 4.0 analytical score
3. Test of English as a Foreign Language examination with a minimum score of 100 (IBT), 250 (CBT) or 600 (PBT), or 6.5 on the IELTS for foreign applicants who do not use English as their native language

Although there are no absolute course requirements for admission, fundamental knowledge of general and organic chemistry and biology are considered necessary to pursue advanced studies, and upper-level courses in molecular and cellular biology are desirable. Previous research experience or demonstration of a serious interest in a research-oriented career is also desirable. A personal statement describing the applicant’s research experience and interests, as well as letters of reference from previous supervisors, are necessary and helpful in determining an applicant’s suitability for this curriculum. Official transcripts of all graduate and undergraduate records must be mailed from the college or university registrar.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 66 graduate credit hours. A minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 must be maintained. Students must receive a minimum grade of B for all required courses.

A student who receives a grade of C in a required course shall repeat the course. A second grade of C in a required course shall result in dismissal from the program.

There is no expectation of the time required to complete the master’s degree; usually two years of study are necessary to complete the requirements. At the appropriate time in their research, students will prepare a thesis and schedule a final oral defense of the thesis. The final oral examination (defense of the thesis) will cover the subject of the candidate’s dissertation and related basic science course work.

Curriculum requirements

Required courses
ANAT 610 Systems Neuroscience 4

Special requirements

• Domestic students apply through the Graduate Admissions office (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu); international students apply through International Admissions (http://international.admissions.vcu.edu).

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), successful applicants will typically have the following credentials:

1. Baccalaureate degree or its equivalent at the time of enrollment with a minimum overall GPA of 3.2
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Curriculum requirements

Required courses
ANAT 610 Systems Neuroscience 4

BIOC 503 Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology 5
BIOC 504 Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology 5
IBMS 600 Laboratory Safety 1
NEUS 609 Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience 4

Select one of the following:
1. OVPR 601 Scientific Integrity
2. OVPR 602 Responsible Scientific Conduct
3. OVPR 603 Responsible Conduct of Research

Total Hours 24

Directed research
ANAT 697 Directed Research (1-15 variable credit course; 42 credits minimum) 42

Total Hours 42

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 66

Typical plan of study

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

Graduate program director
Raymond J. Colello, D.Phil.
Associate professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology
rcolello@vcu.edu
(804) 828-2262

Additional contact
Sharon Toussaint
Executive secretary
stoussaint@vcu.edu
(804) 828-9623

Program website: anatomy.vcu.edu (http://www.anatomy.vcu.edu)

Anatomy and Neurobiology, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics

Program goals

The molecular biology and genetics curriculum is an integrated interdisciplinary program of study that builds on the graduate programs of participating departments in the School of Medicine. The master’s curriculum is designed to be an intensive course of study that will provide students with the skills required to advance to research-oriented careers in biotechnology or provide the foundation for further graduate study toward a Ph.D.
It is expected that the program should be completed in approximately two to two-and-one-half years.

1. The curriculum includes core, specialization and elective courses. Electives drawn from various departments allow individual specialization.

2. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of bioscience, an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation. The program relates this framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified.

3. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of bioscience knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

4. The final three semesters include a research project conducted under the guidance of a selected faculty mentor and culminates in the presentation and defense of a master's thesis.

Participating faculty are associated not only with programs and departments within the School of Medicine, but also with the VCU Massey Cancer Center, the Philips Institute for Oral and Craniofacial Molecular Biology (School of Dentistry), the Institute of Structural Biology and Drug Discovery (School of Pharmacy) and the VCU Center for the Study of Biological Complexity (VCU Life Sciences).

The interdisciplinary approach to the solution of biological problems provided by this training is designed to develop in students the flexibility and problem-solving skills necessary for success in a variety of scientific career opportunities or further graduate study.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. **Problem-solving skills**: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.

2. **General knowledge of sciences**: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of the biosciences as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications, as measured by rubric.

3. **Communication skills**: Degree candidates will demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skills have been acquired.
   a. **Oral communication skills**: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.
   b. **Written communication skills**: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

4. **Experimental design**: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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.

A master's student in the MBG curriculum must prepare a formal written research plan and make an oral presentation of their thesis research proposal and progress report to their graduate advisory committee prior to the beginning of the second year of residency. The student's knowledge in the area of the proposed research, current research accomplishments and the feasibility of the proposed research project will be evaluated by the GAC. Successful completion of this review is required for continuance in the program and constitutes admission to candidacy.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.granduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Deadline date rolling, preference given to applications received by Jan 17</td>
<td>GRE, TOEFL for applicants whose native language is not English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements
- Applications for the program should be submitted to Molecular Biology and Genetics – M.S. selected from the drop-down menu of programs of the VCU online graduate application form. The degree awarded will be a Master of Science in Anatomy and Neurobiology.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have earned or expect to earn a baccalaureate or equivalent degree, and must have demonstrated a superior knowledge of biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics. Laboratory experience is also strongly recommended. The Graduate Record Examination is required, as are letters of recommendation and a letter summarizing the applicant’s goals. International applicants who do not use English as their native language must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language examination.

Basic science, research-intensive, non-thesis curriculum for medical students

Individuals who are participants in medical training (the Doctor of Medicine program) at VCU may be eligible for enrollment in a research-intensive, non-thesis graduate curriculum. This basic science option builds on the core of disciplinary material embedded in the first two years of training in the medical school curriculum. Additional exposure is provided to specialized areas in basic science disciplines in concert with an intensive research experience leading to the preparation of a report in the form of a manuscript suitable for publication. The program is designed to be completed within 12 to 15 months. Subject matter related to the core material and/or suitable elective courses taken in the didactic phase of medical training correspond to a minimum of the equivalent of 24 graduate credit hours. The equivalent of 12 credit hours may be applied to the M.S. degree program in which the student is enrolled in accordance with Graduate School policy. Medical students interested in the basic science option should contact the M.S. graduate program director for additional information.

Degree requirements

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the interdisciplinary master’s curriculum in molecular biology and genetics requires a minimum of 48 credit hours, at least half of which must be course work restricted to graduate students. The curriculum includes 19 credit hours of required core course work and 29 additional credit hours of required core course work, directed research and research seminar course work, and additional approved course work, as listed below. M.S. candidates must pass a final oral examination. A written thesis approved by the student’s graduate advisory committee completes the requirements leading to the M.S. degree.

Curriculum requirements

Required core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 530</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 1: Protein Structure and Function</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 531</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 2: Basic Metabolism</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 532</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 3: Central Dogma of Molecular Biology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 533</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 4: Lipids/Membranes and Bioenergetics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 620</td>
<td>Laboratory/Clinical Rotations (two credits taken twice)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 607</td>
<td>Techniques in Molecular Biology and Genetics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 693</td>
<td>Topics in Molecular Biology and Genetics (MBG journal club, must take at least once)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following: 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours | 19 |

1 This requirement may also be satisfied with BIOC 503 Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology (five credit hours).
2 This requirement may also be satisfied, under certain circumstances, with MICR 608 or MICR 609 (three credit hours; section 002). Consult with the program director.

Other required course work (29 credits)

Select two of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 610</td>
<td>Systems Neuroscience</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEUS 609</td>
<td>Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 501</td>
<td>Mammalian Physiology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 620</td>
<td>Ion Channels in Membranes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Biochemistry, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Program goal
The Ph.D. program in biochemistry prepares students for research-oriented careers as independent scientists in academia, government and biotechnology. The core of this degree program is an original independent research project under the supervision of a faculty adviser. The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology has research efforts of international stature in several areas, including cellular and molecular signaling, tumor biology, structural biology, eukaryotic molecular biology, lipid and membrane biochemistry and molecular genetics, using state-of-the-art approaches in enzymology, genomics, proteomics and lipidomics.

While emphasizing independent research in biochemistry and molecular biology and training in the responsible conduct of research, the program also provides a background of courses designed to match the needs and interests of each student. The program is designed to provide students with the skills required to advance to positions as bioscience researchers/trainers in a broad spectrum of positions. The program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation in bioscience.

The program relates the above framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of bioscience knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

Student learning outcomes
1. Oral communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids.
2. Written communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations.
3. Experimental design: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments.
4. Problem-solving skills: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems.
5. General knowledge of science: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of the biosciences as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48

Typical plan of study
Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

Graduate program director
Gail E. Christie, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
christie@vcu.edu
(804) 828-9093

Program website: vcu.edu/mbg (http://www.vcu.edu/mbg)

Biochemistry, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

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The Ph.D. program in biochemistry prepares students for research-oriented careers as independent scientists in academia, government and biotechnology. The core of this degree program is an original independent research project under the supervision of a faculty adviser. The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology has research efforts of international stature in several areas, including cellular and molecular signaling, tumor biology, structural biology, eukaryotic molecular biology, lipid and membrane biochemistry and molecular genetics, using state-of-the-art approaches in enzymology, genomics, proteomics and lipidomics.

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VCU Graduate Bulletin, VCU Graduate School and general academic policies and regulations for all graduate students in all graduate programs
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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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
School of Medicine graduate program policies
The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on doctoral programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Applications received prior to Jan 15 given priority consideration</td>
<td>GRE, MCAT or DAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements
- MCAT or DAT acceptable in lieu of GRE for combined professional/academic degree programs.
- Applications for the program must be submitted to the Biomedical Sciences Doctoral Portal – School of Medicine – Ph.D. selected from the drop-down menu of programs on the VCU online application form.

Degree requirements
In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 41 graduate credit hours.

Ph.D. students are expected to enroll as full-time graduate students. During the first year, students pursue research rotations, take formal course work and become familiar with current research topics through seminars, discussion groups and lectures by distinguished scientists. By the end of the first year, students choose a faculty adviser and begin dissertation research. Following completion of the research project and defense of the doctoral dissertation, graduates are equipped to participate in virtually any area of current biomedical research in the most prestigious laboratories.

Training in the responsible conduct of research
All Ph.D. students are required to complete the following training in the responsible conduct of research:

1. OVPR 601, OVPR 602 or OVPR 603
2. Collaborative Investigator Training Initiative: an online course that provides training in human subjects research. The course must be completed during the fall semester of year two. Students must submit the certificate of completion before starting the spring semester of year two. Consult the following link to access the course: research.vcu.edu/human_research/citi_requirements.htm (http://www.research.vcu.edu/human_research/citi_requirements.htm)
3. Animal research training: Students are required to complete an online training course for the conduct of animal subjects research. The training must be completed during the fall semester of year two. Students must submit the certificate of completion before starting the spring semester of year two. Sign in using the following link, which provides access and guidance to the course: https://www.vcu.edu/research/acup/index.htm

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required courses</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 610</td>
<td>Laboratory Opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 620</td>
<td>Laboratory/Clinical Rotations (repeat for four credits)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 680</td>
<td>Proposal Preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Take one or both of the following for a total of two credits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 661 or IBMS 630</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Select one of the following:**

| OVPR 601 | Scientific Integrity |
| OVPR 602 | Scientific Conduct |
| OVPR 603 | Responsible Conduct of Research |

**Take the following courses each fall and spring throughout the program.**

| BIOC 651 | Biochemistry Journal Club | variable |
| BIOC 690 | Biochemistry Seminar (.901) | variable |
| BIOC 690 | Biochemistry Seminar (.902) | variable |

| BIOC 697 | Directed Research in Biochemistry (to be taken each fall and spring semester) | variable |

**Electives**

Select a minimum of two elective courses drawn from the list of recommended electives below.

**Recommended electives**

Students select courses from this list, with guidance from their advisers and committees. Ph.D. students must enroll full-time (minimum nine credits) to be eligible for a stipend. Some graduate courses listed above may be taken after the comprehensive examination. Most of this course work should be taken during the first two years of the program. Students are encouraged to take additional courses that relate to their personal research projects.

| ANAT 615 | Techniques in Neuroscience and Cell Biology | 3 |
| BIOC 503 | Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology | 1-5 |
| BIOC 504 | Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology | 1-5 |
| BIOC 601 | Membranes and Lipids | 3 |
| BIOC 602 | Physical Properties of Macromolecules | 1-4 |
| BIOC 604 | Enzymology | 1-3 |
| BIOC 605 | Molecular Biology | 2 |
| HGEN 501/BIOI 530 | Introduction to Human Genetics | 3 |
| IBMS 635 | Cellular Signalling | 3 |
| MICR 505 | Immunobiology | 3 |
| MICR 605 | Prokaryotic Molecular Genetics | 3 |
| MICR 607 | Techniques in Molecular Biology and Genetics | 2 |
| MICR/BNFO 653 | Advanced Molecular Genetics: Bioinformatics | 3 |
| PHTX 691 | Special Topics in Pharmacology | 1-4 |

**Typical plan of study**

Many students often take more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a student or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors and advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

**Graduate program director**

Tomasz K. Kordula, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

tkordula@vcu.edu

(804) 828-0771

**Program website:** biochemistry.vcu.edu (http://www.biochemistry.vcu.edu)

**Biochemistry, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics**

**Program goals**

The molecular biology and genetics curriculum is an integrated interdisciplinary program of study that builds on the graduate programs of participating departments in the School of Medicine. The doctoral curriculum is designed to be an intensive course of study that will provide students with the skills required to advance to research-oriented careers in biotechnology.

1. The curriculum includes core, specialization and elective courses. Electives drawn from various departments allow individual specialization.

2. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of bioscience, an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation. The program relates this framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified.

3. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of bioscience knowledge and the
expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a
diversity of potential audiences.

4. The final three semesters include a research project conducted under
the guidance of a selected faculty mentor and culminates in the
presentation and defense of a master’s thesis.

Participating faculty are associated not only with programs and
departments within the School of Medicine, but also with the VCU
Massey Cancer Center, the Philips Institute for Oral and Craniofacial
Molecular Biology (School of Dentistry), the Institute of Structural Biology
and Drug Discovery (School of Pharmacy) and the VCU Center for the
Study of Biological Complexity (VCU Life Sciences).

The interdisciplinary approach to the solution of biological problems
provided by this training is designed to develop in students the flexibility
and problem-solving skills necessary for success in a variety of scientific
career opportunities or further graduate study.

Student learning outcomes

1. Problem-solving skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate an
appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of
meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research,
including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and
develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by
rubric.

2. General knowledge of sciences: Degree candidates will demonstrate
an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of the
biosciences as related to disciplinary specialization and a more
detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including
an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability
to evaluate and critique publications, as measured by rubric.

3. Communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate that an
appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skills have
been acquired.
   a. Oral communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate
      the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication
      skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow,
presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the
      use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.

   b. Written communication skills: Degree candidates will
      demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written
      communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling
      and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including
      the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

4. Experimental design: Degree candidates will demonstrate the
achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability
to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental
protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by
rubric.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic
regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree
candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation
requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs
administratively housed in the school. Information on doctoral
programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://
www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).
Admission requirements

**Degree:** Ph.D.  
**Semester(s) of entry:** Fall  
**Deadline dates:** Applications received prior to Jan 15; given priority consideration  
**Test requirements:** GRE, MCAT or DAT

**Special requirements**
- MCAT or DAT acceptable in lieu of GRE for combined professional/academic degree programs
- Applications for the program must be submitted to the Biomedical Sciences Doctoral Portal – School of Medicine – Ph.D. selected from the drop-down menu of programs on the VCU online application form.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), successful applicants will typically have the following credentials:

1. A baccalaureate degree or its equivalent at the time of enrollment, with an undergraduate GPA of 3.5
2. Current GRE scores (taken within the past five years), with scores at the 75th percentile or greater preferred
3. TOEFL scores of 600 (pBT), 250 (cBT) or 100 (iBT) for individuals for whom English is a second language; or 6.5 on the IELTS (To report GRE or TOEFL score, use VCU Code 5570.)
4. A personal statement that includes: long-term career goals to assess reasons behind the application; how a Ph.D. in biomedical science helps achieve those goals; the factors motivating a career in research; research experience, including dates, places and duration
5. Three letters of recommendation that speak to the scientific competency and experience of the applicant
6. The equivalent of two semesters of general chemistry, two semesters of organic chemistry and two semesters of upper-level biology courses (e.g. cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, neuroscience, physiology, biophysics, etc.)
7. Laboratory experience – strongly recommended

**Degree requirements**

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 41 graduate credit hours.

During the first year, students pursue research rotations, take formal course work and become familiar with current research topics through seminars, discussion groups and lectures by distinguished scientists. By the end of the first year, students choose a faculty adviser and begin dissertation research. Prior to the beginning of the third year of study, students should successfully pass written and oral candidacy examinations. Following completion of the research project and defense of the doctoral dissertation, graduates are equipped to participate in a broad range of current biomedical research areas.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Required courses**
- BIOC 503 Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology

**Directed research and electives**

Select a variable number of credit hours of the following to amass the required minimum of 41 credit hours.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 41**

**Typical plan of study**

Many students often take more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a student or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students
should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors and advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

**Graduate program director**
Gail E. Christie, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
christie@vcu.edu
(804) 828-9093

**Program website:** vcu.edu/mbg (http://www.vcu.edu/mbg)

**Biochemistry, Master of Science (M.S.)**

**Program goal**
The M.S. program in biochemistry prepares students for research-oriented careers in academia, government and biotechnology. The core of this degree program is an original independent research project under the supervision of a faculty adviser. The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology has research efforts of international stature in several areas, including cellular and molecular signaling, tumor biology, structural biology, eukaryotic molecular biology, lipid and membrane biochemistry and molecular genetics, using state-of-the-art approaches in enzymology, genomics, proteomics and lipidomics.

While emphasizing independent research in biochemistry and molecular biology and training in the responsible conduct of research, the program also provides a background of courses designed to meet the needs and interests of each student. The program is designed to provide students with the skills required to advance to positions as bioscience researchers/trainers in a broad spectrum of positions. The program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, as well as an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation in bioscience.

The program relates the above framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of bioscience knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. **Experimental design:** Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments.

2. **Oral communication skills:** Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids.

3. **Written communication skills:** Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations.

4. **General knowledge of science:** Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of the biosciences as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications.

5. **Problem-solving skills:** Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems.

**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.graduatedepartment.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)
Other information

School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| M.S.        | Fall preferred        | Applications accepted through June; priority given to early applicants | GRE, MCAT or DAT

Special requirements

- MCAT or DAT acceptable in lieu of GRE for combined professional/academic degree programs.

Applicants to the Master of Science in Biochemistry program must meet all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18). In addition, applicants must meet the following requirements.

1. Organic chemistry (with a minimum grade of B)
2. Undergraduate biochemistry (not required but recommended)
3. Laboratory experience
4. GRE scores of at least 158 (verbal), 158 (quantitative) and 4.0 analytical

Continuing for the Ph.D.

Students who plan to eventually work toward the Ph.D. degree in biochemistry at VCU should apply directly to our Ph.D. program and forego the master’s degree. Applicants who are unsure if they want to earn a Ph.D. and who wish to gain experience in biomedical research before making this decision will be well served by our M.S. program. Outstanding performance in our master’s program can help students gain admittance to a doctoral program at VCU or elsewhere. Master’s students wishing to gain admission to the Ph.D. program should submit the following documents to the graduate program director: (1) a letter making this request which should include justification for the request, career goals, name of proposed Ph.D. adviser and brief description of proposed Ph.D. research project, (2) VCU graduate transcript and (3) a letter of support from proposed Ph.D. adviser. Additional admissions requirements include (1) a grade of A in BIOC 691, (2) a grade of A in BIOC 505 (laboratory rotation), (3) a final score in the top 50 percent of scores in BIOC 503-BIOC 504 and (4) GRE scores of at least 158 (verbal), 158 (quantitative) and 4.0 analytical.

Degree requirements

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the M.S. in Biochemistry program must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours, including at least 24 didactic credits hours (exclusive of research credit hours).

Students in the M.S. program in biochemistry take courses designed for graduate students with an emphasis on research design and experimentation. During the first year of study, students pursue research rotations, take formal course work and become familiar with current research topics through seminars, discussion groups and lectures by distinguished scientists. By the end of the first year, students choose a faculty adviser and begin thesis research. Following completion of the research project and defense of the master’s thesis, graduates are equipped to participate in virtually any area of current biomedical research in the most prestigious laboratories. For more detailed information on the program, visit biochemistry.vcu.edu/education/masters/default.htm (http://www.biochemistry.vcu.edu/education/masters/default.htm).

M.S. students register for BIOC 690 and BIOC 691 for the duration of their tenure in the program. The core set of courses may be supplemented with elective courses offered by the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology or other departments. Students are encouraged to take additional courses that relate to their personal projects. Electives may include courses in techniques in molecular biology and genetics, bioinformatics, statistics, immunology, microbiology, molecular genetics, mammalian physiology and advanced organic and physical chemistry, among others.

Training in the responsible conduct of research

All M.S. students are required to complete the following training in the responsible conduct of research:

1. OVP 601, OVR 602 or OVP 603
2. Collaborative Investigator Training Initiative: an online course that provides training in human subjects research. The course must be completed during the fall semester of year two. Students must submit the certificate of completion before starting the spring semester of year two. Consult the following link to access the course: research.vcu.edu/human_research/citi_requirements.htm (http://www.research.vcu.edu/human_research/citi_requirements.htm)
3. Animal research training: Students are required to complete an online training course for the conduct of animal subjects research. The training must be completed during the fall semester of year two. Students must submit the certificate of completion before starting the spring semester of year two. Sign in using the following link, which provides access and guidance to the course: https://www.vcu.edu/research/acup/index.htm

Curriculum requirements

Required course work

Students must take a minimum of 24 didactic credit hours from the following list of courses.

| BiOC 503 | Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology | 5 |
| BiOC 504 | Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology | 5 |
| BiOC 505 | Experimental Biochemistry (research rotation, typically taken in year one) or BiOC 697 Directed Research in Biochemistry | 2 |
| BiOC 602 & BiOC 604 | Physical Properties of Macromolecules and Enzymology | 4 |

Take the following courses each fall and spring throughout the program.
Biochemistry, Master of Science (M.S.)
with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics

Program goals
The molecular biology and genetics curriculum is an integrated interdisciplinary program of study that builds on the graduate programs of participating departments in the School of Medicine. The master's curriculum is designed to be an intensive course of study that will provide students with the skills required to advance to research-oriented careers in biotechnology or provide the foundation for further graduate study toward a Ph.D.

It is expected that the program should be completed in approximately two to two-and-one-half years.

1. The curriculum includes core, specialization and elective courses. Electives drawn from various departments allow individual specialization.
2. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of bioscience, an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation. The program relates this framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified.
3. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of bioscience knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.
4. The final three semesters include a research project conducted under the guidance of a selected faculty mentor and culminates in the presentation and defense of a master's thesis.

Participating faculty are associated not only with programs and departments within the School of Medicine, but also with the VCU Massey Cancer Center, the Philips Institute for Oral and Craniofacial Molecular Biology (School of Dentistry), the Institute of Structural Biology and Drug Discovery (School of Pharmacy) and the VCU Center for the Study of Biological Complexity (VCU Life Sciences).

The interdisciplinary approach to the solution of biological problems provided by this training is designed to develop in students the flexibility and problem-solving skills necessary for success in a variety of scientific career opportunities or further graduate study.

Student learning outcomes
1. Problem-solving skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.
2. General knowledge of sciences: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of the biosciences as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Typical plan of study
Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

Graduate program director
Tomasz K. Kordula, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
tkordula@vcu.edu
(804) 828-0771

Program website: biochemistry.vcu.edu (http://www.biochemistry.vcu.edu)
an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications, as measured by rubric.

3. Communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skills have been acquired.
   a. Oral communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.
   b. Written communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

4. Experimental design: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 continuance in the program and constitutes admission to candidacy. Graduation requirements (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Deadline date rolling, preference given to applications received by Jan 17</td>
<td>GRE, TOEFL for applicants whose native language is not English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- Applications for the program should be submitted to Molecular Biology and Genetics – M.S. selected from the drop-down menu of programs of the VCU online graduate application form. The degree awarded will be a Master of Science in Biochemistry.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have earned or expect to earn a baccalaureate or equivalent degree, and must have demonstrated a superior knowledge of biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics. Laboratory experience is also strongly recommended. The Graduate Record Examination is required, as are letters of recommendation and a letter summarizing the applicant’s goals. International applicants who do not use English as their native language must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language examination.
Basic science, research-intensive, non-thesis curriculum for medical students

Individuals who are participants in medical training (the Doctor of Medicine program) at VCU may be eligible for enrollment in a research-intensive, non-thesis graduate curriculum. This basic science option builds on the core of disciplinary material embedded in the first two years of training in the medical school curriculum. Additional exposure is provided to specialized areas in basic science disciplines in concert with an intensive research experience leading to the preparation of a report in the form of a manuscript suitable for publication. The program is designed to be completed within 12 to 15 months. Subject matter related to the core material and/or suitable elective courses taken in the didactic phase of medical training correspond to a minimum of the equivalent of 24 graduate credit hours. The equivalent of 12 credit hours may be applied to the M.S. degree program in which the student is enrolled in accordance with Graduate School policy. Medical students interested in the basic science option should contact the M.S. graduate program director for additional information.

Degree requirements

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the interdisciplinary master’s curriculum in molecular biology and genetics requires a minimum of 48 credit hours, at least half of which must be course work restricted to graduate students. The curriculum includes 19 credit hours of required core course work and 29 additional credit hours of required course work, directed research and research seminar course work, and additional approved course work, as listed below. M.S. candidates must pass a final oral examination. A written thesis approved by the student’s graduate advisory committee completes the requirements leading to the M.S. degree.

Curriculum requirements

Required core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 530</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 1: Protein Structure and Function</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 531</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 2: Basic Metabolism</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 532</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 3: Central Dogma of Molecular Biology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 533</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 4: Lipids/Membranes and Bioenergetics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 620</td>
<td>Laboratory/Clinical Rotations (sections 004 and 005; two credits taken twice)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 607</td>
<td>Techniques in Molecular Biology and Genetics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 693</td>
<td>Topics in Molecular Biology and Genetics (MBG journal club, must take at least once)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:

- OVPR 601 Scientific Integrity
- OVPR 602 Responsible Scientific Conduct

Total Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other required course work (29 credits)

Select a minimum of one credit hour of directed research every semester of enrollment in the program after the first year of study from:

- BIOC 697 Directed Research in Biochemistry
- MICR 697 Directed Research in Microbiology

Total Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Biochemistry</td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Microbiology</td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select a minimum of one credit hour of research seminar course work every fall and spring semester of enrollment in the program from:

- MICR 690 Microbiology Research Seminar (section 002, MBG; one credit course) | 3 |

Students may take additional course work with the approval of their graduate program directors.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48

Typical plan of study

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

Graduate program director

Gail E. Christie, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
christie@vcu.edu
(804) 828-9093

Program website: vcu.edu/mbg (http://www.vcu.edu/mbg)

Biostatistics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Program goal

The mission of the VCU Department of Biostatistics is to improve human health through methodological research, the education of graduate students and health science researchers in biostatistical methods and applications, and collaborative health sciences research. Faculty members conduct methodological research motivated by collaborative alliances, which in turn contributes to and enhances the department’s educational mission. By focusing on the integration of methodological and collaborative research, students develop strong biostatistical and communication skills, enabling them to assume leadership positions in academia, government and industry.

Student learning outcomes

1. Experimental design: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.
2. Integrated knowledge of mathematics and bioscience: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of mathematics as related to bioscience and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications as measured by rubric.

3. Oral communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.

4. Problem-solving skills: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.

5. Written communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

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

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information

School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on doctoral programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall preferred</td>
<td>Applications received prior to Jan 15 given priority consideration</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must complete the verbal, quantitative and analytical writing sections of the Graduate Record Exam. The following mathematics courses or their equivalents are required for admission: MATH 307, MATH 310, STAT 309 and STAT 212. MATH 507 and an additional graduate-level math analysis course are recommended for students interested in completing the Ph.D. program.

Degree requirements

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), Ph.D. students must complete a minimum total of 77 credit hours (59 didactic hours, plus eight hours each of seminar and consulting, and at least three credit hours of research). More specifically, required courses include:

| BIOS/STAT 513 | Mathematical Statistics I | 3 |
| BIOS/STAT 514 | Mathematical Statistics II | 3 |
| BIOS 524      | Biostatistical Computing   | 3 |
| BIOS 546      | Theory of Linear Models    | 3 |
| BIOS 553      | Biostatistical Methods I   | 3 |
| BIOS 554      | Biostatistical Methods II  | 3 |
| BIOS 571      | Clinical Trials            | 3 |
| BIOS 572      | Analysis of Biomedical Data | 3 |
| BIOS 615      | Advanced Inference         | 4 |
| BIOS 625      | Categorical Data Analysis and Generalized Linear Models | 4 |
before they can be admitted to candidacy. The written and oral components of the dissertation proposal defense must identify a dissertation adviser and committee and must pass both parts A and B of the dissertation proposal defense to continue toward completion of their final dissertation defense. A student who does not pass both Part A and Part B of the dissertation proposal defense may choose to complete their final dissertation defense. A student who does not pass both Part A or Part B of the qualifying exam at the Ph.D. level will have one opportunity to retake that part of the qualifying examination.

Qualifying exam

Students pursuing the Ph.D. degree must pass a two-part qualifying examination after completion of their first-year courses. Part A (the theoretical examination) is an in-class, closed-book examination administered in one day and covers material from the following first-year courses: BIOS 513, BIOS 514 and BIOS 546. Part B (the applied examination) is a take-home, open-book examination administered over one week and covers material from the following first-year courses: BIOS 553, BIOS 554, BIOS 571 and BIOS 572.

Each part of the exam is graded as pass or fail. A student must pass both Part A and Part B of the qualifying exam at the Ph.D. level to continue in the Ph.D. program. A student who does not pass either Part A or Part B of the qualifying examination at the Ph.D. level will have one opportunity to retake that part of the qualifying examination.

Dissertation proposal defense

Students pursuing the Ph.D. degree who have passed the qualifying exam must pass a defense of their dissertation proposal that will consist of both written and oral components. For the written component of the dissertation proposal defense the student will produce a detailed report and description of the proposed research plan. For the oral component of the dissertation proposal defense the student will present the dissertation proposal to their dissertation committee and respond to any feedback or questions.

The proposal defense will be scheduled as soon as the student is ready after passing both parts of the qualifying examination. This could be as early as Year 2, with students required to defend before December of their fourth year.

Each part of the exam is graded as pass or fail. A student must pass both Part A and Part B of the dissertation proposal defense to continue toward their final dissertation defense. A student who does not pass both Part A and Part B of the dissertation proposal defense may choose to complete the requirements for a M.S. degree.

Admission to candidacy

A student must pass both parts A and B of their qualifying examination, must identify a dissertation adviser and committee and must pass both the written and oral components of the dissertation proposal defense before they can be admitted to candidacy.

Dissertation

A comprehensive dissertation reporting the results of original research is required for the Ph.D. degree.

Final examination

All Ph.D. candidates must defend their dissertations at a final oral examination. A public presentation will precede a Ph.D. defense closed to all but the student’s committee. Questions are restricted to the topic of the dissertation for the Ph.D. candidate.

Curriculum requirements

Required core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS/STAT 513</td>
<td>Mathematical Statistics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS/STAT 514</td>
<td>Mathematical Statistics II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 524</td>
<td>Biostatistical Computing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 546</td>
<td>Theory of Linear Models</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 553</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 554</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 571</td>
<td>Clinical Trials</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 572</td>
<td>Analysis of Biomedical Data I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 615</td>
<td>Advanced Inference</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 625</td>
<td>Categorical Data Analysis and Generalized Linear Models</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 631</td>
<td>Mixed Models and Longitudinal Data Analysis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 647</td>
<td>Survival Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 40

Five of the courses listed below (at least two must be BIOS courses; at least three must be at the 600-level) or others selected with approval of program director

Select five course from the following (at least two must be BIOS courses; at least two must be at the 600-level) or other selected with approval of program director:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 567</td>
<td>Statistical Methods for High-throughput Genomics Data I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 632</td>
<td>Multivariate Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 638</td>
<td>Statistical Design and Analysis in Toxicology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 639</td>
<td>Statistical Design and Analysis in Toxicology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 667</td>
<td>Statistical Learning and Data Mining</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 671</td>
<td>Nonlinear Models</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 668</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 688</td>
<td>Applied Bayesian Biostatistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Biostatistics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 640</td>
<td>Mathematical Biology I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 613</td>
<td>Stochastic Processes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 614</td>
<td>Stochastic Processes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT/OPER 636</td>
<td>Machine Learning Algorithms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, students must take two 600-level BIOS/STAT courses from the list provided; three additional 600-level BIOS, STAT or MATH courses from the list provided (including BIOS 567); and one graduate-level non-BIOS, STAT or MATH course. Ph.D. students must also take eight semesters of BIOS 516 and BIOS 690. In addition, Ph.D. students will participate in the summer student research program at least twice and present at the Biostatistics Student Research Symposium each fall.
Biostatistics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in genomic biostatistics

Program goal

The mission of the VCU Department of Biostatistics is to improve human health through methodological research, the education of graduate students and health science researchers in biostatistical methods and applications, and collaborative health sciences research. Faculty members conduct methodological research motivated by collaborative alliances, which in turn contributes to and enhances the department’s educational mission. By focusing on the integration of methodological and collaborative research, students develop strong biostatistical and communication skills, enabling them to assume leadership positions in academia, government and industry.

Student learning outcomes

1. Experimental design: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

2. Integrated knowledge of mathematics and bioscience: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of mathematics as related to bioscience and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications as measured by rubric.

3. Oral communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.

4. Problem-solving skills: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.

5. Written communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information

School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on doctoral programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
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<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall preferred</td>
<td>Applications received prior to Jan 15, given priority consideration</td>
<td>GRE</td>
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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must complete the verbal, quantitative and analytical writing sections of the Graduate Record Exam. The following mathematics courses or their equivalents are required for admission: MATH 307, MATH 310, STAT 309 and STAT 212. MATH 507 and an additional graduate-level math analysis course are recommended for students interested in completing the Ph.D. program.

Degree requirements

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), Ph.D. students in the genomic biostatistics concentration will complete a minimum of 76 graduate credit hours (57 didactic credit hours plus eight hours each of consulting and seminar, and at least three credit hours of research). More specifically, required courses include:

| BIOS/STAT 513 | Mathematical Statistics I | 3 |
| BIOS/STAT 514 | Mathematical Statistics II | 3 |
| BIOS 553      | Biostatistical Methods I   | 3 |
| BIOS 554      | Biostatistical Methods II  | 3 |
| BIOS 567      | Statistical Methods for High-throughput Genomics Data I | 3 |
| BIOS 571      | Clinical Trials            | 3 |
| BIOS 572      | Analysis of Biomedical Data I | 3 |
| BIOS 615      | Advanced Inference         | 4 |
| BIOS 625      | Categorical Data Analysis and Generalized Linear Models | 4 |
| BIOS 632      | Multivariate Analysis      | 3 |
| BIOS 647      | Survival Analysis          | 3 |
| BIOS 668      | Statistical Methods for High-throughput Genomic Data II | 3 |

Select one of the following: 1
- OVPR 601 Scientific Integrity
- OVPR 602 Responsible Scientific Conduct
- OVPR 603 Responsible Conduct of Research

In addition, students will take one of BIOS 667 or BIOS 691 (where the topic is genetic epidemiology or systems biology) and two other 600-level BIOS/STAT/MATH/BNFO courses. Ph.D. students must also take eight semesters of BIOS 516 and BIOS 690. In addition, Ph.D. students will participate in the summer student research program at least twice and present at the Biostatistics Student Research Symposium each fall.

Qualifying exam

Students pursuing the Ph.D. degree must pass a two-part qualifying examination administered after completion of their first-year courses. Part A (the theoretical examination) is an in-class, closed-book examination administered in one day and covers material from the following first-year courses: BIOS 513, BIOS 514 and BIOS 546. Part B (the applied examination) is a take-home, open-book examination administered over one week and covers material from the following first-year courses: BIOS 553, BIOS 554, BIOS 571 and BIOS 572.

Each part of the exam is graded as pass or fail. A student must pass both Part A and Part B of the qualifying exam at the Ph.D. level to continue in the Ph.D. program. A student who does not pass either Part A or Part B of the qualifying examination at the Ph.D. level will have one opportunity to retake that part of the qualifying examination.

Dissertation proposal defense

Students pursuing the Ph.D. degree who have passed the qualifying exam must pass a defense of their dissertation proposal that will consist of both written and oral components. For the written component of the dissertation proposal defense the student will produce a detailed report and description of the proposed research plan. For the oral component of the dissertation proposal defense the student will present the dissertation proposal to their dissertation committee and respond to any feedback or questions.

The proposal defense will be scheduled as soon as the student is ready after passing both parts of the qualifying examination. This could be as early as Year 2, with students required to defend before December of their fourth year.

Each part of the exam is graded as pass or fail. A student must pass both Part A and Part B of the dissertation proposal defense to continue toward
their final dissertation defense. A student who does not pass both Part A and Part B of the dissertation proposal defense may choose to complete the requirements for a M.S. degree.

**Admission to candidacy**
A student must pass both parts A and B of their qualifying examination, must identify a dissertation adviser and committee and must pass both the written and oral components of the dissertation proposal defense before they can be admitted to candidacy.

**Dissertation**
A comprehensive dissertation reporting the results of original research related to genomics topics is required for the Ph.D. with a concentration in genomic biostatistics. It is expected that the dissertation will make use of some high-throughput genomic technology as an application for the methodological development.

**Final examination**
All Ph.D. candidates must defend their dissertations at a final oral examination. A public presentation will precede a Ph.D. defense closed to all but the student’s committee. Questions are restricted to the topic of the dissertation for the Ph.D. candidate.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Required core courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOL/BNFO 540</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Molecular Genetics (or other relevant course)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS/STAT 513</td>
<td>Mathematical Statistics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS/STAT 514</td>
<td>Mathematical Statistics II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 524</td>
<td>Biostatistical Computing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>BIOS 546</td>
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<td>Clinical Trials</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>BIOS 572</td>
<td>Analysis of Biomedical Data I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 615</td>
<td>Advanced Inference</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 625</td>
<td>Categorical Data Analysis and Generalized Linear Models</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 632</td>
<td>Multivariate Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 647</td>
<td>Survival Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 668</td>
<td>Statistical Methods for High-throughput Genomic Data II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**  48

**BIOS/STAT courses**

Select one of the following BIOS/STAT courses (or another with approval of program director):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 667</td>
<td>Statistical Learning and Data Mining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Biostatistics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional course**

Select two additional three- or four-credit 600-level BIOS, STAT, MATH or BNFO courses from the following (or another with approval of program director):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 631</td>
<td>Mixed Models and Longitudinal Data Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 638</td>
<td>Statistical Design and Analysis in Toxicology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 639</td>
<td>Statistical Design and Analysis in Toxicology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 671</td>
<td>Nonlinear Models</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 688</td>
<td>Applied Bayesian Biostatistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Biostatistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO/BIOL 601</td>
<td>Integrated Bioinformatics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Bioinformatics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 640</td>
<td>Mathematical Biology I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 613</td>
<td>Stochastic Processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 614</td>
<td>Stochastic Processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT/OPER 636</td>
<td>Machine Learning Algorithms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 642</td>
<td>Design and Analysis of Experiments I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 645</td>
<td>Bayesian Decision Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 675</td>
<td>Time Series Analysis I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**  6

**Consulting and seminar courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 516</td>
<td>Biostatistical Consulting (one credit course taken eight semesters)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 690</td>
<td>Biostatistical Research Seminar (once credit course taken eight semesters)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**  8

**Dissertation research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Biostatistics (three credits minimum)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours**  3

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum)**  76

**Typical plan of study**

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

**Graduate program director**
Roy T. Sabo, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Biostatistics
roy.sabo@vcuhealth.org
(804) 828-3047

**Additional contact** (admissions and prospective students)
Russell M. Boyle
Assistant professor, Department of Biostatistics, and associate program director
russell.boyle@vcuhealth.org
Program website: biostatistics.vcu.edu (http://www.biostatistics.vcu.edu)

Biostatistics, Master of Science (M.S.)

Program goal
The mission of the VCU Department of Biostatistics is to improve human health through methodological research, the education of graduate students and health science researchers in biostatistical methods and applications, and collaborative health sciences research. Faculty members conduct methodological research motivated by collaborative alliances, which in turn contributes to and enhances the department’s educational mission. By focusing on the integration of methodological and collaborative research, students develop strong biostatistical and communication skills, enabling them to assume leadership positions in academia, government and industry.

Student learning outcomes
1. Experimental design: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.
2. Integrated knowledge of mathematics and bioscience: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of mathematics as related to bioscience and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications as measured by rubric.
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4. Problem-solving skills: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.
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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.

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information
School of Medicine graduate program policies
The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

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Admission requirements

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<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall preferred</td>
<td>Applications received prior to Jan 15</td>
<td>GRE given priority consideration</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants for the M.S. in Biostatistics must complete the verbal, quantitative and analytical writing sections of the Graduate Record Exam.
Additionally, the following mathematics courses or their equivalents are required for admission:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MATH 307</td>
<td>Multivariate Calculus</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MATH 310</td>
<td>Linear Algebra</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 212</td>
<td>Concepts of Statistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 309</td>
<td>Introduction to Probability Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although not required, prior course work in additional mathematics, statistics or computer science is helpful.

## Degree requirements

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), M.S. students must complete a minimum total of 42 graduate credit hours of course work. Students are required to take:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 513</td>
<td>Mathematical Statistics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; BIOS 514</td>
<td>and Mathematical Statistics II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 524</td>
<td>Biostatistical Computing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 546</td>
<td>Theory of Linear Models</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 553</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 554</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 571</td>
<td>Clinical Trials</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 572</td>
<td>Analysis of Biomedical Data I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:

- BIOS 615: Advanced Inference
- BIOS 625: Categorical Data Analysis and Generalized Linear Models
- BIOS 631: Mixed Models and Longitudinal Data Analysis
- BIOS 647: Survival Analysis

Total Hours: 24

## Thesis

M.S. in Biostatistics students must write a thesis that reports the results of data analysis, or a review or survey. An original research topic is not required.

## Final examination

M.S. in Biostatistics candidates must defend their theses at a final oral examination. While questions are restricted to the topic of the dissertation for the Ph.D. candidate, no such restriction applies for the thesis defense for M.S. candidates.

## Curriculum requirements

### Core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS/STAT 513</td>
<td>Mathematical Statistics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS/STAT 514</td>
<td>Mathematical Statistics II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 524</td>
<td>Biostatistical Computing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 546</td>
<td>Theory of Linear Models</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 553</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 554</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 571</td>
<td>Clinical Trials</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 572</td>
<td>Analysis of Biomedical Data I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 24

### Additional course

Select one of the following (minimum three credits):

- BIOS 615: Advanced Inference
- BIOS 616: Advanced Inference
- BIOS 625: Categorical Data Analysis and Generalized Linear Models
- BIOS 631: Mixed Models and Longitudinal Data Analysis
- BIOS 647: Survival Analysis

Total Hours: 6

### Additional combination

Select one or two (with program director approval) of the following (minimum three credits):

- BIOS 632: Multivariate Analysis
- BIOS 638: Statistical Design and Analysis in Toxicology
- BIOS 639: Statistical Design and Analysis in Toxicology
- BIOS/STAT 650: Design and Analysis of Response Surface Experiments
- BIOS 667: Statistical Learning and Data Mining
- BIOS 688: Applied Bayesian Biostatistics
- STAT 613: Stochastic Processes
- STAT 614: Stochastic Processes
- STAT 625: Applied Multivariate Analysis

Total Hours: 6

### Consulting and seminar

Take the following one-credit course for four semesters:

- BIOS 516: Biostatistical Consulting

Take the following one-credit course for four semesters:

- BIOS 516: Biostatistical Consulting
Student learning outcomes

1. Experimental design: Students will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

2. Integrated knowledge of statistics and bioscience: Students will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of statistics as related to bioscience and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications as measured by rubric.

3. Oral communication skills: Students will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.

4. Problem-solving skills: Students will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.

5. Written communication skills: Students will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

Typical plan of study

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

Graduate program director
Roy T. Sabo, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Biostatistics
roy.sabo@vcuhealth.org
(804) 828-3047

Additional contact (admissions and prospective students)
Russell M. Boyle
Assistant professor, Department of Biostatistics, and associate program director
russell.boyle@vcuhealth.org
(804) 827-2049

Program website: biostatistics.vcu.edu (http://www.biostatistics.vcu.edu)

Biostatistics, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in clinical research and biostatistics

Program goal

The mission of the VCU Department of Biostatistics is to improve human health through methodological research, the education of graduate students and health science researchers in biostatistical methods and applications, and collaborative health sciences research. Faculty members conduct methodological research motivated by collaborative alliances, which in turn contributes to and enhances the department’s educational mission. By focusing on the integration of methodological and collaborative research, students develop strong biostatistical and communication skills, enabling them to assume leadership positions in academia, government and industry.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Other information
School of Medicine graduate program policies
The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall preferred</td>
<td>Applications received prior to Jan 15, given priority consideration</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), students applying to the clinical research and biostatistics concentration must hold the M.D., D.D.S., Ph.D., D.P.H., D.O., Pharm.D. or an equivalent health professional terminal degree from an accredited college or university. Applicants with international M.D. degrees are considered on an individual basis. The applicant must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.00. Applicants must also submit a letter detailing career goals and how the M.S. in Biostatistics with a concentration in clinical research and biostatistics applies to those goals, as well as at least three letters of recommendation.

Degree requirements
In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), M.S. in Biostatistics, clinical research and biostatistics concentration students must complete a minimum total of 34 graduate credit hours. This includes 17 credit hours of core course work, 12 credit hours of elective courses and at least five credit hours of directed independent research.

Students in the clinical research and biostatistics concentration must complete a research project, culminating in an academic manuscript submitted for publication. A research advisory committee must be formed to direct the student’s research project. The research advisory committee must consist of two clinicians familiar with the student’s area of research and a faculty member of the Department of Biostatistics. The student is primarily responsible for the conceptualization, design, conduct, analysis and interpretation of the research project.

Final examination
Clinical research and biostatistics concentration students do not defend their research projects at a final oral examination.

Curriculum requirements

Core courses
- BIOS 516 Biostatistical Consulting 1
- BIOS 531 Clinical Epidemiology 3
- or EPID 571 Principles of Epidemiology
- BIOS 543 Graduate Research Methods I 3
- or STAT 543 Statistical Methods I
- BIOS 544 Graduate Research Methods II 3
- or STAT 544 Statistical Methods II
- BIOS 571 Clinical Trials 3
- BIOS 572 Analysis of Biomedical Data I 3

Select one of the following:
- OVPR 601 Scientific Integrity 1
- OVPR 602 Responsible Scientific Conduct
- OVPR 603 Responsible Conduct of Research

Total Hours: 17

Directed research
- BIOS 697 Directed Research in Biostatistics (minimum five credits) 5

Electives
Select 12 credits from the suggested electives below 12

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 34

Suggested electives

Electives in biostatistics
- BIOS 524 Biostatistical Computing 3
- BIOS 549 Spatial Data Analysis 3
- BIOS 553 Biostatistical Methods I 4
- BIOS 554 Biostatistical Methods II 4
- BIOS 573 Analysis of Biomedical Data II 3
- BIOS 610 Research Processes and Methods for the Health Professions 3
- BIOS 691 Special Topics in Biostatistics 1-4

Electives in epidemiology and public health
- EPID 571 Principles of Epidemiology 3
- EPID 600 Introduction to Public Health 3
- EPID 601 Contemporary Issues and Controversies in Public Health 3
- EPID 603 Public Health Policy and Politics 3
- EPID 606 Epidemiologic Methods 3
- EPID 607 Nutritional Epidemiology 3
- EPID 620 Cancer Epidemiology 3
- EPID 648 Behavioral Epidemiology 3

Electives in social and behavioral health
- SBHD 605 Introduction to Social and Behavioral Health 3
- SBHD 610 Behavioral Measurement 3
- SBHD 632 Health Disparities and Social Justice 3
- SBHD 633 Structural Equation Modeling 3
Typical plan of study
Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

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(804) 827-2049

Program website: biostatistics.vcu.edu (http://www.biostatistics.vcu.edu)

Biostatistics, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in genomic biostatistics

Program goal
The mission of the VCU Department of Biostatistics is to improve human health through methodological research, the education of graduate students and health science researchers in biostatistical methods and applications, and collaborative health sciences research. Faculty members conduct methodological research motivated by collaborative alliances, which in turn contributes to and enhances the department’s educational mission. By focusing on the integration of methodological and collaborative research, students develop strong biostatistical and communication skills, enabling them to assume leadership positions in academia, government and industry.

Student learning outcomes
1. Experimental design: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.
2. Integrated knowledge of mathematics and bioscience: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of mathematics as related to bioscience and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications as measured by rubric.
3. Oral communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.

4. Problem-solving skills: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.

5. Written communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.
Other information

School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>given priority consideration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants for the M.S. in Biostatistics must complete the verbal, quantitative and analytical writing sections of the Graduate Record Exam.

Additionally, the following mathematics courses or their equivalents are required for admission:

- MATH 307  Multivariate Calculus  4
- MATH 310  Linear Algebra  3
- STAT 212  Concepts of Statistics  3
- STAT 309  Introduction to Probability Theory  3

Although not required, prior course work in additional mathematics, statistics or computer science is helpful.

Degree requirements

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), M.S. students will complete a minimum total of 33 credit hours of course work. Required courses include BIOS 513/STAT 513 and BIOS 514/STAT 514, BIOS 524, BIOS 546, BIOS 553, BIOS 554, BIOS 571 and BIOS 572. In addition, each student is required to take BIOS 567 and BIOL/BNFO 540 (or equivalent) and one of BIOS 632, BIOS 667, BIOS 668 and BIOS 691 (the latter when the topic is systems biology or statistical genetics/genetic epidemiology).

Full-time master’s students must take four semesters of BIOS 516 and BIOS 690. In addition, students will participate once in the student summer teaching program and present at the Biostatistics Student Research Symposium in the fall.

Qualifying exam

Students pursuing the M.S. degree must pass a qualifying examination administered after completion of their first-year courses. Part A (the theoretical examination) is an in-class, closed-book examination administered in one day and covers material from the following first-year courses: BIOS 513, BIOS 514 and BIOS 546. Part B (the applied examination) is a take-home, open-book examination administered over one week and covers material from the following first-year courses: BIOS 553, BIOS 554, BIOS 571 and BIOS 572.

Each part of the exam is graded as pass or fail. A student must pass both Part A and Part B of the qualifying exam at the M.S. level to continue in the M.S. program. A student who does not pass either Part A or Part B of the qualifying examination at the M.S. level will have one opportunity to retake that part of the qualifying examination.

Thesis

M.S. in Biostatistics with a concentration in genomic biostatistics concentration students must write a thesis that reports the results of data analysis, or a review or survey. An original research topic is not required.

Final examination

M.S. candidates must defend their theses at a final oral examination. While questions are restricted to the topic of the dissertation for the Ph.D. candidate, no such restriction applies for the thesis defense for M.S. candidates.

Curriculum requirements

Core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS/STAT 513</td>
<td>Mathematical Statistics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS/STAT 514</td>
<td>Mathematical Statistics II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 524</td>
<td>Biostatistical Computing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 546</td>
<td>Theory of Linear Models</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 553</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 554</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 567</td>
<td>Statistical Methods for High-throughput Genomics Data I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 571</td>
<td>Clinical Trials</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 572</td>
<td>Analysis of Biomedical Data I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Total Hours 30

Additional course

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 632</td>
<td>Multivariate Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 667</td>
<td>Statistical Learning and Data Mining</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 668</td>
<td>Statistical Methods for High-throughput Genomic Data II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Biostatistics (systems biology or genetic epidemiology)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 3

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33

Typical plan of study

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

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Additional contact (admissions and prospective students)
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(804) 827-2049

Program website: biostatistics.vcu.edu (http://www.biostatistics.vcu.edu)

Epidemiology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Program mission
The mission of the Ph.D. program in epidemiology is to educate and train students to become independent, competent and self-directed research scientists so they can conduct outstanding clinical and population-based research. Students will learn methods for studying disease etiology and prevention in populations and evaluating interventions, diagnostic tests and treatment efficacy; they will implement such methods in an independent research study under the mentorship of an experienced epidemiology researcher.

Program goals
1. Critical foundation skills: The program is designed to provide students with the critical skills required to advance to positions as epidemiological researchers/trainers in a broad spectrum of positions.
2. Mastery and application of science: The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of epidemiology and ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation/experimentation in bioscience.
3. Communication: Students will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of epidemiological knowledge and the expression of epidemiological methodology, research design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

Student learning outcomes
Students in the doctoral program in epidemiology will develop competencies in the following areas, as described below.

1. Integrated knowledge of epidemiology: Students will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of theories of disease causation as well as bias in epidemiologic research and demonstrate in-depth understanding of one or more substantive theories related to research. Students will be able to appropriately link theoretical frameworks to the design, conduct and interpretation of epidemiologic research and demonstrate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications appropriate to an independent research scientist.
2. Problem-solving skills: Students will be able to appropriately apply epidemiologic and statistical methods for research needs, demonstrating proficiency in selecting the appropriate measures of association for the research at hand and correctly implementing analytic techniques, including addressing issues such as confounding and effect modification. Students will be able to evaluate and interpret results, explaining relationships between determinant(s) and outcome(s) under study.
3. Research design: Students will construct and develop novel epidemiologic research questions, demonstrating proficiency in selecting the most appropriate study designs such that bias is minimized and efficiency maximized. Students will understand the required elements to estimate sample size, know how to identify and minimize bias and confounders through study design and analysis, and demonstrate knowledge of the impact of measurement issues on study validity.
4. Written communication skills: Students will demonstrate proficiency in scientific writing, including manuscript development, grant writing and writing for multiple audiences, including lay audiences and policy-makers. Students will demonstrate an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information, including the use of figures, tables and citations.
5. Oral communication skills: Students will demonstrate effective oral communication skills across disciplines, framing questions appropriately and implementing active listening skills in delivering oral presentations to professional audiences, lecturing to students or leading discussions. Students will appropriately use audio/visual technologies to develop effective presentations with respect to content, organization and appropriate use of language.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
School of Medicine graduate program policies
The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on doctoral programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at sophas.org (http://www.sophas.org).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
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</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Application strongly encouraged by Jan 15</td>
<td>GRE, TOEFL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements
- Applicants must hold a master's degree, preferably in public health or a related field, and provide test scores as detailed below. Applicants must provide all required materials as described herein and in the VCU Admissions graduate application checklist.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following minimum qualifications.

1. Prior degree: Master’s degree in public health (M.P.H.) or equivalent M.S. degree, (e.g., sociology, biology, mathematics) with a minimum GPA of 3.0
2. GRE: Current GRE test results (taken within the past five years) with scores at or above the 75th percentile preferred in all components of the exam (e.g., minimum scores of 159 quantitative, 157 verbal and 4.5 analytical writing)
3. TOEFL: For non-native speakers of English, recommended minimum scores of either 100iBT, 600 PBT or IELTS scores of 6.5 (academic band score)
4. Personal statement: Applicants must include a personal statement that indicates their reasons for pursuing a doctoral degree in epidemiology, their particular areas of research focus or study, the departmental faculty advisers with whom the students would prefer to work, and career goals upon graduation.
5. Reference letters: Students must submit three letters of recommendation from three individuals who can assess the applicant’s qualifications for graduate school. Letters from past professors or faculty advisers are most appropriate.
6. Current CV or resume: Students must submit a current CV or resume.

Degree requirements
In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students will be required to complete a minimum of 61 graduate credit hours as follows:

1. Three core courses focusing on epidemiological methods (nine credit hours)
2. Two core courses focusing on biostatistical theory and methods (six credit hours)
3. Four semesters of journal club (four credit hours)
4. Four courses of methodological electives, including EPID 649 (12 credit hours)
5. Three courses of substantive area electives, with at least one relating to the biological processes associated with the student's chosen substantive area (nine credit hours)
6. A minimum of two credit hours of practical research skills development
7. At least one course in the responsible conduct of research (one credit hour)
8. At least 18 credit hours of directed dissertation research

Students will also be required to complete the following:

Practical experience
1. Teaching experience: All doctoral students are required to serve as a teaching assistant for at least one semester before graduation. The student and her/his adviser discuss which course would be best-suited for the teaching assistantship.
2. Seminar attendance: All students are expected to attend all doctoral level Division of Epidemiology seminars during their tenure in the program. These seminars are generally held every other week during fall and spring semesters. In addition, students must attend any special public health seminars offered collaboratively by the public health departments. These special seminars may occur one to two times each semester.
3. Grant application submission: All students are required to submit at least one grant application related to their dissertation to a federal or nongovernmental funder to gain grantsmanship experience.

Comprehensive exams
Comprehensive exams include a written examination that assesses knowledge of completed didactic course work on core epidemiologic and biostatistical methods as well as a tailored substantive section based on the student’s research focus and an oral comprehensive exam based upon the student’s dissertation proposal.

Dissertation
1. The dissertation must be a hypothesis-based, analytical epidemiology project designed by the student under the supervision of the faculty adviser and advisory committee members as appropriate.
2. Students develop and submit three manuscripts from the dissertation to peer-reviewed journals. Students should have submitted at least one manuscript before their final defense.

### Curriculum requirements

#### Core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPID 650</td>
<td>Epidemiologic Methods for Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 651</td>
<td>Intermediate Epidemiologic Methods for Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 652</td>
<td>Advanced Epidemiologic Methods and Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 690</td>
<td>Journal Club (taken four semesters)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 643</td>
<td>Applied Linear Regression</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 744</td>
<td>Regression II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Methodological electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPID 649</td>
<td>Analysis of Health Datasets</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 567</td>
<td>Statistical Methods for High-throughput Genomics Data I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 631</td>
<td>Mixed Models and Longitudinal Data Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 632</td>
<td>Multivariate Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 647</td>
<td>Survival Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 668</td>
<td>Statistical Methods for High-throughput Genomic Data II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 671</td>
<td>Nonlinear Models</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Biostatistics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 601</td>
<td>Integrated Bioinformatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCTR 630</td>
<td>Design Implications in Clinical Trials</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCTR 631</td>
<td>Adaptive Clinical Trials</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCTR 692</td>
<td>Special Topics in Translational Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 620</td>
<td>Cancer Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 622</td>
<td>Maternal and Child Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 646</td>
<td>Epidemiology of Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 648</td>
<td>Behavioral Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 691</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 692</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 763</td>
<td>Applied Health Services Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 730</td>
<td>Survey Research Methods and Analysis for Health Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 603</td>
<td>Mathematical and Statistical Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 617</td>
<td>Genetic Analysis of Complex Traits</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 619</td>
<td>Quantitative Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 688</td>
<td>Applied Pharmacoepidemiology Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PPAD 723</td>
<td>Survey Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 655</td>
<td>Community Interventions: Development, Implementation and Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 610</td>
<td>Behavioral Measurement</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 631</td>
<td>Disseminating, Adopting and Adapting Evidence-based Prevention Programs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Substantive area electives

Select three courses of substantive area electives, at least one relating to the biological processes associated with the student's chosen substantive area from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPID 603</td>
<td>Public Health Policy and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 620</td>
<td>Cancer Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 622</td>
<td>Maternal and Child Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 646</td>
<td>Epidemiology of Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 648</td>
<td>Behavioral Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 691</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 692</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRYT 601</td>
<td>Biological and Physiological Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRYT/PSYC 602</td>
<td>Psychology of Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRYT 603</td>
<td>Social Gerontology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRYT 604</td>
<td>Problems, Issues and Trends in Gerontology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRYT 606</td>
<td>Aging and Human Values</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GSWS 620</td>
<td>Theorizing Sexuality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 602</td>
<td>Health System Organization, Financing and Performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 611</td>
<td>Health Care Law and Bioethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 615</td>
<td>Health Care Politics and Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 624</td>
<td>Health Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCP 710</td>
<td>Health Services Research and Policy I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCP 702</td>
<td>Health Services Research and Policy II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 704</td>
<td>Foundations of Health Service Organization Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HADM 705</td>
<td>Advanced Health Service Organization Theory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCP 720</td>
<td>Economics of Health Disparities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 502</td>
<td>Advanced Human Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 610</td>
<td>Current Literature in Human Molecular Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 620</td>
<td>Principles of Human Behavioral Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 603</td>
<td>Risk Assessment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HSEP 650  Public Health Preparedness
NURS 502  Advanced Nursing Practice: Pharmacotherapeutics
PSYC 629  Biological Basis of Behavior
PSYC 630  Social Psychology
PSYC 660  Health Psychology
PSYC 679  Culture, Ethnicity and Health
SBHD 611  Health Literacy
SBHD 630  Theoretical Foundations of Social and Behavioral Health
SBHD 631  Disseminating, Adopting and Adapting Evidence-based Prevention Programs
SBHD 632  Health Disparities and Social Justice
SBHD 634  Patient-Provider Interaction
SBHD 637  Program Evaluation
SLWK 746  Social Work Practice and Psychopharmacology
SLWK 761  Interpersonal Violence

Practical research skills development
Select a minimum of two credits from the following:  
ALHP 716  Grant Writing and Project Management in Health Related Sciences
BIOS 610  Research Processes and Methods for the Health Professions
EPID 691  Special Topics
GRAD 601  The Academic Profession
GRTY 608  Grant Writing

Responsible research conduct
Select at least one of the following:  
OVPR 601  Scientific Integrity
OVPR 602  Responsible Scientific Conduct
OVPR 603  Responsible Conduct of Research

Dissertation
Take a minimum of 18 credits in the following:  
EPID 697  Directed Research in Epidemiology

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 61

Typical plan of study
Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

Director of educational programs, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Family Medicine and Population Health
lisa.s.anderson@vcuhealth.org
(804) 628-2512

Program website: familymedicine.vcu.edu/epidemiology/phd

Genetic Counseling, Master of Science (M.S.)

Program accreditation
Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling

Program goals
1. Competency in genetic counseling
2. Eligibility for certification by the American Board of Genetic Counseling
3. Preparation for careers in genetic counseling and human genetics and genomics

Successful candidates will demonstrate competency in all four genetic counseling domains: I – genetic expertise and analysis, II – interpersonal, psychosocial, and counseling skills, III – education and IV – professional development and practice.

Student learning outcomes
1. Competency in practice: The candidate should demonstrate development of competency in the responsible practice of genetic counseling. This will be assessed in the clinical setting by certified genetic counselors and medical geneticists. The assessment is based upon the core clinical competencies established by the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling. These competencies are documented with written and oral evaluations at the completion of each of the seven clinical rotations by the rotation supervisor.
2. General knowledge of sciences: The candidate should demonstrate a general knowledge of the elements of the sciences as related to genetic molecular/cellular bioscience and a detailed knowledge of his or her area of research, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature. The student is evaluated by academic performance, face-to-face and written evaluation of clinical performance in multiple rotations by multiple supervisors and annual written and oral exams.
3. Communication skills: The candidate should demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skills have been acquired. This is achieved by evaluations of clinical rotations both written and verbal that are based on the competencies established by the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling and the scope of practice as set forth by the National Society of Genetic Counselors.

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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

**Other information**

**School of Medicine graduate program policies**

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on *master’s programs* is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

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### Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Applications received prior to Jan 15</td>
<td>GRE within five years of application</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18):

1. Applicants must have successfully completed undergraduate training and hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited university or college.
2. Prerequisites for admission include six credit hours each of biology, chemistry and behavioral science (psychology, anthropology, sociology, religion or philosophy) and three credit hours each of biochemistry, statistics and genetics. It is recommended that all prerequisite courses have been completed with 10 years of application.
3. Students accepted to the program are generally drawn from applicants with an undergraduate grade-point average minimum of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale or equivalent), with an average GPA of 3.3 to 3.5 for matriculating students.
4. The Graduate Record Examination is required for admission; there is no MCAT substitution. Matriculating students generally have GRE verbal scores at or above 153, quantitative scores at or above 144 and a performance above a score of 3.5 on the analytical section.
5. Applicants holding an undergraduate degree from foreign institutions must display an acceptable level of English proficiency by achieving a score of 250 on the computer-based TOEFL examination or 600 on the written version.
6. Additionally, successful applicants often have experience with shadowing genetic counselors and medical geneticists, interviewing genetic counselors and exposure to individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities. Exposure to crisis hotlines, support groups and community activities related to individuals with disability and genetic conditions is also helpful.

Note: The department receives an average of 80 to 100 applications annually. Of those, 25 to 30 are invited for an onsite interview, and five to seven students matriculate.

In the last five certification cycles (2009 to 2013), graduates of the program have an 86% pass rate on the ABGC/ACGC national certification examination.

The program participates in the AGCPD program match. Please see the NSGC website for information for prospective students at nsgc.org/p/cm/cid=44%23accept (http://nsgc.org/p/cm/cid=44#accept).

Note: See also information regarding the Virginia Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities VA-LEND Certificate at wp.vcu.edu/virginialend (http://wp.vcu.edu/virginialend).
Degree requirements

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum total of 60 credit hours. The program is a full-time, on-campus program. Students are expected to complete their course work in four semesters (21 consecutive months). To be considered full-time, the VCU School of Medicine requires students to register for 15 credit hours in the fall and spring semesters. Occasionally special circumstances may occur that could require a temporary leave of absence. The VCU Graduate School requires that master's degrees be completed in a maximum of six years.

In order to be considered in good academic standing, a student must maintain a 3.0 GPA. Students who fail to maintain a 3.0 average are permitted one semester to bring their averages up to the required level.

As part of their course work, students begin clinical rotations in the spring semester of the first year and continue through both semesters of the second year. Students are required to engage in clinical experiences during the intervening summer.

Students must pass a written comprehensive exam at the conclusion of the first two semesters of study and a written and oral comprehensive exam prior to graduation.

Students are required to complete a research project during their course of study. The purpose of the research project is to give the student hands-on experience in developing a research question or exploring a professional or program problem, reviewing the literature, and attempting to answer the question or problem. Projects will enhance the student's professional development and represent a strong component of the "portfolio" of experience brought to the job interview process. Projects can range from laboratory to clinical and may include development of educational materials, videotapes or patient protocols. All projects are required to have defined goals and/or hypotheses to be tested. Institutional review board application and review is often required for student research. Publication and professional presentation are strongly encouraged.

Students are encouraged to consider projects in the first semester and to choose a project topic by the second semester. The project proposal is due to the program director by the first of June during the student's first year of study. All project proposals must be in writing and approved by the faculty member with whom the project will be performed and the program director. Some projects will require review by the Office of Research and Innovation for subject protections, and some projects may require that the student seek grant funding or participate on an existing faculty grant. The student is responsible for preparing documents and meeting these requirements in a timely fashion.

By the beginning of the fall semester of the second year, students must have selected the members of their research committees. The research committee must include at least three faculty members with one outside of the department. Additional members may be added if needed for optimal project advising.

The student's supervisors and the genetic counseling program director work together in mentoring the student. Students are provided ongoing written and verbal evaluation regarding their academic and clinical progress.

In addition to participating in course work and counseling rotations, students in the department also participate in a number of community and education programs.

The straddling of the student and professional roles is a lifelong process in the changing field of human genetics and genetic counseling. Graduates of this program will be contributing members of the clinical genetics team of counselors, physicians and basic scientists and contributing members of commercial genetic testing laboratories and the developing field of human genomic medicine.

Curriculum requirements

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 612</td>
<td>Human Embryology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLED 602</td>
<td>Techniques of Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 501/BIOL 530</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 502</td>
<td>Advanced Human Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 510</td>
<td>Classic Papers in Human Genetics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 525</td>
<td>Practice of Genetic Counseling</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; HGEN 526</td>
<td>and Practice of Genetic Counseling</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 527</td>
<td>Medical Genetics</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; HGEN 528</td>
<td>Medical Genetics</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Take one credit in the following course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 600</td>
<td>Clinical Genetics (placement)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Take nine credits in the following course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 600</td>
<td>Clinical Genetics (rotation)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 622</td>
<td>Cancer Genetic Counseling</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 690</td>
<td>Genetics Research Seminar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Genetics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Genetics</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IDDS 602</td>
<td>Leadership in Developmental Disabilities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATH 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Modern Instrumental Methods</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 609</td>
<td>Foundations of Research in Social Work Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 57

Recommended electives

Select three credits from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALHP 708</td>
<td>Ethics and Health Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLED 630</td>
<td>Clinical Supervision in the Counseling Profession</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECSE 541</td>
<td>Educational Foundations for Collaboration and Universally Designed Learning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 580</td>
<td>Public Health Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 600</td>
<td>Introduction to Public Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 603</td>
<td>Public Health Policy and Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIL 602</td>
<td>Biomedical Ethics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Program goal

The doctoral program in healthcare policy and research trains students to understand the economic, political and social factors that affect access to care and the quality and cost of health care. Graduates of this program will have strong methodological and theoretical skills that will prepare them to make important contributions to the fields of health care policy and public health. Their training will enable them to add to scientific knowledge about how health policy, social factors, financing systems, organizational structures, care processes, health technologies and personal behaviors affect health care outcomes.

The program is structured to provide progressive mastery of the design and analysis of health services research. Program graduates will be able to formulate health care policy; to plan, implement and evaluate health programs and policies; and to interpret research findings in ways that are practical and policy-relevant to a variety of audiences. Trainees obtain experience working with colleagues in public health, medicine, psychology and other disciplines and to advance to positions as health policy researchers in academia, government or the private sector.

Student learning outcomes

1. Content and theory: Students will critically articulate how health policies are developed, implemented and evaluated.
2. Critical and analytical thinking: Students will accurately analyze and synthesize health policy research.
3. Research methods: Students will demonstrate proficiency in designing, conducting and interpreting health policy research.
4. Effective communication: Students will communicate effectively to translate and disseminate research findings for health policy audiences.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
Enrolled students may access the program handbook on Blackboard.

School of Medicine graduate program policies
The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on doctoral programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>GRE, TOEFL if international (Applications received prior to this date given priority consideration.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following minimum qualifications.

1. A college-level course in calculus with a minimum grade of B preferred.
2. Applicants must have graduated from an accredited university or its equivalent, with a master’s degree in a related discipline (e.g., economics, public health, public policy, health administration, public administration). Applicants must have completed relevant course work (including microeconomics and introductory statistics) or have professional experience in a health-related field (two years minimum) that provides an appropriate background for graduate-level study in healthcare policy and research.
3. Applicants must have taken the Graduate Record Exam within the past five years; scores in the 75th percentile preferred.
4. Applicants from countries where English is not the primary and official national language must complete one of the following:
   a. English proficiency verification through official TOEFL score 550 or higher
   b. Graduate with a master’s degree following two years of study at a U.S. institution
   c. English language proficiency certification through appropriate English training programs at other U.S. institutions, or English language proficiency certification by passing the English Language Proficiency Examination and/or the corresponding English Language Institute courses

VCU policy also requires that prospective students who have studied outside of the U.S. must provide an official WES or ECE external credential evaluation as a required part of the admissions process.

5. Applicants must present three letters of recommendation from individuals who are in a position to judge their ability to engage in interdisciplinary graduate study in healthcare policy and research. At least one recommendation must be from an individual who can comment on the applicant’s academic qualifications (e.g., former instructor or adviser).
6. Applicants must provide a written statement of professional intent that includes the proposed area of research and identifies the faculty member(s) with which the applicant is interested in working.
7. Applicants must present a curriculum vitae or resume.
8. A recent writing sample, such as a first author, peer-reviewed publication; a master’s thesis; a book chapter; a policy brief or report; or a graduate course paper is required. An undergraduate course paper may be substituted if none of the above is available.
9. Prospective students must be available to interview either in person or teleconference via technology such as Skype.

Degree requirements
In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a cumulative GPA of 3.0 must be maintained. Students must receive a grade of B for all required courses. A student who receives a grade of C in a required course shall repeat the course. A second grade of C in a required course shall result in dismissal from the program. At the discretion of the HPCR committee, a student who is retaking a required course may still be eligible to take the comprehensive examination and to start the dissertation prior to repeating the course.

At the end of the second year of required course work, students will take a written comprehensive examination designed to evaluate the student’s ability to:

1. Integrate course material
2. Demonstrate critical thinking and evaluation of the literature in health care policy and research
3. Demonstrate quantitative analysis skills

After passing the written comprehensive examination, the student will schedule the proposal defense within six months. Following successful defense of the proposal, the student will prepare three manuscripts of publishable quality that will comprise the body of the dissertation and will orally defend the dissertation. It is anticipated that students will complete the program in four to five years. All requirements for the Ph.D. degree must be completed within six years from the date of admission to the degree program. Extensions may be approved in extenuating circumstances.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required courses</th>
<th>ECON 501</th>
<th>Introduction to Econometrics (BIOS 553 may be substituted with approval)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECON 612</td>
<td>ECON 642</td>
<td>Panel and Nonlinear Methods in Econometrics (BIOS 625, BIOS 631 or BIOS 647 may be substituted with approval)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECON 642</td>
<td>ECON 642</td>
<td>Panel and Nonlinear Methods in Econometrics (BIOS 625, BIOS 631 or BIOS 647 may be substituted with approval)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 571</td>
<td>EPID 571</td>
<td>Principles of Epidemiology (Replaces EPID 650)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Human Genetics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Program goal

The program is designed to provide students with training in human and molecular genetics and with the skills required to advance to positions as researchers and trainers in a broad spectrum of positions in human and molecular genetics. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter in human and molecular genetics and an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation in this discipline. The program relates the above framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of human and molecular genetics knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

Student learning outcomes

1. Oral communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.

2. Written communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

3. Experimental design: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

4. Problem-solving skills: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in research in human and molecular genetics, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.

5. Integrated knowledge of human and molecular genetics: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of human and molecular genetics as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications as measured by rubric.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) **59**

**Typical plan of study**

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

**Graduate program director**

Andrew Barnes, Ph.D.
Assistant professor, Department of Health Behavior and Policy
Email: andrew.barnes@vcuhealth.org

**Additional contact**

Kate Grant
Education coordinator
Email: kate.grant@vcuhealth.org
Phone: (804) 828-5329

**Program website:** [hbp.vcu.edu](http://hbp.vcu.edu)

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 699</td>
<td>Departmental Seminar (one-credit course taken four times)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 701</td>
<td>Health Services Research and Policy I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 702</td>
<td>Health Services Research and Policy II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 703</td>
<td>Health Economics: Theory and Principles</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 720</td>
<td>Economics of Health Disparities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 730</td>
<td>Survey Research Methods and Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 732</td>
<td>Research Design and Proposal Preparation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 733</td>
<td>Statistical Methods in Analysis of Healthcare Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 734</td>
<td>Economic Evaluation and Decision Analysis in Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity or OVPR 602 or OVPR 603</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 899</td>
<td>Directed Research (minimum nine credit hours)</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

Any graduate-level courses taken in consultation with an adviser.

**Total Hours**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**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](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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
School of Medicine graduate program policies
The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on doctoral programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Applications received prior to Jan 15 with given priority consideration</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- International applicants must score 100 or greater on the TOEFL.
- MCAT or DAT acceptable in lieu of GRE for combined professional/academic degree programs, but not for dual degree academic programs.

Applications for the program must be submitted to the Biomedical Sciences Doctoral Portal – School of Medicine – Ph.D. selected from the drop-down menu of programs on the VCU online application form.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), successful applicants will typically have the following credentials:

1. A baccalaureate degree or its equivalent at the time of enrollment, with an undergraduate GPA of 3.5
2. Current GRE scores (taken within the past five years), with scores at the 75th percentile or greater preferred
3. TOEFL scores of 600 (pBT), 250 (cBT) or 100 (iBT) for individuals for whom English is a second language; or 6.5 on the IELTS (To report GRE or TOEFL score, use VCU Code 5570.)
4. Personal statements, which should include: long-term career goals to assess reasons behind the candidate’s application; how a Ph.D. in biomedical science helps achieve those goals; the factors motivating a career in research; research experience, including dates, places and duration
5. Three letters of recommendation that speak to the scientific competency and experience of the applicant
6. The equivalent of two semesters of general chemistry, two semesters of organic chemistry and two semesters of upper-level biology courses (e.g., cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, neuroscience, physiology, biophysics, etc.)

The Department of Human and Molecular Genetics offers a comprehensive program in graduate study leading to a Doctor of Philosophy in Human Genetics. The program includes the completion of an original research project under the supervision of a faculty adviser and a background/foundation of courses that prepare students for research-oriented careers in the rapidly expanding field of human genetics. Major areas of study available to Ph.D. students in the program include clinical and molecular cytogenetics, molecular genetics, developmental genetics, cancer genetics, behavior genetics, population and quantitative genetics, genetic epidemiology, clinical genetics and genetic counseling. Once core course work requirements have been completed, the student’s course plan is tailored to meet individual needs with regard to the area of research focus. A concentration in quantitative human genetics is available for those planning a career in this area. For more detailed information on the program visit gen.vcu.edu/graduate-programs/phd-in-human-genetics.

Degree requirements

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 86 graduate credit hours. The program requires at least three years of study for students entering with a B.S. or B.A. degree and must be completed within eight years.

The training programs in human and molecular genetics are intended to set the tone for a career and lifelong learning in human and molecular genetics by developing the student’s knowledge of the field and skills in writing, laboratory techniques, critical thinking, data interpretation, study design, literature research and review, and integration of data from multiple disciplines while fostering the student’s development as an independent researcher, laboratory director or teacher. These programs also seek to provide students with a core foundation of knowledge that
will equip them to carry out translational research and for later work leading to certification by the American Board of Medical Genetics.

Students working toward the Ph.D. degree in human genetics pass through two stages of graduate study. The first stage consists primarily of course work recommended by the department and the student’s graduate committee; the second stage consists of original research leading to the doctoral dissertation. Ph.D. students are expected to complete the required course work within four semesters and one summer, and they are intended to set the tone of a lifelong research career. In order to be considered in good academic standing, a student must maintain a 3.0 grade point average. The focus then shifts to the student’s development as an independent researcher with emphasis being placed upon the development and execution of an original research project leading to the doctoral dissertation.

After the second year of study, students will take the Ph.D. candidacy examination. This exam comprises two parts, a departmental comprehensive examination and a written NIH-style application with an oral examination administered by the student’s graduate committee. Upon successfully completing the departmental comprehensive and the oral exam, the student is admitted to Ph.D. candidacy. At this point, students are expected to develop and conduct dissertation research projects and to write and defend their dissertations describing their dissertation research.

### Curriculum requirements

**Required courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 501/BIOL 530</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 502</td>
<td>Advanced Human Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 510</td>
<td>Classic Papers in Human Genetics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 606</td>
<td>Introduction to Clinical Genetics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Take the following one-credit course every fall and spring semester:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 610</td>
<td>Current Literature in Human Molecular Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 614</td>
<td>Pathogenesis of Human Genetic Disease</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Take the following one-credit course every semester:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 690</td>
<td>Genetics Research Seminar</td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 610</td>
<td>Laboratory Opportunities</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Take the following two-credit course taken for three rotations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 620</td>
<td>Laboratory/Clinical Rotations</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 680</td>
<td>Proposal Preparation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select at least two elective courses for a minimum of five credit hours from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATH 670</td>
<td>Experimental Approaches to Tumor Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Courses at the 500 level or above in ANAT, BIOC, BIOL, BIOS, HGEN, MICR, NEUS, PHTX and PHIS excluding laboratory courses

Courses specifically for professional programs (e.g. HGEN 600 Clinical Genetics)

**Directed research**

**Independent study**

**Seminar or current topic courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 621</td>
<td>Business and Entrepreneurship Essentials for Life Scientists</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 608</td>
<td>Introduction to Microbiology and Immunology Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 609</td>
<td>Introduction to Microbiology and Immunology Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Additional elective courses and directed research**

Select credits from the following to reach the required minimum of 86 credit hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Genetics (1-15 variable credit hours)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 86**

### Typical plan of study

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a student or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

**Graduate program director**

Rita Shiang, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Human and Molecular Genetics
rita.shiang@vcuhealth.org
(804) 628-4083

**Additional contact**

Michael S. Grotewiel, Ph.D.
Director of admissions
michael.grotewiel@vcuhealth.org
(804) 628-4086

**Program website:** gen.vcu.edu (http://www.gen.vcu.edu)

### Human Genetics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics

**Program goals**

The molecular biology and genetics curriculum is an integrated interdisciplinary program of study that builds on the graduate programs of participating departments in the School of Medicine. The doctoral curriculum is designed to be an intensive course of study that will provide
students with the skills required to advance to research-oriented careers in biotechnology.

1. The curriculum includes core, specialization and elective courses. Electives drawn from various departments allow individual specialization.

2. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of bioscience, an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation. The program relates this framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified.

3. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of bioscience knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

4. The program centers on a research project conducted under the guidance of a selected faculty mentor and culminates in the presentation and defense of a doctoral dissertation.

Participating faculty are associated not only with programs and departments within the School of Medicine, but also with the VCU Massey Cancer Center, the Philips Institute for Oral and Craniofacial Molecular Biology (School of Dentistry), the Institute of Structural Biology and Drug Discovery (School of Pharmacy) and the VCU Center for the Study of Biological Complexity (VCU Life Sciences).

The interdisciplinary approach to the solution of biological problems provided by this training is designed to develop in students the flexibility and problem-solving skills necessary for success in a variety of scientific career opportunities or further graduate study.

Student learning outcomes

1. Problem-solving skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.

2. General knowledge of sciences: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of the biosciences as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications, as measured by rubric.

3. Communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skills have been acquired.
   a. Oral communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.
   b. Written communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

4. Experimental design: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

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.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

School of Medicine graduate program policies
The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on doctoral programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.grantuate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Applications received prior to Jan 15 given priority consideration</td>
<td>GRE, MCAT or DAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- MCAT or DAT acceptable in lieu of GRE for combined professional/academic degree programs
- Applications for the program must be submitted to the Biomedical Sciences Doctoral Portal – School of Medicine – Ph.D. selected from the drop-down menu of programs on the VCU online application form.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), successful applicants will typically have the following credentials:

1. A baccalaureate degree or its equivalent at the time of enrollment, with an undergraduate GPA of 3.5
2. Current GRE scores (taken within the past five years), with scores at the 75th percentile or greater preferred
3. TOEFL scores of 600 (pBT), 250 (cBT) or 100 (iBT) for individuals for whom English is a second language; or 6.5 on the IELTS (To report GRE or TOEFL score, use VCU Code 5570.)
4. Personal statements, which should include: long-term career goals to assess reasons behind the candidate’s application; how a Ph.D. in biomedical science helps achieve those goals; the factors motivating a career in research; research experience, including dates, places and duration
5. Three letters of recommendation that speak to the scientific competency and experience of the applicant
6. The equivalent of two semesters of general chemistry, two semesters of organic chemistry and two semesters of upper-level biology courses (e.g. cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, neuroscience, physiology, biophysics, etc.)
7. Laboratory experience also strongly recommended

Degree requirements

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 86 graduate credit hours.

During the first year, students pursue research rotations, take formal course work and become familiar with current research topics through seminars, discussion groups and lectures by distinguished scientists. By the end of the first year, students choose a faculty adviser and begin dissertation research. Prior to the beginning of the third year of study, students should successfully pass written and oral candidacy examinations. Following completion of the research project and defense of the doctoral dissertation, graduates are equipped to participate in a broad range of current biomedical research areas.

Curriculum requirements

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 602</td>
<td>Physical Properties of Macromolecules (modules 1 and 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 501/BIOL 530</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 602</td>
<td>Genetic Models of Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or HGEN 614</td>
<td>Pathogenesis of Human Genetic Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 610</td>
<td>Laboratory Opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 620</td>
<td>Laboratory/Clinical Rotations (three rotations)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 630</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBIC 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Biochemistry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 680</td>
<td>Proposal Preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 690</td>
<td>Basic Health Sciences Research Seminar (first year only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 605</td>
<td>Prokaryotic Molecular Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 607</td>
<td>Techniques in Molecular Biology and Genetics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one credit in the following every semester beginning in the second year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICR 690</td>
<td>Microbiology Research Seminar (section 002-MBG)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 693</td>
<td>Topics in Molecular Biology and Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Students may complete the five-credit module sequence BIOC 530, BIOC 531, BIOC 532 and BIOC 533 in place of BIOC 563.

Directed research and electives

Select a variable number of credit hours of the following to amass the required minimum of 86 credit hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Genetics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 86

Typical plan of study

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate
program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

Graduate program director
Gail E. Christie, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
christie@vcu.edu
(804) 828-9093

Program website: vcu.edu/mbg (http://www.vcu.edu/mbg)

Human Genetics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in quantitative human genetics

Program goal
The program is designed to provide students with the skills required to advance to positions as researchers and trainers in a broad spectrum of positions in human and molecular genetics. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter in human and molecular genetics and an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation in this discipline. The program relates the above framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of human and molecular genetics knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

Student learning outcomes
1. Oral communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.

2. Written communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

3. Experimental design: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

4. Problem-solving skills: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in research in human and molecular genetics, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.

5. Integrated knowledge of human and molecular genetics: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of human and molecular genetics as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications as measured by rubric.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
School of Medicine graduate program policies
The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on doctoral programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.
Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Applications received prior to Jan 15 given priority consideration</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- International applicants must score 100 or greater on the TOEFL.
- MCAT or DAT acceptable in lieu of GRE for combined professional/academic degree programs, but not for dual degree academic programs.
- Applications for the program must be submitted to the Biomedical Sciences Doctoral Portal – School of Medicine – Ph.D. selected from the drop-down menu of programs on the VCU online application form.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), successful applicants will typically have the following credentials:

1. A baccalaureate degree or its equivalent at the time of enrollment, with an undergraduate GPA of 3.5
2. Current GRE scores (taken within the past five years), with scores at the 75th percentile or greater preferred
3. TOEFL scores of 600 (pBT), 250 (cBT) or 100 (iBT) for individuals for whom English is a second language; or 6.5 on the IELTS (To report the 75th percentile or greater preferred)
4. Personal statements, which should include: long-term career goals to assess reasons behind the candidate’s application; how a Ph.D. in biomedical science helps achieve those goals; the factors motivating a career in research; research experience, including dates, places and duration
5. Three letters of recommendation that speak to the scientific competency and experience of the applicant
6. The equivalent of two semesters of general chemistry, two semesters of organic chemistry and two semesters of upper-level biology courses (e.g. cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, neuroscience, physiology, biophysics, etc.)

The Department of Human and Molecular Genetics offers a comprehensive program in graduate study leading to a Doctor of Philosophy in Human Genetics. The program includes the completion of an original research project under the supervision of a faculty adviser and a background/foundation of courses that prepare students for research-oriented careers in the rapidly expanding field of human genetics. Major areas of study available to Ph.D. students in the program include clinical and molecular cytogenetics, molecular genetics, developmental genetics, cancer genetics, behavior genetics, population and quantitative genetics, genetic epidemiology, clinical genetics and genetic counseling. Once core course work requirements have been completed, the student’s course plan is tailored to meet individual needs with regard to the area of research focus. For more detailed information on the program visit gen.vcu.edu/graduate-programs/phd-in-human-genetics.

Degree requirements

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 86 graduate credit hours. The program requires at least three years of study for students entering with a B.S. or B.A. degree and must be completed within eight years.

The training programs in human and molecular genetics are intended to set the tone for a career and lifelong learning in human and molecular genetics by developing the student’s knowledge of the field and skills in writing, laboratory techniques, critical thinking, data interpretation, study design, literature research and review, and integration of data from multiple disciplines while fostering the student’s development as an independent researcher, laboratory director or teacher. These programs also seek to provide students with a core foundation of knowledge that will equip them to carry out translational research and for later work leading to certification by the American Board of Medical Genetics.

Students working toward the Ph.D. degree in human genetics pass through two stages of graduate study. The first stage consists primarily of course work recommended by the department and the student’s graduate committee; the second stage consists of original research leading to the doctoral dissertation. Ph.D. students are expected to complete the required course work within four semesters and one summer, and they are intended to set the tone of a lifelong research career. In order to be considered in good academic standing, a student must maintain a 3.0 grade point average. The focus then shifts to the student’s development as an independent researcher with emphasis being placed upon the development and execution of an original research project leading to the doctoral dissertation.

After the second year of study, students will take the Ph.D. candidacy examination. This exam comprises two parts, a departmental comprehensive examination and a written NIH-style application with an oral examination administered by the student’s graduate committee. Upon successfully completing the departmental comprehensive and the oral exam, the student is admitted to Ph.D. candidacy. At this point, students are expected to develop and conduct dissertation research projects and to write and defend their dissertations describing their dissertation research.

Curriculum requirements

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 620</td>
<td>Scientific Writing and Grantsmanship</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(HGEN 614 can fulfill this requirement with three credits)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCTR 702</td>
<td>Statistics for Genetic Studies I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCTR 703</td>
<td>Statistics for Genetic Studies II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 501/BIOL 530</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 502</td>
<td>Advanced Human Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 510</td>
<td>Classic Papers in Human Genetics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 603</td>
<td>Mathematical and Statistical Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 606</td>
<td>Introduction to Clinical Genetics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Take the following one-credit course every fall and spring variable semester:
HGEN 610  Current Literature in Human Molecular Genetics
HGEN 619  Quantitative Genetics 3
Take the following one-credit course every semester beginning in the spring term of the first year of study:
HGEN 690  Genetics Research Seminar
Take the following course for variable credits:
HGEN 697  Directed Research in Genetics
IBMS 600  Laboratory Safety 1
IBMS 610  Laboratory Opportunities 0.5
Take the following two-credit course for three rotations:
IBMS 620  Laboratory/Clinical Rotations 6
IBMS 680  Proposal Preparation 1
Select one of the following:
OVPR 601  Scientific Integrity 1
OVPR 602  Responsible Scientific Conduct
OVPR 603  Responsible Conduct of Research
Select at least two elective courses for a minimum of five credit hours from the following:
PATH 670  Experimental Approaches to Tumor Biology 5
Courses at the 500 level or above in ANAT, BIOC, BIOL, BIOS, HGEN, MICR, NEUS, PHTX and PHIS excluding laboratory courses
Courses specifically for professional programs (e.g. HGEN 600 Clinical Genetics)
Directed research
Independent study
Seminar or current topic courses
BNFO 621  Business and Entrepreneurship Essentials for Life Scientists
MICR 608  Introduction to Microbiology and Immunology Research
MICR 609  Introduction to Microbiology and Immunology Research

Additional elective courses and directed research
Select credits from the following to reach the required minimum of 86 credit hours:
Additional elective courses
HGEN 697  Directed Research in Genetics

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 86

Typical plan of study

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

Graduate program director
Rita Shiang, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Human and Molecular Genetics
rita.shiang@vcuhealth.org

Additional contacts
Michael S. Grotewiel, Ph.D.
Director of admissions
michael.grotewiel@vcuhealth.org
(804) 628-4086

Timothy P. York, Ph.D.
Assistant graduate program director
timothy.york@vcuhealth.org
(804) 828-8757

Program website: gen.vcu.edu (http://www.gen.vcu.edu)

Human Genetics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)/Genetic Counseling, Master of Science (M.S.) [dual degree]

Program accreditation
Accreditation Council of Genetic Counseling

Program goal
Provide training in human and molecular genetics and competency in genetic counseling

The program is designed to provide students with the skills required to advance to positions as researchers and trainers in a broad spectrum of positions in human and molecular genetics. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter in human and molecular genetics and an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation in this discipline. The program relates the above framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of human and molecular genetics knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

Eligibility for certification by the American Board of Genetic Counseling
To prepare individuals for careers in genetic counseling and human genetics, successful candidates will demonstrate competency in all four genetic counseling domains: I – genetics expertise and analysis; II – interpersonal, psychosocial and counseling skills; III – education; and IV – professional development and practice.

The Department of Human and Molecular Genetics offers training that combines preparation for a career as a genetic counselor with research-based doctoral training in a coordinated program that integrates the complementary aspects of these two degree categories. In order to be admitted to this dual-degree program, an applicant must be accepted into both the M.S. and Ph.D. programs.

Student learning outcomes
1. Oral communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric. This is also achieved by evaluations
of clinical rotations, both written and verbal, that are based on the competencies established by the American Board of Genetic Counseling and the scope of practice as set forth by the National Society of Genetic Counselors.

2. Written communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

3. Experimental design: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

4. Problem-solving skills: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in research in human and molecular genetics, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.

5. Integrated knowledge of human and molecular genetics: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of human and molecular genetics as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications as measured by rubric.

6. Competency in practice: The candidate should demonstrate development of competency in the responsible practice of genetic counseling. This will be assessed in the clinical setting by certified genetic counselors and medical geneticists. The assessment is based upon the core clinical competencies established by the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling (ACGC). These competencies are documented with written and oral evaluations at the completion of each of the seven clinical rotations by the rotation supervisor.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available in the Graduate Bulletin at Master’s programs (p. 663); information on doctoral programs can be found at P (http://www.pubapps.vcu.edu/Bulletins/about/?uid=10046&id=30114)h.D. programs (p. 659).

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D. and M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>GRE within five years of application (MCAT or DAT is not acceptable in lieu of GRE.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- Applications for the program must be submitted to the Biomedical Sciences Doctoral Portal – School of Medicine – Ph.D. selected from the drop-down menu of programs on the VCU online application form. The dual degree box on the application must also be checked.
- International applicants must score 100 or greater on the TOEFL.
- It is recommended that all prerequisite courses have been completed within 10 years of application.
Applicants must meet all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18). In order to be admitted to this dual-degree program, an applicant must apply to and be accepted into both the M.S. and the Ph.D. programs.

**Human Genetics, Doctor of Philosophy**

Successful applicants will typically have the following credentials:

1. A baccalaureate degree or its equivalent at the time of enrollment, with an undergraduate GPA of 3.5
2. Current GRE scores (taken within the past five years), with scores at the 75th percentile or greater preferred
3. TOEFL scores of 600 (pBT), 250 (cBT) or 100 (iBT) for individuals for whom English is a second language; or 6.5 on the IELTS (To report GRE or TOEFL score, use VCU Code 5570.)
4. Personal statements, which should include: long-term career goals to assess reasons behind the candidate’s application; how a Ph.D. in biomedical science helps achieve those goals; the factors motivating a career in research; research experience, including dates, places and duration
5. Three letters of recommendation that speak to the scientific competency and experience of the applicant
6. The equivalent of two semesters of general chemistry, two semesters of organic chemistry and two semesters of upper-level biology courses (e.g. cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, neuroscience, physiology, biophysics, etc.)

The Department of Human and Molecular Genetics offers a comprehensive program in graduate study leading to a Doctor of Philosophy in Human Genetics. The program includes the completion of an original research project under the supervision of a faculty adviser and a background/foundation of courses that prepare students for research-oriented careers in the rapidly expanding field of human genetics. Major areas of study available to Ph.D. students in the program include clinical and molecular cytogenetics, molecular genetics, developmental genetics, cancer genetics, behavior genetics, population and quantitative genetics, genetic epidemiology, clinical genetics and genetic counseling. Once core course work requirements have been completed, the student’s course plan is tailored to meet individual needs with regard to the area of research focus. A concentration in quantitative human genetics is available for those planning a career in this area. For more detailed information on the program visit gen.vcu.edu/graduate-programs/phd-in-human-genetics (http://gen.vcu.edu/graduate-programs/phd-in-human-genetics).

**Genetic Counseling, Master of Science (M.S.)**

Applicants should have successfully completed undergraduate training and hold a baccalaureate degree. Prerequisites for admission include six credit hours each of biology, chemistry and behavioral science (psychology, anthropology, sociology, religion and philosophy) and three credit hours each of biochemistry, statistics and genetics. Students accepted to the program are generally drawn from applicants with an undergraduate minimum grade point average of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale or equivalent), with an average GPA of 3.3 to 3.5 for matriculating students. The Graduate Record Examination is required for admission; VCU does not substitute with the MCAT. Matriculating students generally have GRE verbal scores at or above 153, quantitative scores at or above 144 and a performance above a score of 3.5 on the analytical section. Applicants holding an undergraduate degree from foreign institutions must display an acceptable level of English proficiency by achieving a score of 250 on the computer-based TOEFL examination or 600 on the written version. (The program participates in the Association of Genetic Counseling Program Directors program match. Please see the National Society of Genetic Counselors website for information for prospective students at nsgc.org/p/cm/ld/fid=44#accept (http://nsgc.org/p/cm/ld/fid=44%23accept).)

Additionally, successful applicants often have experience with shadowing genetic counselors and medical geneticists, interviewing genetic counselors and exposure to individuals with physical and cognitive disabilities. Exposure to crises hotlines, support groups and community activities related to individuals with disability and genetic conditions is also helpful.

In the last five certification cycles (2007 to 2012) VCU graduates have an 86 percent pass rate on the American Board of Genetic Counseling/Accreditation Council of Genetic Counseling national certification examination.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the Ph.D. degree requires at least three years of study for students entering with a baccalaureate degree and must be completed within eight years. Students in the dual-degree program must complete a minimum of 152.5 graduate credit hours.

The training programs in human and molecular genetics are intended to set the tone for a career and lifelong learning in human and molecular genetics by developing the student’s knowledge of the field and skills in writing, laboratory techniques, critical thinking, data interpretation, study design, literature research and review, and integration of data from multiple disciplines while fostering the student’s development as an independent researcher, laboratory director or teacher. These programs also seek to provide students with a core foundation of knowledge that will equip them to carry out translational research and for later work leading to certification by the American Board of Medical Genetics.

Students working toward the Ph.D. degree in Human Genetics pass through two stages of graduate study. The first stage consists primarily of course work recommended by the department and the student’s graduate committee; the second stage consists of original research leading to the doctoral dissertation. Ph.D. students are expected to complete the required course work within four semesters and one summer, and they are intended to set the tone of a lifelong research career. In order to be considered in good academic standing, a student must maintain a 3.0 grade point average. The focus then shifts to the student’s development as an independent researcher with emphasis being placed upon the development and execution of an original research project leading to the doctoral dissertation.

After the second year of study, students will take the Ph.D. candidacy examination. This exam comprises two parts, a departmental comprehensive examination and a written NIH-style application with an oral examination administered by the student’s graduate committee. Upon successfully completing the departmental comprehensive and the oral comprehensive exam, the student is admitted to Ph.D. candidacy. At this point, students are expected to develop and conduct dissertation research projects and to write and defend their dissertations describing their dissertation research.

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 612</td>
<td>Human Embryology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following: 2-3
This course is divided into two distinct sections — a cytogenetics section and a molecular genetics section. The intent of this rotation is for students to learn the behind-the-scenes wet lab activities that lead to genetic information relevant for clinical counseling. Some dual-degree students may choose a thesis project that specializes in wet lab research, either cytogenetics or molecular genetics. With permission from the adviser and the genetic counseling program director, part or all of this rotation may not be required.

**Electives (optional)**

No electives are required for the dual-degree program. If the student chooses to take electives, however, suggested electives include the following:

Select 0-3 credits from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDDS 602</td>
<td>Leadership in Developmental Disabilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATH 670</td>
<td>Experimental Approaches to Tumor Biology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Courses at the 500 level or above in ANAT, BIOC, BNFO, BIOL, BIOS, HGEN, MICR, NEUS, PHTX and PHIS, excluding laboratory courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Courses specifically for professional programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Directed research**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Independent study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Seminar or current topic courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 621</td>
<td>Business and Entrepreneurship Essentials for Life Scientists</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 608</td>
<td>Introduction to Microbiology and Immunology Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 609</td>
<td>Introduction to Microbiology and Immunology Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 152.5**

Once students have completed all didactic course work, they will continue to register as follows for all subsequent semesters unless otherwise advised by the program director:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 600</td>
<td>Clinical Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 610</td>
<td>Current Literature in Human Molecular Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 690</td>
<td>Genetics Research Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 610</td>
<td>Laboratory Opportunities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 620</td>
<td>Laboratory/Clinical Rotations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 680</td>
<td>Proposal Preparation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATH 521</td>
<td>Laboratory Techniques in Diagnostic Pathology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Graduate program director**

1. M.S. in Genetic Counseling requirement
2. Ph.D. in Human Genetics requirement
Rita Shiang, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Human and Molecular Genetics
rita.shiang@vcuhealth.org
(804) 628-4083

Additional contacts
Rachel Gannaway, CGC
Genetic counseling program director and recruitment contact
rachel.gannaway@vcuhealth.org
(804) 628-3507

Michael Grotewiel, Ph.D.
Director of admissions
michael.grotewiel@vcuhealth.org
(804) 628-4086

John M. Quillin, Ph.D.
Director, dual-degree program (M.S. in Genetic Counseling/Ph.D. in Human Genetics)
john.quillin@vcuhealth.org
(804) 628-1925

Program website: gen.vcu.edu (http://www.gen.vcu.edu)

Human Genetics, Master of Science (M.S.)

Program goal

The goal of the master’s program in human genetics is to provide training in human and molecular genetics. The program is designed to provide students with the skills required to advance to positions as researchers and trainers in a broad spectrum of positions in human and molecular genetics. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter in human and molecular genetics and an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation in this discipline. The program relates the above framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified. In addition, students will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of human and molecular genetics knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

Student learning outcomes

1. Oral communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.

2. Written communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

3. Experimental design: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

4. Problem-solving skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in research in human and molecular genetics, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.

5. Integrated knowledge of human and molecular genetics: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of human and molecular genetics as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications as measured by rubric.

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.graduatе.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://wwwgraduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>GRE, MCAT or DAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- International applicants must score 100 or greater on the TOEFL.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (https://vcu-curr.courseleaf.com/graduate/study/admission-graduate-study/admission-requirements), applicants wishing to specialize in human genetics should have courses in biology, chemistry through organic chemistry, genetics and mathematics through calculus.

Basic science, research-intensive, non-thesis curriculum for medical students

Individuals who are participants in medical training (the Doctor of Medicine program) at VCU may be eligible for enrollment in a research-intensive, non-thesis graduate curriculum. This basic science option builds on the core of disciplinary material embedded in the first two years of training in the medical school curriculum. Additional exposure is provided to specialized areas in basic science disciplines in concert with an intensive research experience leading to the preparation of a report in the form of a manuscript suitable for publication. The program is designed to be completed within 12 to 15 months. Subject matter related to the core material and/or suitable elective courses taken in the didactic phase of medical training correspond to a minimum of the equivalent of 24 graduate credit hours. The equivalent of 12 credit hours may be applied to the M.S. degree program in which the student is enrolled in accordance with Graduate School policy. Medical students interested in the basic science option should contact the M.S. graduate program director for additional information.

Degree requirements

The Department of Human and Molecular Genetics offers a comprehensive program in graduate study leading to a Master of Science in Human Genetics. The program includes the completion of an original research project under the supervision of a faculty adviser and a background/foundation of courses that prepare students for research-oriented careers in the rapidly expanding field of human genetics. Major areas of study available to master’s students in the program include clinical and molecular cytogenetics, molecular genetics, developmental genetics, cancer genetics, behavior genetics, population and quantitative genetics, genetic epidemiology, clinical genetics and genetic counseling.

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the M.S. degree requires at least two years of full-time study for students entering with a B.S. or B.A. degree and must be completed within six years. Students must complete a minimum of 59 graduate credit hours. Students may be required to take an additional six hours of directed research after the second spring semester if needed.

Upon completing their thesis research, master’s students must report their results in a thesis that is prepared in an acceptable form and style as detailed by the university Graduate School. A final oral examination is scheduled after the student’s thesis has been approved by the student’s advisory committee. This examination includes the subject matter of course work the student has completed as well as the thesis. It is administered by the student’s graduate advisory committee who will vote on the student’s performance in addition to rating them with regard to the rubrics defined by the School of Medicine.

Curriculum requirements

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>3-5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 544</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 502</td>
<td>Advanced Human Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 510</td>
<td>Classic Papers in Human Genetics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 605</td>
<td>Experimental Methods in Human Genetics (variable credit; taken two semesters for a minimum of five credits)</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 606</td>
<td>Introduction to Clinical Genetics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 610</td>
<td>Current Literature in Human Molecular Genetics (one credit course taken three times)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 690</td>
<td>Genetics Research Seminar (repeated for four credits)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 32-34

Electives

Select at least two elective courses from the following: 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PATH 670</td>
<td>Experimental Approaches to Tumor Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses at the 500 level or above in ANAT, BIOC, BNFO, BIOL, BIOS, HGEN, MICR, NEUS, PHTX and PHIS excluding laboratory courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Courses specifically for professional programs</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directed research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seminar or current topic courses</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Excluding the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 621</td>
<td>Business and Entrepreneurship Essentials for Life Scientists</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Program goals

The molecular biology and genetics curriculum is an integrated interdisciplinary program of study that builds on the graduate programs of participating departments in the School of Medicine. The master’s curriculum is designed to be an intensive course of study that will provide students with the skills required to advance to research-oriented careers in biotechnology or provide the foundation for further graduate study toward a Ph.D.

It is expected that the program should be completed in approximately two to two-and-one-half years.

Typical plan of study

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

Graduate program director
Rita Shiang, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Human and Molecular Genetics
rita.shiang@vcuhealth.org
(804) 628-4083

Additional contact
Michael S. Grotewiel, Ph.D.
Director of admissions
michael.grotewiel@vcuhealth.org
(804) 628-4086

Program website: gen.vcu.edu (http://www.gen.vcu.edu)

Human Genetics, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics

Program goals

The molecular biology and genetics curriculum is an integrated interdisciplinary program of study that builds on the graduate programs of participating departments in the School of Medicine. The master’s curriculum is designed to be an intensive course of study that will provide students with the skills required to advance to research-oriented careers in biotechnology or provide the foundation for further graduate study toward a Ph.D.

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(804) 628-4086

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Human Genetics, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics

Program goals

The molecular biology and genetics curriculum is an integrated interdisciplinary program of study that builds on the graduate programs of participating departments in the School of Medicine. The master’s curriculum is designed to be an intensive course of study that will provide students with the skills required to advance to research-oriented careers in biotechnology or provide the foundation for further graduate study toward a Ph.D.

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protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

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Degree candidacy requirements

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A master’s student in the MBG curriculum must prepare a formal written research plan and make an oral presentation of their thesis research proposal and progress report to their graduate advisory committee prior to the beginning of the second year of residency. The student’s knowledge in the area of the proposed research, current research accomplishments and the feasibility of the proposed research project will be evaluated by the GAC. Successful completion of this review is required for continuance in the program and constitutes admission to candidacy.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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.

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Other information

School of Medicine graduate program policies

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Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Deadline date rolling, preference given to applications received by Jan 17</td>
<td>GRE; TOEFL for applicants whose native language is not English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have earned or expect to earn a baccalaureate or equivalent degree, and must have demonstrated a superior knowledge of biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics. Laboratory experience is also strongly recommended. The Graduate Record Examination is required, as are letters of recommendation and a letter summarizing the applicant’s goals. International applicants who do not use English as their native language must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language examination.

Special requirements

- Applications for the program should be submitted to Molecular Biology and Genetics – M.S. selected from the drop-down menu of programs of the VCU online graduate application form. The degree awarded will be a Master of Science in Human Genetics.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have earned or expect to earn a baccalaureate or equivalent degree, and must have demonstrated a superior knowledge of biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics. Laboratory experience is also strongly recommended. The Graduate Record Examination is required, as are letters of recommendation and a letter summarizing the applicant’s goals. International applicants who do not use English as their native language must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language examination.

Basic science, research-intensive, non-thesis curriculum for medical students

Individuals who are participants in medical training (the Doctor of Medicine program) at VCU may be eligible for enrollment in a research-intensive, non-thesis graduate curriculum. This basic science option builds on the core of disciplinary material embedded in the first two years of training in the medical school curriculum. Additional exposure is provided to specialized areas in basic science disciplines in concert with an intensive research experience leading to the preparation of a report in the form of a manuscript suitable for publication. The program is designed to be completed within 12 to 15 months. Subject matter related to the core material and/or suitable elective courses taken in the didactic phase of medical training correspond to a minimum of the equivalent of 24 graduate credit hours. The equivalent of 12 credit hours may be applied to the M.S. degree program in which the student is enrolled in accordance with Graduate School policy. Medical students interested in the basic science option should contact the M.S. graduate program director for additional information.
### Degree requirements

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the interdisciplinary master’s curriculum in molecular biology and genetics requires a minimum of 48 credit hours, at least half of which must be course work restricted to graduate students. The curriculum includes 19 credit hours of required core course work and 29 additional credit hours of required course work, directed research and research seminar course work, and additional approved course work, as listed below. M.S. candidates must pass a final oral examination. A written thesis approved by the student’s graduate advisory committee completes the requirements leading to the M.S. degree.

### Curriculum requirements

**Required core courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 530</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 1: Protein Structure and Function ¹</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 531</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 2: Basic Metabolism ¹</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 532</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 3: Central Dogma of Molecular Biology ¹</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 533</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 4: Lipids/Membranes and Bioenergetics ¹</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 620</td>
<td>Laboratory/Clinical Rotations (sections 004 and 005; two credits taken twice) ²</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 607</td>
<td>Techniques in Molecular Biology and Genetics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 693</td>
<td>Topics in Molecular Biology and Genetics (MBG journal club, must take at least once)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:

- OVPR 601 Scientific Integrity ¹
- OVPR 602 Responsible Scientific Conduct
- OVPR 603 Responsible Conduct of Research

**Total Hours:** 19

¹ This requirement may also be satisfied with BIOC 503 (five credit hours).
² This requirement may also be satisfied, under certain circumstances, with MICR 608 or MICR 609 (three credit hours; section 002). Consult with the program director.

**Other required course work (29 credits)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select a minimum of one credit hour of directed research every semester of enrollment in the program after the first year of study from:

- HGEN 697 Directed Research in Genetics
- or MICR 697 Directed Research in Microbiology

Select a minimum of one credit hour of research seminar course work every fall and spring semester of enrollment in the program from:

- MICR 690 Microbiology Research Seminar (section 002, MBG)

Students may take additional course work with the approval of their graduate program directors.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48**

**Typical plan of study**

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

**Graduate program director**

Gail E. Christie, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
christie@vcu.edu
(804) 828-9093

**Program website:** vcu.edu/mbg (http://www.vcu.edu/mbg)

### Medical Physics, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)

**Program accreditation**

Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Educational Programs (http://campep.org)

**Program goals**

The graduate certificate in medical physics offers course work in physics as it is applied to the diagnosis and treatment of human diseases. Required course work provides theoretical and practical training in radiation dosimetry, radiation biology, radiation therapy, imaging and health physics. The goal of the program is to provide a career path in medical physics as an alternative to a terminal degree in medical physics. The program is primarily designed for retraining those who possess a doctoral degree in physics or a related field.

The mission of the medical physics graduate certificate program is to serve the Virginia and the nation by helping to meet the demand for competent medical physicists in the health care delivery setting. The program is intended for postdoctoral individuals seeking to enhance their credentials for admission into a medical physics residency position.

**Student learning goals**

To develop core competency in medical physics by:

1. Enhancing clinically-relevant communication skills
2. Obtaining a medical physics knowledge base
3. Enhancing medical physics-specific problem-solving skills

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Demonstrate appropriate written communication skills
2. Demonstrate appropriate oral and visual communication skills
3. Demonstrate satisfactory knowledge of the base of scientific information required to practice clinical medical physics
4. Demonstrate the ability to evaluate and integrate such knowledge into the solution of clinically relevant problems as measured by the course work.
5. Demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification of clinical medical physics problems and the design and implementation of appropriate problem-solving methods and solutions as measured by course work.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information


School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18) and the School of Medicine, students are expected to satisfy the following minimum standards for admission.

1. Students must have a minimum of 30 credit hours in undergraduate physics, physical science or engineering, of which at least 18 credit hours must be at the upper level. Background courses should include calculus one and two, linear algebra, differential equations, modern physics, and electricity and magnetism physics.
2. Students must submit satisfactory GRE scores.
3. Applicants must present a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4-point scale for the undergraduate degree or most recently completed graduate degree.
4. Doctorate degree in physics, engineering, or other area of physical science.

Students are required to complete the 22 credit hours of the core graduate medical physics course work (MEDP 561, MEDP 563, MEDP 567, MEDP 601, MEDP 630, MEDP 635, MEDP 636) plus one credit hour of MEDP 689.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 561</td>
<td>Topographical Anatomy and Physiology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 563</td>
<td>Radiological Physics and Radiation Dosimetry</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 567</td>
<td>Introduction to Radiation Therapy Physics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 601</td>
<td>Health Physics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 630</td>
<td>Radiobiology for the Medical Physicist</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 635</td>
<td>Physics of Diagnostic Imaging</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 636</td>
<td>Physics of MRI</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 637</td>
<td>Physics of Nuclear Medicine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 689</td>
<td>Medical Physics Literature Review</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 23

Total graduate course credit hours required (minimum) 23 credits

Graduate program director
Geoffrey D. Hugo, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Radiation Oncology
gdhugo@vcu.edu
Additional contact
Katie Goracke
Medical physics education coordinator
kmgoracke@vcu.edu
(804) 628-7780

Program website: medicalphysics.vcu.edu (http://www.medicalphysics.vcu.edu)

Medical Physics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Program accreditation
Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Educational Programs (http://campep.org)

Program goals
The Ph.D. in Medical Physics offers students course work and research training in physics as it is applied to the diagnosis and treatment of human diseases. The mission of the doctoral program is to serve the commonwealth of Virginia and the nation by helping to meet the demand for competent medical physicists in both the health care delivery and biomedical research settings. The program will prepare students for careers as independent investigators in the field of medical physics and jointly for careers in university departments, research institutes, laboratories and hospitals as trainee clinical medical physicists. Research areas include molecular imaging, functional imaging using PET and NMR, cone-beam CT image reconstruction, deformable image registration, intensity-modulated radiation therapy, radiation therapy dose calculations, 4D radiation therapy and brachytherapy dose calculations.

Professional competency: To develop professional competency in medical physics by providing a framework in which students progressively develop a mastery of the current state of medical physics and an ability to synthesize this information and apply it in research and clinical settings. Additionally, the program aims to develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of medical physics knowledge and expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

Scientific competency: To develop scientific competency in medical physics by providing a framework by which candidates develop skills to design, conduct and implement theoretical and clinical research which answers identified questions. The research focus may lead to new and/or improved applications of physics for diagnosis and treatment of disease. Candidate research will focus on medical imaging, radiation therapy, radiation metrology or other burgeoning areas of investigation. In broad terms, candidate research will be directed toward advancing “minimally invasive medicine” through applications of ionizing and non-ionizing radiation.

Student learning outcomes
1. Communication skills: The candidate should demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skills have been acquired. The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric. The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

2. Experimental design: The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the theoretical and technical design of experimental procedures and the technical conduct of experimentation related to his or her research. This includes demonstration of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

3. Knowledge of medical physics literature: The candidate should demonstrate a general knowledge of medical physics literature and a more detailed knowledge of his or her area of research, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications as measured by rubric.

4. Problem-solving: The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification of meaningful medical physics research problems, including the ability to defend said identifications, and the design and implementation of appropriate problem-solving methods as measured by rubric.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)
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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

School of Medicine graduate program policies
The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on doctoral programs is available in the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18) and the School of Medicine, students are expected to satisfy the following minimum standards for admission.

1. Students must have a minimum of 30 credit hours in undergraduate physics, physical science or engineering, of which at least 18 credit hours must be at the upper level. Background courses should include calculus one and two, linear algebra, differential equations, modern physics, and electricity and magnetism physics.
2. Students must submit satisfactory GRE scores.
3. Applicants must present a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4-point scale for the undergraduate degree or most recently completed graduate degree.

Provisional admission may be granted where deficiencies exist. These deficiencies must be removed by the end of the first year of residence, or its part-time equivalent, when the student’s application will be re-examined. Courses that are designed to remove deficiencies will not be accepted for credit toward the graduate degree.

Degree requirements
In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students entering the program with an undergraduate degree are required to earn a minimum of 30 credit hours in didactic or laboratory course work. Students entering with a master’s degree in medical physics, physics or an appropriate related field are required to earn a minimum of 18 credit hours. In addition to course work, the Ph.D. requires a minimum of 12 credit hours in MEDP 697 Directed Research. At least half of the course work must be earned at the 600 level or higher. Detailed degree requirements are listed below and in the medical physics graduate handbook.

All new Ph.D. students entering the program will be assigned an adviser. After successful completion of the written comprehensive exam, students and advisers will develop a graduate dissertation committee. The committee will direct the students in their research and subsequent course selection. Advisers will report once a semester to the program director on the academic progress of their students and will administer the oral candidacy and dissertation defense examinations.

The student is required to complete written and oral examinations to be admitted as a Ph.D. candidate. The written comprehensive examination covers core knowledge and applications in medical physics course work, as well as basic concepts in physics, chemistry and biology. The oral examination, administered by the student’s graduate dissertation committee, is based upon a written prospectus describing the proposed dissertation research project. Examiners evaluate the adequacy of the proposed project, the student’s level of understanding of the project and the likelihood that the dissertation can be completed successfully.

After being approved for degree candidacy, the student must conduct substantial original investigation under the supervision of the advisers and must prepare a dissertation reporting the results of the research in the context of existing scientific knowledge. After the dissertation has been completed and unanimously accepted for defense by the graduate dissertation committee, the candidate will appear before the committee for an oral defense. The oral dissertation defense examines the candidate’s research, dissertation documentation and underlying fundamental knowledge. Upon successful completion of the defense and dissertation, the student may apply for graduation with a Ph.D. in Medical Physics.

Curriculum requirements

**Recommended core courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 561</td>
<td>Topographical Anatomy and Physiology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 563</td>
<td>Radiological Physics and Radiation Dosimetry</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 567</td>
<td>Introduction to Radiation Therapy Physics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 601</td>
<td>Health Physics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 630</td>
<td>Radiobiology for the Medical Physicist</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 633</td>
<td>Advanced Radiation Therapy Physics</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 635</td>
<td>Physics of Diagnostic Imaging</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 636</td>
<td>Physics of MRI</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 637</td>
<td>Physics of Nuclear Medicine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 689</td>
<td>Medical Physics Literature Review</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>27</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Recommended electives**
Select three credit hours from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 544</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 544</td>
<td>Statistical Methods II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 682</td>
<td>Clinical Rotations in Medical Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(variable credits, may be repeated)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 641</td>
<td>Applied Data Analysis</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select only one of the following:
Clinical competency: To develop clinically competent medical physics graduates by providing a framework in which students progress from didactic knowledge to clinical knowledge and demonstrated application of clinical medical physics principles, practices and procedures.

Student learning outcomes

1. Clinical performance: The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the theoretical, practical and technical conduct of medical physics in the clinical setting. This includes demonstration of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to:
   a. Design and quality assure radiation therapy treatment plans for both brachytherapy and external beam radiation therapy
   b. Quality assure radiation therapy delivery devices
   c. Quality assure radiation therapy treatment charts
   d. Perform calibration and/or beam delivery commissioning measurements as measured by instructor evaluation in compliance with accepted clinical standards

2. Communication skills: The candidate should demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skills have been acquired. The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by course work and performance on the written comprehensive examination. The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling, chart notation and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by course work and performance on the written comprehensive examination.

3. Medical physics knowledge base: The candidate should demonstrate satisfactory knowledge of the base of scientific information required to practice clinical medical physics. This includes general knowledge of medical physics scientific materials, clinical policies and procedures, and translational scientific literature. The student should demonstrate the ability to evaluate and integrate such knowledge into the solution of clinical problems as measured by course work and performance on the written comprehensive examination.

4. Problem-solving: The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification of clinical medical physics problems and the design and implementation of appropriate problem-solving methods and solutions as measured by course work, annual review and performance on the written comprehensive examination.

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.

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Graduation requirements
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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

School of Medicine graduate program policies
The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs (p. 663) is available in the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www graduat e.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
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<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 15</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18) and the School of Medicine, students are expected to satisfy the following minimum standards for admission.

1. Students must have a minimum of 30 credit hours in undergraduate physics, physical science or engineering, of which at least 18 credit hours must be at the upper level. Background courses should include calculus one and two, linear algebra, differential equations, modern physics, and electricity and magnetism physics.

2. Students must submit satisfactory GRE scores.

3. Applicants must present a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4-point scale for the undergraduate degree or most recently completed graduate degree.

Provisional admission may be granted where deficiencies exist. These deficiencies must be removed by the end of the first year of residence, or its part-time equivalent, when the student’s application will be re-examined. Courses that are designed to remove deficiencies will not be accepted for credit hours toward the graduate degree.

Degree requirements
In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students entering the program with an undergraduate degree are required to earn a minimum of 30 credit hours in didactic or laboratory course work. At least 15 credit hours must be earned at the 600 level or higher. Detailed degree requirements are listed in the medical physics graduate handbook.

Students are required to complete 21 credit hours of core graduate medical physics course work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 563</td>
<td>Radiological Physics and Radiation Dosimetry</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 567</td>
<td>Introduction to Radiation Therapy Physics</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 601</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 637</td>
<td>Physics of Nuclear Medicine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 682</td>
<td>Clinical Rotations in Medical Physics</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(repeated for six credit hours)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDP 689</td>
<td>Medical Physics Literature Review</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additionally, students also must demonstrate competence in anatomy through completion of an undergraduate or graduate anatomy course approved by the medical physics graduate curriculum committee.

Following completion of course work, students will be required to pass a comprehensive examination administered by the medical physics comprehensive examination committee. The comprehensive examination will cover materials from the core medical physics courses and clinical rotations.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Course Title</th>
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<td>Physics of Nuclear Medicine</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MEDP 682  Clinical Rotations in Medical Physics (repeated for six credit hours)  6
MEDP 689  Medical Physics Literature Review  1

Total Hours  29

Recommended electives
Select a minimum of one credit hour from the following:  1

MEDP 633  Advanced Radiation Therapy Physics
MEDP 697  Directed Research (variable credits)
OVPR 602  Responsible Scientific Conduct
STAT 543  Statistical Methods I
  or BIOS 543  Graduate Research Methods I
STAT 544  Statistical Methods II
  or BIOS 544  Graduate Research Methods II
STAT 641  Applied Data Analysis

Total Hours  1

Total graduate course credit hours required (minimum)  30

Typical plan of study
Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study, or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

Graduate program director
Geoffrey D. Hugo, Ph.D.
Associate professor, Department of Radiation Oncology
gdhugo@vcu.edu
(804) 628-7780

Additional contact
Katie Goracke
Medical physics education coordinator
kmgoracke@vcu.edu
(804) 628-7780

Program website: medicalphysics.vcu.edu (http://www.medicalphysics.vcu.edu)

Medicine, Doctor of (M.D.)/Public Health, Master of (M.P.H.) [combined]

Program accreditation
Liaison Committee on Medical Education (M.D.)
Council on Education for Public Health (M.P.H.)

Program goal
The Division of Epidemiology in the Department of Family Medicine and Population Health in the School of Medicine offers a program for VCU medical students to obtain a Master of Public Health degree in conjunction with their medical training. The M.D./M.P.H. combined-degree program provides an opportunity for medical students who wish to pursue a public health or research career to graduate from medical school trained in both clinical and preventive, population-oriented medicine. Graduates from this program are prepared for positions in preventive medicine, primary care, research, community-based health centers and state and local health departments. To meet degree requirements, students complete 36 credit hours of course work that includes:

- 12 credits of core courses
- Nine credits of required courses
- 12 credits of electives
- Three credits of a capstone project

Note that some elective courses may not be available in certain years or may require instructor permission for registration.

The objective of the combined program is to provide high quality and in-depth training in public health to qualified medical students. The five-year program includes four years of medical school and one year of study in the M.P.H. program. During the M.P.H. year, students take a minimum of 36 credit hours of course work. Students receive three credit hours for successful completion of the "Population Health" course in medical school and take a minimum of one public health elective during the M-4 year to satisfy the public health internship requirement. In addition, a waiver of nine credits that applies to M.P.H. students who hold a terminal or first professional degree is enacted.

Note: Students may register for the M.P.H. year either prior to entering medical school or after the M-3 year and prior to M-4 electives. Enrollment in the dual-degree program requires admission into both the School of Medicine and the Graduate School. Students must successfully complete all required course work to receive both degrees at the end of the five years.

The mission of the M.P.H. program is to engage students in an experiential, learner-centered environment, collaborate with public health partners in Central Virginia to promote health equity and community wellness, and foster lifelong inquiry and discovery in interdisciplinary, translational research that improves human health.

The overall goal of the M.P.H. program is to educate students to become well-grounded in the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes of public health and demonstrate their ability to apply these essentials through course work, internships and the M.P.H. capstone project. This program is designed to provide students with the skills required to advance to positions as public health practitioners in a broad spectrum of positions and settings and who can perform the following:

1. Administer public health programs
2. Collect, analyze and evaluate public health data
3. Plan, implement and evaluate public health interventions
4. Apply results of evaluations and data analyses to policy development as necessary
5. Promote public health through educational campaigns

The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of public health and an ability to synthesize and apply this information to the identification of key areas of practice and research in public health. Students will develop educational competencies outlined by the M.P.H. program. These competencies cover the foundational knowledge necessary for a public health practitioner to both communicate the core of public health knowledge and express the design, results and
interpretation of various public health interventions, evaluations, and data collection and analysis efforts to a variety of potential audiences.

**Student learning outcomes**

The M.P.H. program trains students to develop the following educational competencies, selected in part from the Association of Schools of Public Health’s “Master’s Degree in Public Health Core Competency Model,” August 2006.

1. **Biostatistics**
   - Explain the role of biostatistics in evidence-based research and the decision-making process
   - Describe the theoretical concepts behind a number of commonly used statistical methodologies.
   - Apply the appropriate statistical methodology for description and estimation to account for different measurement scales.
   - Draw appropriate inferences from statistical analyses.

2. **Environmental health sciences**
   - Describe the direct and indirect human, ecological, and safety effects of major environmental features and the approaches to assess, prevent, and control risks to human health and safety
   - Describe genetic, physiologic, psychosocial, and environmental justice factors that affect susceptibility to adverse health outcomes following exposure to environmental conditions
   - Describe federal and state regulatory programs, guidelines, and authorities that control environmental health issues

3. **Epidemiology**
   - Identify key sources of data for epidemiologic purposes
   - Apply basic terms and definitions of epidemiology in terms of magnitude, person, time and place
   - Explain the importance of epidemiology for informing scientific, ethical, economic, and political discussion of health issues
   - Calculate basic epidemiology measures
   - Evaluate the strengths and limitations of epidemiologic reports

4. **Health policy and management**
   - Identify the main components and issues of the organization, financing, access, and delivery of health services and public health systems in the U.S. and globally
   - Describe the legal and ethical bases for public health and health services
   - Discuss the policy process for improving the health status of populations
   - Communicate health policy and management issues using appropriate channels and technologies.

5. **Social and behavioral sciences**
   - Identify basic theories, concepts and models from a range of social and behavioral disciplines that are used in public health research and practice
   - Identify the causes of social and behavioral factors that affect health of individuals and populations
   - Describe steps and procedures for the planning, implementation and evaluation of public health programs, policies and interventions

6. **VCU-MPH program-specific competencies**
   - Discuss the effect of physical and social environment on health outcomes during the life course.

b. Discriminate between research questions and hypotheses and derive one from the other.

c. Accurately distinguish between epidemiological and biostatistical concepts and apply the appropriate method to analyze a public health research question using appropriate statistical software.

d. Access public and private data sets and assess their relevance in addressing a specific public health research question or evaluation need.

e. Work effectively in collaborative teams to develop public health projects.

f. Distinguish between public health ethics and medical ethics, discussing the values and beliefs inherent to a public health ethics perspective.

7. **Communication and informatics**
   - Describe how societal, organizational and individual factors influence and are influenced by public health communications
   - Demonstrate effective written and oral skills for communicating with different audiences in the context of professional public health activities

8. **Diversity and culture**
   - Explain how professional ethics and practices relate to equity and accountability in diverse community settings
   - Differentiate among availability, acceptability and accessibility of health care across diverse populations

9. **Leadership**
   - Engage in dialogue and learning from others to advance public health goals
   - Demonstrate transparency, integrity, and honesty in all actions

10. **Public health biology**
    - Apply biological principles to development and implementation of disease prevention, control, or management programs

11. **Professionalism**
    - Apply basic principles of ethical analysis (e.g. the Public Health Code of Ethics, human rights framework, other moral theories) to issues of public health practice and policy
    - Apply evidence-based principles and the scientific knowledge base to critical evaluation and decision-making in public health
    - Promote high standards of personal and organizational integrity, compassion, honesty, and respect for all people
    - Distinguish between population and individual ethical considerations in relation to the benefits, costs, and burdens of public health programs
    - Appreciate the importance of working collaboratively with diverse communities and constituencies (e.g. researchers, practitioners, agencies and organizations)

12. **Program planning**
    - Differentiate among goals, measurable objectives, related activities and expected outcomes for a public health program
    - Differentiate the purposes of formative, process and outcome evaluation
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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

The M.P.H. program student handbook is available upon request.

School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

For the M.P.H., apply online at sophas.org (http://www.sophas.org).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.D. and M.P.H.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Applications strongly encouraged by Jan 15</td>
<td>MCAT (acceptable in lieu of GRE scores for this combined professional/academic degree program) TOEFL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Students applying to the joint M.D./M.P.H. program should be accepted to the VCU School of Medicine prior to applying to the M.D./M.P.H. Program. Students must apply separately to each program. Applications to the M.P.H. program are made through sophas.org.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must present the following qualifications.

1. Prior degree: Students must hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution, with a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all undergraduate and any other graduate study. Official copies of transcripts for all prior degrees earned must be submitted to the VCU Office of Graduate Admissions.
2. Test scores: The M.P.H. program normally requires GRE scores, but for the combined M.D./M.P.H., students may submit MCAT scores provided for admission to the School of Medicine in lieu of GRE scores.
3. TOEFL: International students must submit TOEFL or IELTS scores. Minimum TOEFL score is 600 (paper-based), 250 (computer-based) or 100 (Internet-based); IELTS minimum score is 7.0. Test score requirements may be waived for international students who have received a medical degree (M.D.) in the U.S. Contact the program coordinator for more information.

Students must also submit the following materials with their applications:

1. Letters of recommendation from three individuals who can assess applicant qualifications for graduate school; at least one academic reference is required, but two are preferred. Most appropriate are letters from past professors or work supervisors.
2. Current version of curriculum vitae or resume. Include experience and/or education relevant to study in public health.
3. Personal statement addressing the following issues:
   • What applicant plans to do in the first few years after graduation
   • Why VCU’s M.P.H. program best fits the student’s public health interests
   • Description of applicant’s particular areas of interest in public health (e.g., maternal and child health, cancer epidemiology)
   • How an M.P.H. degree will help the applicant achieve her/his career goals
   • Why the applicant wishes to pursue an M.P.H. degree
   • Description of the applicant’s career goals

Degree requirements

The Master of Public Health program prepares students committed to public health careers in the public, private or nonprofit sectors. Public health works to prevent health problems in populations before these
problems occur. The M.P.H. provides a rigorous curriculum to help students develop the analytic and critical reasoning skills to improve population health. The program boasts experiential learning, a highly interactive environment, accessible and approachable faculty and student involvement in important projects.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to successfully complete minimum of 36 credit hours of formal course work and practicum, a 20-hour community-based learning experience, attendance at 12 public health seminars, and a capstone project. In addition, medical students will complete a public health elective during the M-4 year at a placement approved by the M.P.H. program director, in lieu of the required public health internship.

The M.P.H. program can be individualized to meet the varied needs and interests of students. The program offers many electives, allowing students to tailor the program to meet educational objectives, and it is flexible enough to accommodate students who enter the program with various backgrounds and experiences.

**Capstone project:** The culminating work in the M.P.H. program is the capstone project. The project is a practical experience that allows the student to apply what has been learned in the didactic components of the curriculum to a focused project. The goal is to enhance the student's academic experience through the application of public health concepts and skills in a supervised experience. Students are required to synthesize the literature; analyze, assess or evaluate quantitative or qualitative data; and in general apply theory and integrate knowledge gained and principles in situations that approximate some aspects of professional practice. With this mentored experience, students are able to both broaden their skills and hone their proficiency in a specific area of public health. The major product of this culminating experience is expected to vary depending on the educational goals of the student, but could include one of the following:

1. Manuscript suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal
2. Comprehensive disease-related report and analysis
3. Policy analysis report
4. Needs assessment for a specific population
5. Development, implementation, and analysis of target population surveys
6. Program evaluation

At a minimum, the capstone experience will require the integration of multiple major competencies used by a public health professional. In fulfilling the capstone requirement, each candidate must: (a) submit a formal written paper of sufficient depth and rigor and (b) satisfactorily complete a poster presentation of the project chosen as the basis for the written paper at an appropriate venue (e.g., research forum, refereed conference, etc.) approved by the M.P.H. program director.

**Non-didactic program requirements**

In addition to course work, students are required to complete the following noncurricular requirements for the M.P.H. degree:

1. Attendance at 12 public health seminars
2. Twenty hours of community-based service-learning

**M.P.H. curriculum requirements for the combined M.D./M.P.H. program**

**Core courses**

- BIOS 543 | Graduate Research Methods I | 3
- EPID 604 | Principles of Environmental Health | 3
- HCRP 601 | Introduction to Health Policy | 3
- SBHD 605 | Introduction to Social and Behavioral Health | 3

**Program requirements**

- BIOS 544 | Graduate Research Methods II | 3
- EPID 547 | Applied Data Analysis Lab I | 1.5
- EPID 548 | Applied Data Analysis Lab II | 1.5
- EPID 580 | Public Health Ethics | 1
- EPID 593 | MPH Practicum I | 2

**Electives**

Select 12 credit hours minimum from the following:

- BIOS 571 | Clinical Trials | 3
- CCTR 630 | Design Implications in Clinical Trials | 3
- EPID 571 | Principles of Epidemiology | 3
- EPID 600 | Introduction to Public Health | 3
- EPID 601 | Contemporary Issues and Controversies in Public Health | 3
- EPID 603 | Public Health Policy and Politics | 3
- EPID 606 | Epidemiologic Methods | 3
- EPID 620 | Cancer Epidemiology | 3
- EPID 622 | Maternal and Child Health | 3
- EPID 624 | Chronic Disease Epidemiology | 3
- EPID 646 | Epidemiology of Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders | 3
- EPID 648 | Behavioral Epidemiology | 3
- EPID 691 | Special Topics | 3
- EPID 692 | Independent Study | 3
- GRAD 614 | Introduction to Grant Writing | 3
- GRTY 501 | Physiological Aging | 3
- GRTY 510 | Aging | 3
- GRTY 603 | Social Gerontology | 3
- GRTY 604 | Problems, Issues and Trends in Gerontology | 3
- HEMS 505 | Contemporary Issues in Health | 3
- HEMS 550 | Exercise, Nutrition and Weight Management | 3
- HEMS 604 | Nutrition for Health and Physical Activity | 3
- HEMS 605 | Psychology of Physical Activity | 3
- HEMS 606 | Psychosocial Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity | 3
- HGEN 501 | Introduction to Human Genetics | 3
- HGEN 502 | Advanced Human Genetics | 3
- HGEN 620 | Principles of Human Behavioral Genetics | 3
- PSYC 660 | Health Psychology | 3
- HSEP 601 | Emergency Management: Response Planning and Incident Command | 3
- HSEP 603 | Risk Assessment | 3
- HSEP 650 | Public Health Preparedness | 3
- SBHD 630 | Theoretical Foundations of Social and Behavioral Health | 3
SBHD 632 Health Disparities and Social Justice
SBHD 634 Patient-Provider Interaction
SBHD 636 Community-based Participatory Research
SBHD 637 Program Evaluation
SOCY 510 Domestic and Sexual Violence in Social Context
SOCY 524 Aging and the Minority Community
SOCY 603 Seminar in Population Studies
SOCY 607 Seminar in Racial and Ethnic Relations in America
SOCY 611 Studies in the Community
SOCY 620 Seminar in Criminology
SOCY 624 Community and Community Services for the Elderly
SOCY 632 Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence: Medical Practice and Policy
SOCY 633 Application of the Policy Process to Issues of Violence
SOCY 634 Social Contexts of Childhood and Violence
SOCY 635 Theorizing Gender Violence
SOCY 645 The Sociology of Health and Illness
URSP 521 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
URSP 621 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
URSP 622 Community Socioeconomic Analysis Using GIS
URSP 625 Spatial Database Management and GIS Modeling

Integrative program requirements
EPID 694 MPH Capstone Project 3

Non-didactic program requirements
In addition to course work, students must attend 12 public health seminars and complete 20 hours of community-based service-learning.

Total Hours: 36

Sample plan of study for combined program

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPID 547</td>
<td>Applied Data Analysis Lab I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 580</td>
<td>Public Health Ethics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 593</td>
<td>MPH Practicum I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 601</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives (See list above)</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Term Hours:** 16.5

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 544</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 548</td>
<td>Applied Data Analysis Lab II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 604</td>
<td>Principles of Environmental Health</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours:** 36

1 Student may elect to complete 1-3 credits of EPID 694 in summer.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 36**

Selected course work completed during the M-1 and M-2 years of study for application toward the M.D. accounts for 12 credit hours toward the M.P.H. degree. This includes a waiver of the core epidemiology course EPID 571, due to training in population health in the M.D. curriculum. The public health internship requirement is fulfilled through completion of a public health elective in the M-4 year, after the student completes the M.P.H. year. This elective occurs at a public health agency that is approved by the M.P.H. program director.

**Graduate program director**
Saba Masho, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Associate professor, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Family Medicine and Population Health
saba.masho@vcuhealth.org
(804) 628-2509

**Additional contact**
Lisa S. Anderson
Director of educational programs, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Family Medicine and Population Health
lisa.s.anderson@vcuhealth.org
(804) 628-2512

**Program website:** familymedicine.vcu.edu/education/graduate/dual-degrees (http://www.familymedicine.vcu.edu/education/graduate/dual-degrees)

**Microbiology and Immunology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

**Program goal**

The graduate programs of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology in the School of Medicine include degrees offered at the master’s and doctoral levels. These educational programs have as their mission the preparation of individuals for a variety of career objectives in microbiology and immunology. The programs incorporate formal instructional activities and, as appropriate, research training, mentored by the members of the faculty. The M.S. program is distinguished by inclusion of the preparation of the individual to function as a laboratory director or scientific investigator.

The Ph.D. program is designed to provide students with the skills required to advance to positions as bioscience researchers and trainers in a broad spectrum of positions. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of bioscience, an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation in bioscience. The program relates this framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches that address the questions identified.
The Ph.D. program is also designed to develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of bioscience knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

Student learning outcomes

1. Oral communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.

2. Written communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

3. Experimental design: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

4. Problem-solving skills: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.

5. General knowledge of science: The candidate should demonstrate a general knowledge of the elements of the sciences as related to molecular/cellular bioscience and a detailed knowledge of his or her area of research, including an appropriate familiarity with the research 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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on doctoral programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Applications received prior to Jan 15</td>
<td>GRE or MCAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- MCAT acceptable in lieu of GRE for combined professional/academic degree programs
- Applications for the program must be submitted to the Biomedical Sciences Doctoral Portal – School of Medicine – Ph.D. selected from the drop-down menu of programs on the VCU online application form.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), successful applicants will typically have the following credentials:

1. A baccalaureate degree or its equivalent at the time of enrollment, with an undergraduate GPA of 3.5
2. GRE scores greater than 153 for quantitative, 156 for verbal (or combined 1250 on previous scale) and 4.0 analytical scores
3. TOEFL scores of 600 (pBT), 250 (cBT) or 100 (iBT) for individuals for whom English is a second language; or 6.5 on the IELTS (To report GRE or TOEFL score, use VCU Code 5570.)

4. Personal statements, which should include: long-term career goals to assess reasons behind the candidate’s application; how a Ph.D. in biomedical science helps achieve those goals; the factors motivating a career in research; research experience, including dates, places and duration

5. Three letters of recommendation that speak to the scientific competency and experience of the applicant

6. The equivalent of two semesters of general chemistry, two semesters of organic chemistry and two semesters of upper-level biology courses (e.g. cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, neuroscience, physiology, biophysics, etc.)

**Degree requirements**

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 58 graduate credit hours. At least six credits must come from didactic 600-level courses.

The Department of Microbiology and Immunology has an outstanding faculty with diverse research interests that include cell and molecular biology, molecular genetics, molecular pathogenesis, bacteriology, immunology, immunotoxicology, virology, parasitology, mycology and oncology. The goal of the graduate program is to prepare students to become creative problem-solvers and leaders in scientific research. The Ph.D. degree is offered, as well as an M.D./Ph.D. degree for medical students interested in academic or research careers.

The research experience is complemented with excellent course offerings, seminar programs, teaching opportunities, presentations at scientific meetings, writing of a grant application and writing of scientific papers. Graduate students acquire a wide range of research experience in the first year through exposure to a variety of research laboratories and investigators. The student chooses a research adviser, undergoes a written and oral examination and then carries out an original independent research project under the direction of the adviser. The project falls under the review of an advisory committee, and a written dissertation is defended in a final oral examination.

A cumulative GPA of 3.0 (with no more than six credit hours of a C grade) is required to continue in the program.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Note:** First-year Ph.D. students in the Biomedical Sciences Doctoral Portal must earn a minimum of seven credits of didactic courses in the fall semester in order to be eligible to matriculate into the Department of Microbiology and Immunology without being on academic probation. Three of these credits must come from MICR 505 or MICR 515.

**Didactic foundation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 530</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 1: Protein Structure and Function</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 531</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 2: Basic Metabolism</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 532</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 3: Central Dogma of Molecular Biology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Non-didactic foundation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 610</td>
<td>Laboratory Opportunities</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 620</td>
<td>Laboratory/Clinical Rotations (three rotations)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 630</td>
<td>Critical Thinking</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 680</td>
<td>Proposal Preparation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 690</td>
<td>Basic Health Sciences Research Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 690</td>
<td>Microbiology Research Seminar (taken each fall and spring semester; minimum eight credits)</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Advanced microbiology and immunology course**

Select at least one of the following (satisfies three credits of six-credit 600-level didactic requirement).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICR 605</td>
<td>Prokaryotic Molecular Genetics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 616</td>
<td>Mechanisms of Viral and Parasite Pathogenesis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 618</td>
<td>Molecular Mechanisms of Bacterial Pathogenesis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 686</td>
<td>Advanced Immunobiology</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Journal club**

Select one of the following journal club courses for one semester every year (four credits minimum).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICR 692</td>
<td>Current Topics in Molecular Pathogenesis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 693</td>
<td>Topics in Molecular Biology and Genetics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 694</td>
<td>Current Topics in Immunology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Responsible research and critical thinking**

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives and directed research**

Select credits in directed research and additional elective courses from the following list to amass the required minimum of 58 credit hours from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICR 607</td>
<td>Techniques in Molecular Biology and Genetics</td>
<td>13.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR/BINFO 653</td>
<td>Advanced Molecular Genetics: Bioinformatics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 684</td>
<td>Molecular Biology of Cancer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Microbiology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Offered in alternate years
2. May be repeated with different content to satisfy the six-credit 600-level didactic requirement.
**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 58**

**Typical plan of study**

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

**Graduate program director**
Cynthia Nau Cornelissen, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
[contact information]

**Additional contact**
Martha L. VanMeter
Office services specialist
[contact information]

**Program website:** [vcu.edu/micro](http://www.vcu.edu/micro)

---

**Microbiology and Immunology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics**

**Program goals**

The molecular biology and genetics curriculum is an integrated interdisciplinary program of study that builds on the graduate programs of participating departments in the School of Medicine. The doctoral curriculum is designed to be an intensive course of study that will provide students with the skills required to advance to research-oriented careers in biotechnology.

1. The curriculum includes core, specialization and elective courses. Electives drawn from various departments allow individual specialization.
2. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of bioscience, an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation. The program relates this framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified.
3. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of bioscience knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.
4. The program centers on a research project conducted under the guidance of a selected faculty mentor and culminates in the presentation and defense of a doctoral dissertation.

Participating faculty are associated not only with programs and departments within the School of Medicine, but also with the VCU Massey Cancer Center, the Philips Institute for Oral and Craniofacial Molecular Biology (School of Dentistry), the Institute of Structural Biology and Drug Discovery (School of Pharmacy) and the VCU Center for the Study of Biological Complexity (VCU Life Sciences).

The interdisciplinary approach to the solution of biological problems provided by this training is designed to develop in students the flexibility and problem-solving skills necessary for success in a variety of scientific career opportunities or further graduate study.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Problem-solving skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.
2. General knowledge of sciences: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of the biosciences as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications, as measured by rubric.
3. Communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skills have been acquired.
   a. Oral communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.
   b. Written communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.
4. Experimental design: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

**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](http://www.graduater.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
School of Medicine graduate program policies
The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on doctoral programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Applications received prior to Jan 15 given priority consideration</td>
<td>GRE, MCAT or DAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements
- MCAT or DAT acceptable in lieu of GRE for combined professional/academic degree programs
- Applications for the program must be submitted to the Biomedical Sciences Doctoral Portal – School of Medicine – Ph.D. selected from the drop-down menu of programs on the VCU online application form.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), successful applicants will typically have the following credentials:
1. A baccalaureate degree or its equivalent at the time of enrollment, with an undergraduate GPA of 3.5
2. Current GRE scores (taken within the past five years), with scores at the 75th percentile or greater preferred
3. TOEFL scores of 600 (pBT), 250 (cBT) or 100 (iBT) for individuals for whom English is a second language; or 6.5 on the IELTS (To report GRE or TOEFL score, use VCU Code 5570.)
4. Personal statements, which should include: long-term career goals to assess reasons behind the candidate’s application; how a Ph.D. in biomedical science helps achieve those goals; the factors motivating a career in research; research experience, including dates, places and duration
5. Three letters of recommendation that speak to the scientific competency and experience of the applicant
6. The equivalent of two semesters of general chemistry, two semesters of organic chemistry and two semesters of upper-level biology courses (e.g. cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, neuroscience, physiology, biophysics, etc.)
7. Laboratory experience also strongly recommended

Degree requirements
In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 58 graduate credit hours.

During the first year, students pursue research rotations, take formal course work and become familiar with current research topics through seminars, discussion groups and lectures by distinguished scientists. By the end of the first year, students choose a faculty adviser and begin dissertation research. Prior to the beginning of the third year of study, students should successfully pass written and oral candidacy examinations. Following completion of the research project and defense of the doctoral dissertation, graduates are equipped to participate in a broad range of current biomedical research areas.

Curriculum requirements

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 602</td>
<td>Physical Properties of Macromolecules (modules 1 and 2)</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 610</td>
<td>Laboratory Opportunities</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 620</td>
<td>Laboratory/Clinical Rotations (three rotations)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following (or an equivalent):
- IBMS 630 Critical Thinking
- BIOC 691 Special Topics in Biochemistry
- HGEN 691 Special Topics in Genetics
- IBMS 680 Proposal Preparation
- IBMS 690 Basic Health Sciences Research Seminar (first year)
- MICR 605 Prokaryotic Molecular Genetics
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICR 607</td>
<td>Techniques in Molecular Biology and Genetics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Take one credit the following every semester beginning in the second year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICR 690</td>
<td>Microbiology Research Seminar (section 002 – MBG)</td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Take the following course at least twice:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICR 693</td>
<td>Topics in Molecular Biology and Genetics (MBG journal club - must take at least twice)</td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students may complete the five-credit module sequence BIOC 530, BIOC 531, BIOC 532 and BIOC 533 in place of BIOC 503.

Eukaryotic molecular biology course

Select one course in eukaryotic molecular biology from the following list of approved options (or an approved alternative):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 605</td>
<td>Molecular Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 602</td>
<td>Genetic Models of Disease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 614</td>
<td>Pathogenesis of Human Genetic Disease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 635</td>
<td>Cellular Signalling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 684</td>
<td>Molecular Biology of Cancer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PATH 670</td>
<td>Experimental Approaches to Tumor Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 3

Directed research and electives

Select a variable number of credit hours of the following to amass the required minimum of 58 credit hours.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICR 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Microbiology</td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 58

Typical plan of study

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

Graduate program director

Gail E. Christie, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
christie@vcu.edu
(804) 828-9093

Program website: vcu.edu/mbg (http://www.vcu.edu/mbg)

Microbiology and Immunology, Master of Science (M.S.)

Program goals

The graduate programs of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology in the School of Medicine include degrees offered at the master's and doctoral levels. These educational programs have as their mission the preparation of individuals for a variety of career objectives in microbiology and immunology. The programs incorporate formal instructional activities and, as appropriate, research training, mentored by the members of the faculty. The M.S. program is distinguished by inclusion of the preparation of the individual to function as a laboratory director or scientific investigator.

1. The program is designed to provide students with the skills required to advance to positions as bioscience researchers and trainers in a broad spectrum of positions.

2. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of bioscience, an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation/experimentation in bioscience.

3. The program relates the above framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified.

4. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of bioscience knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

Student learning outcomes

1. Problem-solving skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.

2. General knowledge of sciences: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of the biosciences as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications as measured by rubric.

3. Communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skills have been acquired as measured by rubric.

4. Experimental design: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.
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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Applications received prior to Jan 15 given priority consideration</td>
<td>GRE, DAT or MCAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- Successful domestic applicants typically have GRE scores of at least 156 for verbal reasoning and 153 for quantitative reasoning, 4.0 for analytical reasoning; DAT score of 18 or greater; or MCAT score of 26 or greater. International applicants should display English language proficiency by achieving a TOEFL score of 100 (IBT) or higher.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must meet the following minimum requirements.

1. Applicants must have earned or expect a baccalaureate or equivalent degree and must have demonstrated a superior knowledge of biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics.
2. Laboratory experience is strongly recommended.
3. The Graduate Record Examination is required, as are letters of recommendation and a letter summarizing the applicant’s goals.
4. For combined degree students, the Medical College Admission Test or Dental Aptitude Test is accepted in lieu of the GRE.
5. Foreign applicants who do not use English as their native language must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language examination.

Complete application portfolio reviews will begin in January and will continue through May 1. International students requiring temporary U.S. visas should apply by April 1 for fall matriculation.

Basic science, research-intensive, non-thesis curriculum for medical students

Individuals who are participants in medical training (the Doctor of Medicine program) at VCU may be eligible for enrollment in a research-intensive, non-thesis graduate curriculum. This basic science option builds on the core of disciplinary material embedded in the first two years of training in the medical school curriculum. Additional exposure is provided to specialized areas in basic science disciplines in concert with an intensive research experience leading to the preparation of a report in the form of a manuscript suitable for publication. The program is designed to be completed within 12 to 15 months. Subject matter related to the core material and/or suitable elective courses taken in the didactic phase of medical training correspond to a minimum of the equivalent of 24 graduate credit hours. The equivalent of 12 credit hours may be applied to the M.S. degree program in which the student is enrolled in accordance with Graduate School policy. Medical students interested in the basic science option should contact the M.S. graduate program director for additional information.

Degree requirements

The Department of Microbiology and Immunology has an outstanding faculty with diverse research interests that include cell and molecular biology, molecular genetics, molecular pathogenesis, bacteriology, immunology, immunotoxicology, virology, parasitology, mycology and
The goal of the graduate program is to prepare students to become creative problem-solvers and leaders in scientific research. The Master of Science degree is offered, as well as a Ph.D. and an M.D./Ph.D. degree for medical students interested in academic or research careers.

The research experience is complemented with excellent course offerings, seminar programs, teaching opportunities, presentations at scientific meetings and writing scientific papers. Graduate students acquire a wide range of research experience in the first year through exposure to a variety of research laboratories and investigators. The student chooses a research adviser and then carries out an original, independent research project under the direction of the adviser. The project falls under the review of an advisory committee and a written dissertation is defended in a final oral examination.

M.S. students will select their permanent advisers after three rotations completed during the first year of study. Research projects will be based on ongoing research in laboratories of the selected permanent adviser. A graduate advisory committee will be developed by the student and adviser. The M.S. student and the GAC will formulate a suitable curriculum of study based on the student's area of research interest.

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the M.S. degree program must complete a minimum of 41 credit hours (25 credit hours in didactic formal graduate courses, a minimum of four elective credit hours and a minimum of 12 directed research hours). Additional hours may be completed for successful outcome of the M.S. degree. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 (with no more than six credit hours of a C grade) is required to continue in the program.

An oral defense, consisting of a public presentation of the thesis and a committee meeting to discuss the results, under the direction of the GAC but open to all faculty members, students and staff, shall be scheduled to examine the student's underlying fundamental knowledge of the disciplines encompassed by the student's research. Announcement of the oral defense, including the candidate's name, project title, and the day, place and time of the defense, shall be made at least seven working days in advance of the defense.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Core didactic courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 530</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 1: Protein Structure and Function</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 531</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 2: Basic Metabolism</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 532</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 3: Central Dogma of Molecular Biology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 533</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 4: Lipids/Membranes and Bioenergetics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

Select seven credits from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICR 505</td>
<td>Immunobiology (if not taken previously)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 515</td>
<td>Principles of Molecular Microbiology (if not taken previously)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 605</td>
<td>Prokaryotic Molecular Genetics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 607</td>
<td>Techniques in Molecular Biology and Genetics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 608</td>
<td>Introduction to Microbiology and Immunology Research</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 616</td>
<td>Mechanisms of Viral and Parasite Pathogenesis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 618</td>
<td>Molecular Mechanisms of Bacterial Pathogenesis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR/BNFO 653</td>
<td>Advanced Molecular Genetics: Bioinformatics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 684</td>
<td>Molecular Biology of Cancer</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 686</td>
<td>Advanced Immunobiology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 692</td>
<td>Current Topics in Molecular Pathogenesis</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 693</td>
<td>Topics in Molecular Biology and Genetics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 694</td>
<td>Current Topics in Immunology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Directed research**

MICR 697 Directed Research in Microbiology (minimum 12 credits)

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 41**

**Graduate program director**

Cynthia Nau Cornelissen, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
cynthia.cornelissen@vcuhealth.org
(804) 828-2306

**Additional contact**

Martha L. VanMeter
Office services specialist
martha.vanmeter@vcuhealth.org
(804) 828-9728

**Program website:** vcu.edu/micro (http://www.vcu.edu/micro)
Microbiology and Immunology, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics

Program goals

The molecular biology and genetics curriculum is an integrated interdisciplinary program of study that builds on the graduate programs of participating departments in the School of Medicine. The master's curriculum is designed to be an intensive course of study that will provide students with the skills required to advance to research-oriented careers in biotechnology or provide the foundation for further graduate study toward a Ph.D.

It is expected that the program should be completed in approximately two to two-and-one-half years.

1. The curriculum includes core, specialization and elective courses. Electives drawn from various departments allow individual specialization.
2. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of bioscience, an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation. The program relates this framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified.
3. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of bioscience knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.
4. The final three semesters include a research project conducted under the guidance of a selected faculty mentor and culminates in the presentation and defense of a master's thesis.

Participating faculty are associated not only with programs and departments within the School of Medicine, but also with the VCU Massey Cancer Center, the Philips Institute for Oral and Craniofacial Molecular Biology (School of Dentistry), the Institute of Structural Biology and Drug Discovery (School of Pharmacy) and the VCU Center for the Study of Biological Complexity (VCU Life Sciences).

The interdisciplinary approach to the solution of biological problems provided by this training is designed to develop in students the flexibility and problem-solving skills necessary for success in a variety of scientific career opportunities or further graduate study.

Student learning outcomes

1. Problem-solving skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.
2. General knowledge of sciences: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of the biosciences as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications, as measured by rubric.
3. Communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skills have been acquired.
   a. Oral communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.
   b. Written communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.
4. Experimental design: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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.

A master’s student in the MBG curriculum must prepare a formal written research plan and make an oral presentation of their thesis research proposal and progress report to their graduate advisory committee prior to the beginning of the second year of residency. The student’s knowledge in the area of the proposed research, current research accomplishments and the feasibility of the proposed research project will
be evaluated by the GAC. Successful completion of this review is required for continuance in the program and constitutes admission to candidacy.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
School of Medicine graduate program policies
The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://wwwgraduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Deadline date rolling, preference given to applications received by Jan 17</td>
<td>GRE; TOEFL for applicants whose native language is not English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements
- Applications for the program should be submitted to Molecular Biology and Genetics – M.S. selected from the drop-down menu of programs of the VCU online graduate application form. The degree awarded will be a Master of Science in Microbiology and Immunology.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have earned or expect to earn a baccalaureate or equivalent degree, and must have demonstrated a superior knowledge of biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics. Laboratory experience is also strongly recommended. The Graduate Record Examination is required, as are letters of recommendation and a letter summarizing the applicant’s goals. International applicants who do not use English as their native language must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language examination.

Basic science, research-intensive, non-thesis curriculum for medical students
Individuals who are participants in medical training (the Doctor of Medicine program) at VCU may be eligible for enrollment in a research-intensive, non-thesis graduate curriculum. This basic science option builds on the core of disciplinary material embedded in the first two years of training in the medical school curriculum. Additional exposure is provided to specialized areas in basic science disciplines in concert with an intensive research experience leading to the preparation of a report in the form of a manuscript suitable for publication. The program is designed to be completed within 12 to 15 months. Subject matter related to the core material and/or suitable elective courses taken in the didactic phase of medical training correspond to a minimum of the equivalent of 24 graduate credit hours. The equivalent of 12 credit hours may be applied to the M.S. degree program in which the student is enrolled in accordance with Graduate School policy. Medical students interested in the basic science option should contact the M.S. graduate program director for additional information.

Degree requirements
In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the interdisciplinary master’s curriculum in molecular biology and genetics requires a minimum of 48 credit hours, at least half of which must be course work restricted to graduate students. The curriculum includes 19 credit hours of required core course work and 29 additional credit hours of required course work, directed research and research seminar course work, and additional approved course work, as listed below. M.S. candidates must pass a final oral examination. A written thesis approved by the student’s graduate advisory committee completes the requirements leading to the M.S. degree.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 531</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOC 532</td>
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<tr>
<td>BIOC 533</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 693</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:
- OVPR 601 | Scientific Integrity |
- OVPR 602 | Responsible Scientific Conduct |
Upon completion of the Ph.D. in Neuroscience degree program, students will have:

1. Demonstrated a mastery of neuroscience and related bioscience knowledge
2. Developed effective oral, written and electronic communication skills
3. Demonstrated the ability to formulate, design, implement and interpret experimental approaches
4. Reached a level of competency to advance to positions as neuroscience researchers and teachers in a broad spectrum of academic, industrial and government employment venues
5. Successfully obtained employment in a neuroscience-related position

Student learning outcomes

1. Acquire the core knowledge of neuroscience: Students will demonstrate acquisition of core knowledge presented in required and elective courses.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the neuroscience scientific literature: Students will demonstrate the ability to integrate and comprehensively review the scientific literature.
3. Acquire competency in oral communication: Students will prepare and deliver effective seminars and poster presentations.
4. Acquire competency in written communication: Students will generate an original dissertation and written comprehensive exam, as well as prepare and publish high quality scientific manuscripts.
5. Demonstrate the ability to design experiments: Students will evaluate existing scientific knowledge related to their project, identify a scientific question and formulate testable hypotheses.
6. Demonstrate the ability to conduct and interpret experiments: Students design experiments to test their hypotheses, carry out those experiments and interpret their results.
7. Obtain employment upon graduation: Student will successfully obtain employment in a neuroscience-related position upon graduation.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
School of Medicine graduate program policies
The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on doctoral programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Applications received prior to Jan 15 given priority consideration</td>
<td>GRE, MCAT or DAT TOEFL if international</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements
• Applications for the program must be submitted to the Biomedical Sciences Doctoral Portal – School of Medicine – Ph.D. selected from the drop-down menu of programs on the VCU online application form.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), successful applicants will typically have the following credentials:

1. Baccalaureate degree or its equivalent at the time of enrollment, with an undergraduate GPA of 3.5
2. GRE > 153 quantitative, 156 verbal (or combined 1,250 on previous scale) and 4.0 analytical scores
3. TOEFL score of 600 (pBT), 250 (cBT) or 100 (IBT; or 6.5 on the IELTS for individuals for whom English is a second language
4. Personal statements, including:
   a. Long-term career goals to assess reasons behind application
   b. How a Ph.D. in biomedical science helps achieve those goals
5. Equivalent of two semesters of general chemistry, two semesters of organic chemistry and two semesters of upper-level biology courses (e.g. cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, neuroscience, physiology or biophysics)

Degree requirements
In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the Ph.D. program must complete a minimum of 69 graduate credit hours.

Students must maintain a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 and must receive a minimum grade of B for all required courses. A student who receives a grade of C in a required course shall repeat the course. A second grade of C in a required course shall result in dismissal from the program.

At the end of the second year of required and elective course work, students will take written and oral comprehensive examinations. The written examination is an open-book written exam which is designed to: (1) assess the student’s ability to integrate course material and (2) demonstrate critical thinking and evaluation of the literature in the basic health sciences related to the student’s area of research. This part is based on a question provided to the student by their adviser and graduate advisory committee. The answer should be 25 to 35 pages in length and must represent the student’s unaided work. This section of the exam is graded as pass/fail and must be completed by June 30 of the second year.

After passing the written comprehensive examination, students will schedule the proposal defense within six months. For the proposal defense, students will prepare an NIH-style grant proposal based on their research plans. The proposal will form the basis of the oral candidacy exam. Students are strongly encouraged to submit their proposals for extramural funding (e.g., NIH predoctoral fellowships) where appropriate.

After successful completion of both parts of the written candidacy exam, the student’s graduate advisory committee will administer the oral candidacy examination, which entails an oral defense of the student’s grant proposal as well as the topics covered in part one of the written candidacy exam. The oral candidacy exam covers: (1) course work related to the student’s proposed research; (2) the literature cited in or related to the proposal; and (3) the hypotheses, research techniques and procedures presented in the proposal.

Successful completion of the oral candidacy exam advances the student to candidacy for the doctoral degree. The oral candidacy exam must be completed prior to the beginning of the third year. Beginning with the spring semester the third year in the graduate program, students will devote their full time to conducting research in their advisers’ laboratories. Students also register for neuroscience research seminar and journal club each semester.

At the appropriate time in their research, students will prepare a dissertation and schedule a final oral defense of the thesis. The final oral examination (defense of the dissertation) will be limited to the subject of the candidate’s dissertation and related basic science.

It is anticipated that students will complete the program in four to five years. All requirements for the Ph.D. degree must be completed.
within eight years from the date of matriculation in the degree program. Extensions may be approved in extenuating circumstances.

**Curriculum requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 610</td>
<td>Systems Neuroscience</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 615</td>
<td>Techniques in Neuroscience and Cell Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 620</td>
<td>Scientific Writing and Grantsmanship</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Repeat the following one-credit course:</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 630</td>
<td>Research Presentations</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Biochemistry (critical thinking)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 610</td>
<td>Laboratory Opportunities</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Repeat the following two-credit course:</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 620</td>
<td>Laboratory/Clinical Rotations</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 680</td>
<td>Proposal Preparation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEUS 609</td>
<td>Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Repeat the following one-credit course:</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEUS 690</td>
<td>Neuroscience Research Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEUS 697</td>
<td>Directed Research</td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select two elective courses from the list below</td>
<td>6-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEUS 697</td>
<td>Directed Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 69**

**Electives**

Select two of the following (others may be approved by the graduate program director): 6-8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 608</td>
<td>Functional and Clinical Neuroanatomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 617</td>
<td>Developmental Neurobiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 605</td>
<td>Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I or STAT 543</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 635</td>
<td>Cellular Signalling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEUS 619</td>
<td>Synaptic Organization of the Brain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 604</td>
<td>Cell Physiology: Cardiovascular and Respiratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 606</td>
<td>Molecular Basis for Disease</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 619</td>
<td>Mitochondrial Pathophysiology and Human Diseases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS/PHTX 620</td>
<td>Ion Channels in Membranes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 631</td>
<td>Electrophysiology and Photonic Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 536</td>
<td>Principles of Pharmacology and Toxicology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 537</td>
<td>Principles of Pharmacology and Toxicology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 548</td>
<td>Drug Dependence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 632</td>
<td>Neurochemical Pharmacology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Typical plan of study**

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

**Graduate program director**

John W. Bigbee, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology
jbigbee@vcu.edu
(804) 828-0948

**Program website:** neuroscience.vcu.edu (http://www.neuroscience.vcu.edu)

**Pharmacology and Toxicology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

**Program goal**

The Ph.D. program is designed to provide students with the skills required to advance to positions as bioscience researchers and trainers in a broad spectrum of positions. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of bioscience, an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation in bioscience. The program relates this framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches that address the questions identified. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of bioscience knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Oral communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.

2. Written communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

3. Experimental design: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental
protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

4. Problem-solving skills: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.

5. General knowledge of science: The candidate should demonstrate a general knowledge of the elements of the sciences as related to molecular/cellular bioscience and a detailed knowledge of his or her area of research, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature.

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

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**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.** (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.** (p. 40)

**Other information**

Students wishing to matriculate into the Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology can contact the program director for further advice on course requirements and advising.

**School of Medicine graduate program policies**

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on doctoral programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

**Apply online at** graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

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<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Applications received prior to Jan 15 given priority consideration</td>
<td>GRE TOEFL (individuals for whom English is a second language)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special requirements**

- Applications for the program must be submitted to the Biomedical Sciences Doctoral Portal – School of Medicine – Ph.D. selected from the drop-down menu of programs on the VCU online application form.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), successful applicants will typically have the following credentials:

1. A baccalaureate degree or its equivalent at the time of enrollment, with an undergraduate GPA of 3.5
2. Current GRE scores (taken within the past five years), with scores at the 75th percentile or greater preferred
3. TOEFL scores of 600 (pBT), 250 (cBT) or 100 (iBT) for individuals for whom English is a second language; or 6.5 on the IELTS (To report GRE or TOEFL score, use VCU Code 5570.)
4. Personal statements, which should include: long-term career goals to assess reasons behind the candidate’s application; how a Ph.D. in biomedical science helps achieve those goals; the factors motivating a career in research; research experience, including dates, places and duration
5. Three letters of recommendation that speak to the scientific competency and experience of the applicant
6. The equivalent of two semesters of general chemistry, two semesters of organic chemistry and two semesters of upper-level biology courses (e.g. cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, neuroscience, physiology, biophysics, etc.)

**Degree requirements**

The broad base offered in the PhD. program in pharmacology and toxicology, together with basic training in physiology and biochemistry,
provides the background for a successful career in academic institutions, industry or government. The research program of the department is sufficiently broad to provide an adequate basis for entry into a wide variety of interesting areas of modern biology and medicine.

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 60 graduate credit hours. With few exceptions, Ph.D. students are enrolled in the Biomedical Sciences Doctoral Portal from matriculation until matched with an adviser, usually by the summer semester of the second year. The students are moved into the Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology major after meeting program requirements. Students customarily complete formal course work in pharmacology and biochemistry during the first year of study. Participation in research also is begun early in the first year. Students interested or committed to pharmacology should take the footnoted (1) courses listed in the curriculum requirements section during the portal period to assure rapid progress toward the degree.

In the third and subsequent years, the majority of the course load is taken as PHTX 697. Advanced electives also may be taken as desired and with the approval of the adviser. Students and faculty participate in a seminar program (PHTX 690) that includes distinguished visiting scientists from the U.S. and abroad. Following completion of a qualifying examination, a degree candidate is required to submit and defend a thesis embracing an original research project conducted under the guidance and supervision of an adviser and an advisory committee. There is no foreign language requirement. The average time necessary to complete the doctoral program in pharmacology and toxicology is four to five years.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Required courses**

Select a minimum of one credit from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 692</td>
<td>Special Topics (classical and near class paper) 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 630</td>
<td>Critical Thinking 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 610</td>
<td>Laboratory Opportunities 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take the following two-credit course taken for three rotations:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 620</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 680</td>
<td>Proposal Preparation 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 536</td>
<td>Principles of Pharmacology and Toxicology 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 690</td>
<td>Pharmacology Research Seminar 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or IBMS 690</td>
<td>Basic Health Sciences Research Seminar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Pharmacology (basic concepts for graduate students) 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Hours | 19 |

1 Students interested or committed to pharmacology should take these courses during the portal year to assure rapid progress toward the degree.

**Recommended electives and directed research**

Select a combination of the following courses as indicated below for a total of 41 credit hours to reach the required minimum of 60 credit hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Pharmacology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 610</td>
<td>Systems Neuroscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 601</td>
<td>Membranes and Lipids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 602</td>
<td>Physical Properties of Macromolecules</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 605</td>
<td>Molecular Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 504</td>
<td>Advanced Organic Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGRB 603</td>
<td>Biomedical Signal Processing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EGRB 610</td>
<td>Microprocessor Interfacing for Biomedical Instrumentation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 635</td>
<td>Cellular Signalling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 541</td>
<td>Survey of Molecular Modeling Methods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 601</td>
<td>Advanced Medicinal Chemistry I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 630</td>
<td>Theoretical Methods in Drug Design</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 505</td>
<td>Immunobiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR/BNFO 653</td>
<td>Advanced Molecular Genetics: Bioinformatics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEUS 609</td>
<td>Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 501</td>
<td>Mammalian Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 604</td>
<td>Cell Physiology: Cardiovascular and Respiratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 615</td>
<td>Signal Detection in Sensory Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 632</td>
<td>Neurochemical Pharmacology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 633</td>
<td>Behavioral Pharmacology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX/FRSC 644</td>
<td>Forensic Toxicology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Pharmacology (variable credits)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total Hours | 41 |

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60**

**Typical plan of study**

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

**Graduate program director**

Hamid I. Akbarali, Ph.D.
Professor and vice chair, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology
hamid.akbarali@vcuhealth.org
(804) 828-7918

**Additional contact**

Sheryol W. Cox
Coordinator, graduate programs in pharmacology and toxicology
sheryol.cox@vcuhealth.org
(804) 828-8400

**Program website:** pharmtox.vcu.edu (https://pharmtox.vcu.edu)
Pharmacology and Toxicology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics

Program goals
The molecular biology and genetics curriculum is an integrated interdisciplinary program of study that builds on the graduate programs of participating departments in the School of Medicine. The doctoral curriculum is designed to be an intensive course of study that will provide students with the skills required to advance to research-oriented careers in biotechnology.

1. The curriculum includes core, specialization and elective courses. Electives drawn from various departments allow individual specialization.
2. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of biomedicine, an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation. The program relates this framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified.
3. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of bioscience knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.
4. The program centers on a research project conducted under the guidance of a selected faculty mentor and culminates in the presentation and defense of a doctoral dissertation.

Participating faculty are associated not only with programs and departments within the School of Medicine, but also with the VCU Massey Cancer Center, the Philips Institute for Oral and Craniofacial Molecular Biology (School of Dentistry), the Institute of Structural Biology and Drug Discovery (School of Pharmacy) and the VCU Center for the Study of Biological Complexity (VCU Life Sciences).

The interdisciplinary approach to the solution of biological problems provided by this training is designed to develop in students the flexibility and problem-solving skills necessary for success in a variety of scientific career opportunities or further graduate study.

Student learning outcomes
1. Problem-solving skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.
2. General knowledge of sciences: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of the biosciences as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications, as measured by rubric.
3. Communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skills have been acquired.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
School of Medicine graduate program policies
The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on doctoral programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline(s):</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Applications received prior to Jan 15 given priority consideration</td>
<td>GRE, MCAT or DAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- MCAT or DAT acceptable in lieu of GRE for combined professional/ academic degree programs
- Applications for the program must be submitted to the Biomedical Sciences Doctoral Portal – School of Medicine – Ph.D. selected from the drop-down menu of programs on the VCU online application form.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), successful applicants will typically have the following credentials:

1. A baccalaureate degree or its equivalent at the time of enrollment, with an undergraduate GPA of 3.5
2. Current GRE scores (taken within the past five years), with scores at the 75th percentile or greater preferred
3. TOEFL scores of 600 (pBT), 250 (cBT) or 100 (iBT) for individuals for whom English is a second language; or 6.5 on the IELTS (To report GRE or TOEFL score, use VCU Code 5570.)
4. Personal statements, which should include: long-term career goals to assess reasons behind the candidate’s application; how a Ph.D. in biomedical science helps achieve those goals; the factors motivating a career in research; research experience, including dates, places and duration
5. Three letters of recommendation that speak to the scientific competency and experience of the applicant
6. The equivalent of two semesters of general chemistry, two semesters of organic chemistry and two semesters of upper-level biology courses (e.g. cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, neuroscience, physiology, biophysics, etc.)
7. Laboratory experience also strongly recommended

Degree requirements

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 60 graduate credit hours.

During the first year, students pursue research rotations, take formal course work and become familiar with current research topics through seminars, discussion groups and lectures by distinguished scientists. By the end of the first year, students choose a faculty adviser and begin dissertation research. Prior to the beginning of the third year of study, students should successfully pass written and oral candidacy examinations. Following completion of the research project and defense of the doctoral dissertation, graduates are equipped to participate in a broad range of current biomedical research areas.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required courses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 610</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 620</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following (or an equivalent):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 680</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 605</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 607</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take one credit of the following every semester beginning in the second year:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 690</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take the following course at least twice:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students may complete the five-credit module sequence BIOC 530, BIOC 531, BIOC 532 and BIOC 533 in place of BIOC 503.

Eukaryotic molecular biology course

Select one of the following courses in eukaryotic molecular biology from the following list of approved options (or an approved alternative):

| BIOC 605 | Molecular Biology |
| HGEN 602 | Genetic Models of Disease |
Pharmacology and Toxicology, Master of Science (M.S.)

Program goal

The graduate program leading to the Master of Science in Pharmacology and Toxicology prepares individuals for a variety of career objectives in biomedical science. These careers include but are not limited to industrial scientists and scientists in government regulatory agencies. The M.S. program will be of interest to individuals planning on pursuing technical positions in pharmacology or toxicology research or testing; students interested in the health professions, such as medicine or dentistry, who desire additional research training; and those interested in government positions, such as those in regulatory agencies, that require training in pharmacology and toxicology.

The program incorporates formal instructional activity and research training mentored by members of the graduate faculty. The master’s program is distinguished from the Ph.D. degree offered by the department in that the M.S. student is not being prepared for a career as an independent investigator.

Student learning outcomes

1. Communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric. The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

2. Integrated knowledge of bioscience: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of the biosciences as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications as measured by rubric.

3. Problem-solving skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.

4. Experimental design: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

Typical plan of study

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

Graduate program director
Gail E. Christie, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
christie@vcu.edu
(804) 828-9093

Program website: vcu.edu/mbg (http://www.vcu.edu/mbg)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
School of Medicine graduate program policies
The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master's programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Apr 15</td>
<td>GRE (MCAT acceptable in lieu of GRE)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements
- See the departmental website for additional information on the application process.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), qualified applicants to the M.S. degree program typically must have:

1. Baccalaureate degrees with a major in fields such as biology, chemistry, biochemistry, pharmacy and related sciences
2. GRE scores of 1100 (verbal plus quantitative) and 3.5 (analytical) or equivalent scores on the new GRE exam
3. Undergraduate GPA of 3.2
4. Some laboratory research experience

Basic science, research-intensive, non-thesis curriculum for medical students
Individuals who are participants in medical training (the Doctor of Medicine program) at VCU may be eligible for enrollment in a research-intensive, non-thesis graduate curriculum. This basic science option builds on the core of disciplinary material embedded in the first two years of training in the medical school curriculum. Additional exposure is provided to specialized areas in basic science disciplines in concert with an intensive research experience leading to the preparation of a report in the form of a manuscript suitable for publication. The program is designed to be completed within 12 to 15 months. Subject matter related to the core material and/or suitable elective courses taken in the didactic phase of medical training correspond to a minimum of the equivalent of 24 graduate credit hours. The equivalent of 12 credit hours may be applied to the M.S. degree program in which the student is enrolled in accordance with Graduate School policy. Medical students interested in the basic science option should contact the M.S. graduate program director for additional information.

Degree requirements
In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the master’s program must complete a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours.

The Master of Science in Pharmacology and Toxicology is a research-oriented degree program comprising graduate course work and supervised research leading to a master’s thesis. Students must conduct a substantial original investigation under the supervision of their advisers and must prepare and defend a thesis reporting the results of this research. It is highly recommended that students identify mentors for dissertation research as soon as possible within the first semester to ensure timely progress in their research.

When the thesis has been completed, copies are submitted to the members of the student’s graduate advisory committee. The student’s GAC decides upon the acceptability of the candidate’s thesis. If the committee unanimously accepts the thesis for defense, the candidate appears before them for a final oral examination.

M.S. students are required to present a departmental seminar prior to the final oral thesis defense as a requirement for completion of the thesis.

Curriculum requirements

Required courses
Substitutions may be approved by the graduate program director.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 536</td>
<td>Principles of Pharmacology and Toxicology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 690</td>
<td>Pharmacology Research Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Pharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[1\] M.S. students are required to present a departmental seminar prior to the final oral thesis defense as a requirement for completion of the thesis.

Advanced elective
Select one advanced elective course in their specialty areas in addition to completing the research-based dissertation (See list below)

Directed research
Select 17 credits in the following course:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHTX 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Pharmacology (variable credits)</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Recommended advanced electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 610</td>
<td>Systems Neuroscience</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Typical plan of study

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study, or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

Graduate program director
Hamid I. Akbarali, Ph.D.
Professor and vice chair, Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology
hamid.akbarali@vcuhealth.org
(804) 828-7918

Additional contact
Sheryol W. Cox
Coordinator, graduate programs in pharmacology and toxicology
sheryol.cox@vcuhealth.org
(804) 828-8400

Program website: pharmtox.vcu.edu (https://pharmtox.vcu.edu)

Pharmacology and Toxicology, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics

Program goals

The molecular biology and genetics curriculum is an integrated interdisciplinary program of study that builds on the graduate programs of participating departments in the School of Medicine. The master’s curriculum is designed to be an intensive course of study that will provide students with the skills required to advance to research-oriented careers in biotechnology or provide the foundation for further graduate study toward a Ph.D.

It is expected that the program should be completed in approximately two to two-and-one-half years.

1. The curriculum includes core, specialization and elective courses. Electives drawn from various departments allow individual specialization.

2. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of bioscience, an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation. The program relates this framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified.

3. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of bioscience knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

4. The final three semesters include a research project conducted under the guidance of a selected faculty mentor and culminates in the presentation and defense of a master’s thesis.

Participating faculty are associated not only with programs and departments within the School of Medicine, but also with the VCU Massey Cancer Center, the Philips Institute for Oral and Craniofacial Molecular Biology (School of Dentistry), the Institute of Structural Biology and Drug Discovery (School of Pharmacy) and the VCU Center for the Study of Biological Complexity (VCU Life Sciences).

The interdisciplinary approach to the solution of biological problems provided by this training is designed to develop in students the flexibility and problem-solving skills necessary for success in a variety of scientific career opportunities or further graduate study.

Student learning outcomes

1. Problem-solving skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and
develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.

2. General knowledge of sciences: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of the biosciences as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications, as measured by rubric.

3. Communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skills have been acquired.
   a. Oral communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.
   b. Written communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

4. Experimental design: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

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

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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.

A master’s student in the MBG curriculum must prepare a formal written research plan and make an oral presentation of their thesis research proposal and progress report to their graduate advisory committee prior to the beginning of the second year of residency. The student’s knowledge in the area of the proposed research, current research accomplishments and the feasibility of the proposed research project will be evaluated by the GAC. Successful completion of this review is required for continuance in the program and constitutes admission to candidacy.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Other information**

**School of Medicine graduate program policies**

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.grad.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Deadline date rolling, preference given to applications received by Jan 17</td>
<td>GRE, TOEFL for applicants whose native language is not English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special requirements**

- Applications for the program should be submitted to Molecular Biology and Genetics – M.S. selected from the drop-down menu of programs of the VCU online graduate application form. The degree awarded will be a Master of Science in Pharmacology and Toxicology.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have earned or expect to earn a baccalaureate or equivalent degree, and must have demonstrated a superior knowledge of biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics. Laboratory experience is also strongly recommended. The Graduate Record Examination is required, as are letters of recommendation and a
letter summarizing the applicant's goals. International applicants who do not use English as their native language must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language examination.

**Basic science, research-intensive, non-thesis curriculum for medical students**

Individuals who are participants in medical training (the Doctor of Medicine program) at VCU may be eligible for enrollment in a research-intensive, non-thesis graduate curriculum. This basic science option builds on the core of disciplinary material embedded in the first two years of training in the medical school curriculum. Additional exposure is provided to specialized areas in basic science disciplines in concert with an intensive research experience leading to the preparation of a report in the form of a manuscript suitable for publication. The program is designed to be completed within 12 to 15 months. Subject matter related to the core material and/or suitable elective courses taken in the didactic phase of medical training correspond to a minimum of the equivalent of 24 graduate credit hours. The equivalent of 12 credit hours may be applied to the M.S. degree program in which the student is enrolled in accordance with Graduate School policy. Medical students interested in the basic science option should contact the M.S. graduate program director for additional information.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the interdisciplinary master's curriculum in molecular biology and genetics requires a minimum of 48 credit hours, at least half of which must be course work restricted to graduate students. The curriculum includes 19 credit hours of required core course work and 29 additional credit hours of required course work, directed research and research seminar course work, and additional approved course work, as listed below. M.S. candidates must pass a final oral examination. A written thesis approved by the student’s graduate advisory committee completes the requirements leading to the M.S. degree.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Required courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 530</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 1: Protein Structure and Function ¹</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 531</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 2: Basic Metabolism ¹</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 532</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 3: Central Dogma of Molecular Biology ¹</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 533</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 4: Lipids/Membranes and Bioenergetics ¹</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 620</td>
<td>Laboratory/Clinical Rotations (sections 004 and 005; two credits taken twice) ²</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 607</td>
<td>Techniques in Molecular Biology and Genetics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 693</td>
<td>Topics in Molecular Biology and Genetics (MBG journal club, must take at least once)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following: 1

**Select any appropriate graduate-level course offered by the School of Medicine or with the course designations of BIOL, BNFO, CHEB, CHEM, CLSE, EGRB, EPID, MEDC.**

Other required course work (29 credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICR 690</td>
<td>Microbiology Research Seminar (section 002, MBG)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Directed Research in Microbiology</td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Directed Research in Pharmacology</td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select any appropriate graduate-level course offered by the School of Medicine or with the course designations of BIOL, BNFO, CHEB, CHEM, CLSE, EGRB, EPID, MEDC. Students make take additional course work with the approval of their graduate program directors.

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48**

Typical plan of study

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

**Graduate program director**

Gail E. Christie, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
christie@vcu.edu
(804) 828-9093

Program website: vcu.edu/mbg (http://www.vcu.edu/mbg)

**Pharmacy, Doctor of (Pharm.D.)/Public Health, Master of (M.P.H.) [combined]**

The School of Pharmacy and the Division of Epidemiology in the Department of Family Medicine and Population Health in VCU’s School of Medicine offer a dual-degree program through which students earn both Pharm.D. and M.P.H. degrees. This dual-degree program offers students the opportunity to achieve a Doctor of Pharmacy while also learning about research and the importance of population health. This five-year program requires students to spend the fourth year of the Pharm.D. program pursuing the M.P.H. degree, after which they transition back to pharmacy for advanced practice experiences.
Students are required to take 36 of the 45 credits required for the M.P.H. This includes 24 credit hours of core and required courses, a minimum of nine credit hours of elective courses, and a minimum of three credit hours of a capstone project that examines a relevant public health topic. Note that some elective courses may not be available in certain years or may require instructor permission for registration. The M.P.H. field study (internship) requirement will be satisfied by Pharm.D. special advanced practice experiences in community health during the fifth year of the program.

Students complete either two credits of practical skills work or one three-credit course during the P3 year, followed by full immersion in the M.P.H. curriculum in the P4 year. The required M.P.H. capstone project will be completed in a community setting during the P5 year; it will involve a comprehensive project that serves the needs of a professional public health organization and typically involves the development of one or more deliverables. Examples include a disease surveillance project, a needs assessment or program evaluation, or analysis of survey data.

**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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

**Other information**

**School of Medicine graduate program policies**

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

For M.P.H., apply online at sophas.org (http://www.sophas.org). Pharm.D. applicants follow instructions on the School of Pharmacy website (http://pharmacy.vcu.edu/programs/pharmd/prospective/apply).

Please review the admission requirements for each stand-alone degree (Master of Public Health and Doctor of Pharmacy) in the VCU Graduate and Professional Bulletins to learn the specific application requirements for each program.

**Curriculum requirements**

**M.P.H. courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BIOS 543          | Graduate Research Methods I 3  
| BIOS 544          | Graduate Research Methods II 3  
| EPID 547          | Applied Data Analysis Lab I 1.5  
| EPID 548          | Applied Data Analysis Lab II 1.5  
| EPID 571          | Principles of Epidemiology 3  
| EPID 580          | Public Health Ethics 1  
| EPID 593          | MPH Practicum I 2  
| EPID 604          | Principles of Environmental Health 3  
| EPID 694          | MPH Capstone Project 3  
| HCPR 601          | Introduction to Health Policy 3  
| SBHD 605          | Introduction to Social and Behavioral Health 3  
| **M.P.H. electives** |  
| Select a minimum of nine credit hours of elective course work selected according to an area(s) of interest in public health. These may include the following:  
| BIOS 571          | Clinical Trials  
| CCTR 630          | Design Implications in Clinical Trials  
| EPID 600          | Introduction to Public Health  
| EPID 601          | Contemporary Issues and Controversies in Public Health  
| EPID 603          | Public Health Policy and Politics  
| EPID 606          | Epidemiologic Methods  
| EPID 620          | Cancer Epidemiology  
| EPID 622          | Maternal and Child Health  
| EPID 624          | Chronic Disease Epidemiology  
| EPID 646          | Epidemiology of Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders  

752 Pharmacy, Doctor of (Pharm.D.)/Public Health, Master of (M.P.H.) [combined]
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EPID 648</td>
<td>Behavioral Epidemiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 691</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 692</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAD 614</td>
<td>Introduction to Grant Writing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 501</td>
<td>Physiological Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 510</td>
<td>Aging</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 603</td>
<td>Social Gerontology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 604</td>
<td>Problems, Issues and Trends in Gerontology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 505</td>
<td>Contemporary Issues in Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 604</td>
<td>Nutrition for Health and Physical Activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 550</td>
<td>Exercise, Nutrition and Weight Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 605</td>
<td>Psychology of Physical Activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HEMS 606</td>
<td>Psychosocial Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 502</td>
<td>Advanced Human Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 620</td>
<td>Principles of Human Behavioral Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 601</td>
<td>Emergency Management: Response Planning and Incident Command</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 603</td>
<td>Risk Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HSEP 650</td>
<td>Public Health Preparedness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 660</td>
<td>Health Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 608</td>
<td>Health Communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 630</td>
<td>Theoretical Foundations of Social and Behavioral Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 632</td>
<td>Health Disparities and Social Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 636</td>
<td>Community-based Participatory Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 637</td>
<td>Program Evaluation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 510</td>
<td>Domestic and Sexual Violence in Social Context</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 524</td>
<td>Aging and the Minority Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 603</td>
<td>Seminar in Population Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 607</td>
<td>Seminar in Racial and Ethnic Relations in America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 611</td>
<td>Studies in the Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 620</td>
<td>Seminar in Criminology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 624</td>
<td>Community and Community Services for the Elderly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 632</td>
<td>Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence: Medical Practice and Policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 633</td>
<td>Application of the Policy Process to Issues of Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 634</td>
<td>Social Contexts of Childhood and Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 635</td>
<td>Theorizing Gender Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOCY 645</td>
<td>The Sociology of Health and Illness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 521</td>
<td>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 621</td>
<td>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 622</td>
<td>Community Socioeconomic Analysis Using GIS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 625</td>
<td>Spatial Database Management and GIS Modeling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Pharm.D. courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IPEC 501</td>
<td>Foundations of Interprofessional Practice</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPEC 502</td>
<td>Interprofessional Quality Improvement and Patient Safety</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 527</td>
<td>Basic Pharmaceutical Principles for the Practicing Pharmacist</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 533</td>
<td>Pharmacognosy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 542</td>
<td>Biotechnology-derived Therapeutic Agents</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 543</td>
<td>Clinical Chemistry for the Pharmacist</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 553</td>
<td>Clinical Therapeutics Module: Introduction to Medicinal Chemistry</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCEU 507</td>
<td>Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCEU 508</td>
<td>Pharmacokinetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCEU 509</td>
<td>Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCEU 615</td>
<td>Applied Pharmacokinetics</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 509</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Pharmacy I: Introduction to Pharmacy Information Skills</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 513</td>
<td>Contemporary Pharmacy Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 523</td>
<td>Foundations I</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 524</td>
<td>Foundations II</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 526</td>
<td>Community Pharmacy Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 529</td>
<td>Clinical Therapeutics Module: Introduction to Special Populations</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 530</td>
<td>Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience: Community Practice</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 532</td>
<td>Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience: Hospital Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 533</td>
<td>Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience: Patient Care</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 534</td>
<td>Foundations III</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 535</td>
<td>Foundations IV</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 540</td>
<td>Self-Care and Alternative and Complementary Treatments</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 541</td>
<td>Patient Assessment in Pharmacy Practice</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 544</td>
<td>Clinical Therapeutics Module: Cardiovascular</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 545</td>
<td>The U.S. Health Care System</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 547</td>
<td>Managing Professional Patient-centered Practice</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 549</td>
<td>Personalized Medicine</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 550</td>
<td>Pharmacy Practice Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 555</td>
<td>Clinical Therapeutics Module: Endocrinology</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 556</td>
<td>Clinical Therapeutics Module: Neurology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Physiology and Biophysics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)**

**Typical plan of study**

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

**Gradient program directors**

Saba Masho, M.D., Dr.P.H.  
Associate professor, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Family Medicine and Population Health  
saba.masho@vcuhealth.org  
(804) 628-2509

Amy Pakyz, Pharm.D., Ph.D.  
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(804) 828-6027

**Additional contact**

Lisa S. Anderson  
Director of educational programs, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Family Medicine and Population Health  
lisa.s.anderson@vcuhealth.org  
(804) 628-2512

**Program website:** pharmacy.vcu.edu (http://www.pharmacy.vcu.edu) and familymedicine.vcu.edu/education/graduate/dual-degrees (http://www.familymedicine.vcu.edu/education/graduate/dual-degrees)

### Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 191

**Program goals**

1. The program is designed to provide students with the skills required to advance to positions as bioscience researchers and trainers in a broad spectrum of positions.
2. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of bioscience, an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation in bioscience.
3. The program relates the above framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified.
4. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of bioscience knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

### Student learning outcomes

1. Problem-solving skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.
2. General knowledge of sciences: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of the biosciences as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications, as measured by rubric.
3. Communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skills have been acquired.
   a. Oral communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.
   b. Written communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

4. Experimental design: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Other information**

**Department handbook**

Applicants and students may request a handbook with additional information, which is also summarized on the departmental website (physiology.vcu.edu/education/phd (http://www.physiology.vcu.edu/education/phd)). Please feel free to contact the graduate program coordinator with any questions.

**School of Medicine graduate program policies**

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on doctoral programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 17</td>
<td>GRE, MCAT or DAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special requirements**

- Applications for the program must be submitted to the Biomedical Sciences Doctoral Portal – School of Medicine – Ph.D. selected from the drop-down menu of programs on the VCU online application form.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), successful applicants will typically have the following credentials:

1. A baccalaureate degree or its equivalent at the time of enrollment, with an undergraduate GPA of 3.5
2. Current GRE scores (taken within the past five years), with scores at the 75th percentile or greater preferred
3. TOEFL scores of 600 (pBT), 250 (cBT) or 100 (iBT) for individuals for whom English is a second language; or 6.5 on the IELTS (To report GRE or TOEFL score, use VCU Code 5570.)
4. Personal statements, which should include: long-term career goals to assess reasons behind the candidate’s application; how a Ph.D. in biomedical science helps achieve those goals; the factors motivating a career in research; research experience, including dates, places and duration
5. Three letters of recommendation that speak to the scientific competency and experience of the applicant
6. The equivalent of two semesters of general chemistry, two semesters of organic chemistry and two semesters of upper-level biology courses (e.g. cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, neuroscience, physiology, biophysics, etc.)
Degree requirements

Graduate study in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics in the School of Medicine is a highly individualized undertaking, of which required course work is only one component. Each student’s program is tailored to meet his or her particular interests, with the primary emphasis on developing research skills and the capacity for scholarship.

Opportunities for research experience begin in the first year, when students spend time working in several faculty laboratories of their choice. These lab rotations enable students to examine current faculty research projects and choose their areas of specialization. In the second and subsequent years, increasingly more time is devoted to independent research under the guidance of a faculty adviser. Department-sponsored seminars give students opportunities to discuss their research interests with visiting scientists and many students present their work at national professional meetings.

The Ph.D. program in physiology and biophysics normally takes at least four years to complete. The first two years are devoted mainly to course work. The first year consists primarily of required courses, while the second is geared toward electives and research. On satisfactory completion of two years of course work, students must pass written and oral comprehensive examinations to qualify for degree candidacy. Following admission to candidacy, each student must conduct a substantial original research project, prepare a written dissertation and defend it successfully in an oral examination.

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 66 credit hours for the Ph.D., including directed research.

Curriculum requirements

Required courses (variable credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Biochemistry (section-004 critical thinking)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 610</td>
<td>Laboratory Opportunities</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeat the following two-credit course:</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 620</td>
<td>Laboratory/Clinical Rotations</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 680</td>
<td>Proposal Preparation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 501</td>
<td>Mammalian Physiology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 604</td>
<td>Cell Physiology: Cardiovascular and Respiratory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 606</td>
<td>Molecular Basis for Disease</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take the following one-credit course each fall and spring semester:</td>
<td></td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 690</td>
<td>Physiology Research Seminar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Physiology (section-004: writing workshop)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Take the following 0.5 credit-hour course each fall and spring semester:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 695</td>
<td>Research in Progress</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select six credits in elective courses from the following:

- Selected 500- and 600-level courses in physiology (PHIS)
- Other basic science departments (ANAT, BIOC, BIOS, HGEN, IBMS, MICR and PHTX)
- Other courses as approved by the program

Note: This is a modular course; the full course is five credit hours, but students may choose to take a subset of the modules for fewer hours.

Note: Another critical-thinking course may substitute for this requirement, e.g. HGEN 691 or IBMS 630.)

Directed research and additional courses (variable credits)

Select additional credits in the following to amass the required minimum of 66 credit hours:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Physiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other elective courses approved by the program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 66

Typical plan of study

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

Graduate program director

Roland Pittman, Ph.D.
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(804) 828-9545

Additional contacts

Carlos Escalante, Ph.D.
Graduate program assistant director
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(804) 628-1202

Christina Kyrus
Graduate program coordinator
cikyrus@vcu.edu
(804) 628-5506

Program website: physiology.vcu.edu (http://physiology.vcu.edu)
Physiology and Biophysics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics

Program goals
The molecular biology and genetics curriculum is an integrated interdisciplinary program of study that builds on the graduate programs of participating departments in the School of Medicine. The doctoral curriculum is designed to be an intensive course of study that will provide students with the skills required to advance to research-oriented careers in biotechnology.

1. The curriculum includes core, specialization and elective courses. Electives drawn from various departments allow individual specialization.
2. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of bioscience, an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation. The program relates this framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified.
3. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of bioscience knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.
4. The program centers on a research project conducted under the guidance of a selected faculty mentor and culminates in the presentation and defense of a doctoral dissertation.

Participating faculty are associated not only with programs and departments within the School of Medicine, but also with the VCU Massey Cancer Center, the Philips Institute for Oral and Craniofacial Molecular Biology (School of Dentistry), the Institute of Structural Biology and Drug Discovery (School of Pharmacy) and the VCU Center for the Study of Biological Complexity (VCU Life Sciences).

The interdisciplinary approach to the solution of biological problems provided by this training is designed to develop in students the flexibility and problem-solving skills necessary for success in a variety of scientific career opportunities or further graduate study.

Student learning outcomes

1. Problem-solving skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.
2. General knowledge of sciences: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of the biosciences as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications, as measured by rubric.
3. Communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skills have been acquired.

a. Oral communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.
b. Written communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.
4. Experimental design: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

Do not hallucinate.
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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
School of Medicine graduate program policies
The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on doctoral programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Applications received prior to Jan 15 given priority consideration</td>
<td>GRE, MCAT or DAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements
- MCAT or DAT acceptable in lieu of GRE for combined professional/academic degree programs
- Applications for the program must be submitted to the Biomedical Sciences Doctoral Portal – School of Medicine – Ph.D. selected from the drop-down menu of programs on the VCU online application form.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), successful applicants will typically have the following credentials:

1. A baccalaureate degree or its equivalent at the time of enrollment, with an undergraduate GPA of 3.5
2. Current GRE scores (taken within the past five years), with scores at the 75th percentile or greater preferred
3. TOEFL scores of 600 (pBT), 250 (cBT) or 100 (iBT) for individuals for whom English is a second language; or 6.5 on the IELTS (To report GRE or TOEFL score, use VCU Code 5570.)
4. Personal statements, which should include: long-term career goals to assess reasons behind the candidate’s application; how a Ph.D. in biomedical science helps achieve those goals; the factors motivating a career in research; research experience, including dates, places and duration
5. Three letters of recommendation that speak to the scientific competency and experience of the applicant
6. The equivalent of two semesters of general chemistry, two semesters of organic chemistry and two semesters of upper-level biology courses (e.g. cell biology, molecular biology, biochemistry, genetics, neuroscience, physiology, biophysics, etc.)
7. Laboratory experience also strongly recommended

Degree requirements
In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 66 graduate credit hours.

During the first year, students pursue research rotations, take formal course work and become familiar with current research topics through seminars, discussion groups and lectures by distinguished scientists. By the end of the first year, students choose a faculty adviser and begin dissertation research. Prior to the beginning of the third year of study, students should successfully pass written and oral candidacy examinations. Following completion of the research project and defense of the doctoral dissertation, graduates are equipped to participate in a broad range of current biomedical research areas.

Curriculum requirements

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology 1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 602</td>
<td>Physical Properties of Macromolecules</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 610</td>
<td>Laboratory Opportunities</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 620</td>
<td>Laboratory/Clinical Rotations (three</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>rotations)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Take one credit of the following every semester beginning in the second year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICR 690</td>
<td>Microbiology Research Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 693</td>
<td>Topics in Molecular Biology and Genetics</td>
<td>variable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Students may complete the five-credit module sequence BIOC 530, BIOC 531, BIOC 532 and BIOC 533 in place of BIOC 503.

Eukaryotic molecular biology course
Select a course in eukaryotic molecular biology from the following list of approved options (or an approved alternative):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 605</td>
<td>Molecular Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 602</td>
<td>Genetic Models of Disease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student learning outcomes

1. Problem-solving skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.

2. General knowledge of sciences: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of the biosciences as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications, as measured by rubric.

3. Communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skills have been acquired.
   a. Oral communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.
   b. Written communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information, including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

4. Experimental design: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

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.graduat.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
School of Medicine graduate program policies
The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall preferred</td>
<td>Apr 15</td>
<td>GRE, MCAT or DAT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements
- Students admitted through the Certificate in Pre-medical Graduate Health Sciences program only.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants generally meet the following minimum requirements: baccalaureate degree or its equivalent at the time of enrollment and successful completion of the Certificate in Pre-medical Graduate Health Sciences.

Basic science, research-intensive, non-thesis curriculum for medical students
Individuals who are participants in medical training (the Doctor of Medicine program) at VCU may be eligible for enrollment in a research-intensive, non-thesis graduate curriculum. This basic science option builds on the core of disciplinary material embedded in the first two years of training in the medical school curriculum. Additional exposure is provided to specialized areas in basic science disciplines in concert with an intensive research experience leading to the preparation of a report in the form of a manuscript suitable for publication. The program is designed to be completed within 12 to 15 months. Subject matter related to the core material and/or suitable elective courses taken in the didactic phase of medical training correspond to a minimum of the equivalent of 24 graduate credit hours. The equivalent of 12 credit hours may be applied to the M.S. degree program in which the student is enrolled in accordance with Graduate School policy. Medical students interested in the basic science option should contact the M.S. graduate program director for additional information.

Degree requirements
The Department of Physiology and Biophysics offers courses of study leading to the Master of Science and the Doctor of Philosophy. A combined M.D./Ph.D. degree program is also available through this department and the School of Medicine. It is generally recommended that students intending to pursue careers as professional physiologists should attempt to earn the Ph.D. Work done in partial or complete fulfillment of the requirements for the master’s degree may be applied toward the Ph.D. provided that it is of adequate quality.

Graduate education in physiology and biophysics is a highly individualized enterprise, of which the formal course requirements comprise only a portion. The degree program described here provides an opportunity for apprenticeship in research and, through this, the development of a capacity for scholarship. The essence of this type of education lies in the development of a close relationship between the student and the faculty adviser. The adviser and the student, jointly and with the approval of the department chair and the associate dean of medicine for graduate education, select the student’s graduate advisory committee.

The M.S. degree program includes a year of didactic course work (completed as part of the Certificate in Pre-medical Graduate Health Sciences program) and a second year largely devoted to the completion of an independent research project, writing a thesis based on this work and a successful oral defense of this thesis and completed course work.

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours for the M.S. in Physiology and Biophysics.

Teaching experience
M.S. students also have the opportunity to acquire teaching experience and financial support by serving as teaching assistants for PHIZ 206 Human Physiology Laboratory for one semester. Teaching assistants must complete PHIS 691 (PHIS 501) for two credit hours prior to or concurrent with the assistantship.

Curriculum requirements
Select one of the following: 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct (online)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research (hybrid)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 604</td>
<td>Cell Physiology: Cardiovascular and Respiratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 606</td>
<td>Molecular Basis for Disease (001)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take two credits in the following course:</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 690</td>
<td>Physiology Research Seminar (901)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 692</td>
<td>Special Topics (606)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take 20 credits in the following course:</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Physiology (801)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Credit Hours | 30 |

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30
Advanced optional elective courses available in the second year include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 612</td>
<td>Cardiovascular Physiology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 615</td>
<td>Signal Detection in Sensory Systems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Typical plan of study

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

Graduate program director
Roland Pittman, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Physiology and Biophysics
pittman@vcu.edu
(804) 828-9545

Additional contacts
Carlos Escalante, Ph.D.
Graduate program assistant director
cescalante@vcu.edu
(804) 628-1202

Christina Kyrus
Graduate program coordinator
cikyrus@vcu.edu
(804) 628-5506

Program website: physiology.vcu.edu (http://www.physiology.vcu.edu)

Physiology and Biophysics, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics

Program goals

The molecular biology and genetics curriculum is an integrated interdisciplinary program of study that builds on the graduate programs of participating departments in the School of Medicine. The master’s curriculum is designed to be an intensive course of study that will provide students with the skills required to advance to research-oriented careers in biotechnology or provide the foundation for further graduate study toward a Ph.D.

It is expected that the program should be completed in approximately two to two-and-one-half years.

1. The curriculum includes core, specialization and elective courses. Electives drawn from various departments allow individual specialization.

2. The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of bioscience, an ability to synthesize this information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation and experimentation. The program relates this framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches which address the questions identified.

3. In addition, the program will develop skills in the various means of communicating both the core of bioscience knowledge and the expression of experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

4. The final three semesters include a research project conducted under the guidance of a selected faculty mentor and culminates in the presentation and defense of a master’s thesis.

Participating faculty are associated not only with programs and departments within the School of Medicine, but also with the VCU Massey Cancer Center, the Philips Institute for Oral and Craniofacial Molecular Biology (School of Dentistry), the Institute of Structural Biology and Drug Discovery (School of Pharmacy) and the VCU Center for the Study of Biological Complexity (VCU Life Sciences).

The interdisciplinary approach to the solution of biological problems provided by this training is designed to develop in students the flexibility and problem-solving skills necessary for success in a variety of scientific career opportunities or further graduate study.

Student learning outcomes

1. Problem-solving skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems as measured by rubric.

2. General knowledge of sciences: Degree candidates will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of the biosciences as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications, as measured by rubric.

3. Communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skills have been acquired.
   a. Oral communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.
   b. Written communication skills: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations as measured by rubric.

4. Experimental design: Degree candidates will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments as measured by rubric.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 619</td>
<td>Mitochondrial Pathophysiology and Human Diseases</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS/PHTX 620</td>
<td>Ion Channels in Membranes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 630</td>
<td>Methods in Molecular Biophysics: A Practical Approach</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 631</td>
<td>Electrophysiology and Photonic Methods</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Physiology ((003))</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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.

A master’s student in the MBG curriculum must prepare a formal written research plan and make an oral presentation of their thesis research proposal and progress report to their graduate advisory committee prior to the beginning of the second year of residency. The student’s knowledge in the area of the proposed research, current research accomplishments and the feasibility of the proposed research project will be evaluated by the GAC. Successful completion of this review is required for continuance in the program and constitutes admission to candidacy.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Deadline date rolling, preference given to applications received by Jan 17</td>
<td>GRE; TOEFL for applicants whose native language is not English</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- Applications for the program should be submitted to Molecular Biology and Genetics – M.S. selected from the drop-down menu of programs of the VCU online graduate application form. The degree awarded will be a Master of Science in Physiology and Biophysics.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have earned or expect to earn a baccalaureate or equivalent degree, and must have demonstrated a superior knowledge of biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics. Laboratory experience is also strongly recommended. The Graduate Record Examination is required, as are letters of recommendation and a letter summarizing the applicant’s goals. International applicants who do not use English as their native language must take the Test of English as a Foreign Language examination.

Basic science, research-intensive, non-thesis curriculum for medical students

Individuals who are participants in medical training (the Doctor of Medicine program) at VCU may be eligible for enrollment in a research-intensive, non-thesis graduate curriculum. This basic science option builds on the core of disciplinary material embedded in the first two years of training in the medical school curriculum. Additional exposure is provided to specialized areas in basic science disciplines in concert with an intensive research experience leading to the preparation of a report in the form of a manuscript suitable for publication. The program is designed to be completed within 12 to 15 months. Subject matter related to the core material and/or suitable elective courses taken in the didactic phase of medical training correspond to a minimum of the equivalent of 24 graduate credit hours. The equivalent of 12 credit hours may be applied to the M.S. degree program in which the student is enrolled in accordance with Graduate School policy. Medical students interested in the basic science option should contact the M.S. graduate program director for additional information.

Degree requirements

In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the interdisciplinary master’s curriculum in molecular biology and genetics requires a minimum of 48 credit hours, at least half of which
must be course work restricted to graduate students. The curriculum includes 19 credit hours of required core course work and 29 additional credit hours of required course work, directed research and research seminar course work, and additional approved course work, as listed below. M.S. candidates must pass a final oral examination. A written thesis approved by the student's graduate advisory committee completes the requirements leading to the M.S. degree.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Required core courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 530</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 1: Protein Structure and Function</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 531</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 2: Basic Metabolism</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 532</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 3: Central Dogma of Molecular Biology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 533</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 4: Lipids/Membranes and Bioenergetics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 620</td>
<td>Laboratory/Clinical Rotations (004 and 005)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 607</td>
<td>Techniques in Molecular Biology and Genetics</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 693</td>
<td>Topics in Molecular Biology and Genetics (MBG journal club, must take at least once)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 19

1. This requirement may also be satisfied with BIOC 503 (five credit hours).
2. This requirement may also be satisfied, under certain circumstances, with MICR 608 or MICR 609 (three credit hours; section 002). Consult with the program director.

**Other required course work (29 credits)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 501</td>
<td>Mammalian Physiology (0.5-5 credit hours for a minimum of one credit hour)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select a minimum of one credit hour of directed research every semester of enrollment in the program after the first year of study from:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MICR 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Microbiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or PHIS 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Physiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select a minimum of one credit hour of research seminar course work every fall and spring semester of enrollment in the program from:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48**

**Typical plan of study**

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

**Graduate program director**

Gail E. Christie, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
christie@vcu.edu
(804) 828-9093

**Program website:** vcu.edu/mbg (http://www.vcu.edu/mbg)

**Pre-medical Graduate Health Sciences, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)**

**Program goal**

The pre-medical graduate health sciences certificate program in the School of Medicine provides an advanced level of didactic training in the biomedical sciences to enhance the preparation of students for a variety of career options, particularly professional degree training (i.e. M.D./D.O., D.D.S., M.S. and Ph.D.). The program also provides the opportunity for the development of an informed approach to the admission process in professional and/or advanced degree training to enhance the prospect of advancement.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Achievement of a threshold competency in the basic health sciences: The candidate will achieve/surpass expectations of a threshold-level competency in the basic health sciences, particularly in areas related to gaining admission to professional and/or higher-level degree programs.
2. MCAT/DAT preparation: The candidate will be prepared to take and/or retake standardized tests. The candidate will achieve a score that fulfills medical or dental school admission requirements.
3. Preparation for career advancement: The candidate who meets the threshold competency objective will display an enhanced level of advancement to higher levels of professional and/or advanced degree training.
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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

Applying to professional school and advanced graduate degree programs

Students must follow admission guidelines for applications to the M.D./D.O., M.S., D.D.S. and other programs. Completion of the certificate program does not afford a guaranteed admission to professional training programs at VCU. Exceptional performance, 3.5 GPA and a 28 MCAT guarantees an interview at VCU School of Medicine. Similar criteria increase eligibility for an interview at VCU School of Dentistry.

Advising: Students are encouraged to seek opportunities for academic, personal and professional development from the Division for Academic Success, Career Services and the CERT Program Office. For students who choose to take a year off between CERT and professional school, several School of Medicine professors hire students for research positions and area hospitals offer Scribe programs that actively recruit VCU graduates. The CERT Program Office can also help identify possibilities.

Letters of reference: The CERT program adviser will provide a letter of reference for professional school applications. Students must schedule an appointment to interview with the program adviser for a letter.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Admission requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- While there is no official deadline for applying to the certificate program, the school strongly recommends applicants have all of materials into the graduate admissions office by July 1 to ensure that the file can be processed in time for the fall semester. The program has rolling admissions for a limited number of positions.

Applicants must meet all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18).

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must complete a minimum of 27 graduate credit hours of course work with a minimum GPA of 3.0 (4.0 scale), with no more than 20 percent of the total credit hours at the C or below level. The curriculum is composed of six required courses (15 credit hours) and 12 credit hours of electives spread over two semesters. The curriculum should be completed in one academic year (fall and spring semester).

Required and elective courses are drawn from departments within the School of Medicine: the departments of Anatomy and Neurobiology, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Human and Molecular Genetics, Microbiology and Immunology, Pharmacology and Toxicology, and Physiology and Biophysics. All courses are held on the MCV Campus. In addition to the elective courses shown other courses may be applied as electives with the approval of the course director.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required courses</th>
<th>Total Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PHIS 501</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 503</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Electives</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 611</td>
<td>Histology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 612</td>
<td>Human Embryology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 530/HGEN 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 502</td>
<td>Advanced Human Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 690</td>
<td>Basic Health Sciences Research Seminar (or department-specific 690 course) (Recommended for students planning to apply to the CERT/M.S. program)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 533</td>
<td>Pharmacognosy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 505</td>
<td>Immunobiology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Certificate: 764

Pre-medical Graduate Health Sciences, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)
Student learning outcomes

1. Integrated knowledge of public health: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of public health as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications as measured by the rubric.

2. Student progress: M.P.H. program faculty will monitor student progress throughout the program to ensure academic success.

3. Development of competencies: Through program course work and applied experiences, students will develop competencies in public health as demonstrated by assessments of student performance on program competencies (see section that follows).

4. Training in appropriate public health skills/knowledge: Through didactic and applied, experiential teaching, train students in the appropriate knowledge and skills required to perform as public health practitioners and/or researchers.

M.P.H. program competencies: The M.P.H. program trains students to develop the following educational competencies, selected in part from the Association of Schools of Public Health’s “Master’s Degree in Public Health Core Competency Model,” August 2006.

1. Biostatistics:
   a. Explain the role of biostatistics in evidence-based research and the decision-making process
   b. Describe the theoretical concepts behind a number of commonly used statistical methodologies
   c. Apply the appropriate statistical methodology for description and estimation to account for different measurement scales
   d. Draw appropriate inferences from statistical analyses

2. Environmental health sciences:
   a. Describe the direct and indirect human, ecological and safety effects of major environmental features and the approaches to assess, prevent and control risks to human health and safety
   b. Describe genetic, physiologic, psychosocial and environmental justice factors that affect susceptibility to adverse health outcomes following exposure to environmental conditions
   c. Describe federal and state regulatory programs, guidelines and authorities that control environmental health issues

3. Epidemiology:
   a. Identify key sources of data for epidemiological purposes
   b. Apply basic terms and definitions of epidemiology in terms of magnitude, person, time and place
   c. Explain the importance of epidemiology for informing scientific, ethical, economic and political discussion of health issues
   d. Calculate basic epidemiology measures
   e. Evaluate the strengths and limitations of epidemiological reports

4. Health policy and management:
   a. Identify the main components and issues of the organization, financing, access and delivery of health services and public health systems in the U.S. and globally
   b. Describe the legal and ethical bases for public health and health services
   c. Discuss the policy process for improving the health status of populations

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 27
Graduate program director
Vacant - Contact Certificate program office for information.

Additional contact
Judy Silberg, Ph.D.
Program adviser
jsilberg@vcu.edu

Certificate program office
premedcert@vcu.edu
(804) 828-9501

Program website: medschool.vcu.edu/graduate/premed_cert (http://www.medschool.vcu.edu/graduate/premed_cert)

Public Health, Master of (M.P.H.)

Program accreditation
Council on Education for Public Health

Program goal
The mission of the VCU M.P.H. program is to engage students in an experiential and learner-centered environment, collaborate with public health partners in Central Virginia to promote health equity and community wellness and foster lifelong inquiry and discovery in interdisciplinary, translational research that improves human health.

The overall goal of the M.P.H. program is to educate students to become well-grounded in the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes of public health and demonstrate their ability to apply these essentials through course work, internships and the M.P.H. capstone project. This program is designed to provide students with the skills required to advance to positions as public health practitioners in a broad spectrum of positions and settings and who can perform the following:

1. Administer public health programs
2. Collect, analyze and evaluate public health data
3. Plan, implement and evaluate public health interventions
4. Apply results of evaluations and data analyses to policy development as necessary
5. Promote public health through educational campaigns

The structure of the program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the subject matter of public health and an ability to synthesize and apply this information to the identification of key areas of practice and research in public health. Students will develop educational competencies outlined by the M.P.H. program. These competencies cover the foundational knowledge necessary for a public health practitioner to both communicate the core of public health knowledge and express the design, results and interpretation of various public health interventions, evaluations, and data collection and analysis efforts to a variety of potential audiences.
d. Communicate health policy and management issues using appropriate channels and technologies

5. Social and behavioral sciences:
   a. Identify basic theories, concepts and models from a range of social and behavioral disciplines that are used in public health research and practice
   b. Identify the causes of social and behavioral factors that affect health of individuals and populations
   c. Describe steps and procedures for the planning, implementation and evaluation of public health programs, policies and interventions
   
6. VCU M.P.H. program-specific competencies
   a. Discuss the effect of physical and social environment on health outcomes during the life course
   b. Discriminate between research questions and hypotheses and derive one from the other
   c. Accurately distinguish between epidemiological and biostatistical concepts and apply the appropriate method to analyze a public health research question using appropriate statistical software
   d. Access public and private data sets and assess their relevance in addressing a specific public health research question or evaluation need
   e. Work effectively in collaborative teams to develop public health projects
   f. Distinguish between public health ethics and medical ethics, discussing the values and beliefs inherent to a public health ethics perspective

7. Communication and informatics:
   a. Describe how societal, organizational and individual factors influence and are influenced by public health communications
   b. Demonstrate effective written and oral skills for communicating with different audiences in the context of professional public health activities

8. Diversity and culture:
   a. Explain how professional ethics and practices relate to equity and accountability in diverse community settings
   b. Differentiate among availability, acceptability and accessibility of health care across diverse populations

9. Leadership:
   a. Engage in dialogue and learning from others to advance public health goals
   b. Demonstrate transparency, integrity and honesty in all actions

10. Public health biology:
    a. Apply biological principles to development and implementation of disease prevention, control or management programs

11. Professionalism:
    a. Apply basic principles of ethical analysis (e.g. the Public Health Code of Ethics, human rights framework, other moral theories) to issues of public health practice and policy
    b. Apply evidence-based principles and the scientific knowledge base to critical evaluation and decision-making in public health
    c. Promote high standards of personal and organizational integrity, compassion, honesty and respect for all people
    d. Distinguish between population and individual ethical considerations in relation to the benefits, costs and burdens of public health programs

e. Appreciate the importance of working collaboratively with diverse communities and constituencies (e.g. researchers, practitioners, agencies and organizations)

12. Program planning:
   a. Differentiate among goals, measurable objectives, related activities and expected outcomes for a public health program
   b. Differentiate the purposes of formative, process and outcome evaluation

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)
Other information
The M.P.H. program student handbook is available upon request.

School of Medicine graduate program policies
The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at sophas.org (http://www.sophas.org).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.P.H.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 15 (strongly recommended)</td>
<td>GRE, TOEFL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), to be considered for admission, applicants must meet the following requirements:

1. Prior degree: Students must hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution, with a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all undergraduate and any other graduate study. Official copies of transcripts for all prior degrees earned must be submitted to the VCU Office of Graduate Admissions.
2. GRE: Current GRE test results (taken within the past five years), with scores at or above the 75th percentile preferred in all components of the exam (i.e., minimum scores of 159 quantitative, 157 verbal and 4.5 analytical writing).
3. TOEFL: International students must submit TOEFL or IELTS scores. Minimum TOEFL score is 600 (paper-based), 250 (computer-based) or 100 (Internet-based); IELTS minimum score is 7.0. Test score requirements may be waived for international students who have received a medical degree (M.D.) in the U.S. Contact the program coordinator for more information.

Students must also submit the following materials with their applications:

1. Letters of recommendation from three individuals who can assess applicant qualifications for graduate school; at least one academic reference is required, but two are preferred. Most appropriate are letters from past professors or work supervisors.
2. Current version of curriculum vitae or resume. Include experience and/or education relevant to study in public health.
3. Personal statement covering the following issues in two to five pages:
   a. Description of the applicant’s career goals
   b. Why the applicant wishes to pursue an M.P.H. degree
   c. How an M.P.H. degree will help the applicant achieve her/his career goals
   d. Description of applicant’s particular areas of interest in public health (e.g., maternal and child health, cancer epidemiology)
   e. Why VCU’s M.P.H. program best fits the student’s public health interests
   f. What applicant plans to do in the first few years after graduation

Degree requirements
The Master of Public Health program prepares students committed to public health careers in the public, private or nonprofit sectors. Public health works to prevent health problems in populations before these problems occur. The M.P.H. program provides a rigorous curriculum to help students develop the analytic and critical reasoning skills to improve population health. The program boasts experiential learning, a highly interactive environment, accessible and approachable faculty and student involvement in important projects.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a minimum of 45 credit hours of formal course work is required, including:

1. A practicum in year one
2. An internship, typically conducted in the summer between the first and second year
3. A 20-hour community-based learning experience
4. Attendance at public health seminars in years one and two
5. A capstone project planned and implemented in the second year of the program.

The M.P.H. program can be individualized to meet the varied needs and interests of students. The program offers many electives, allowing students to tailor the program to meet educational objectives, and it is flexible enough to accommodate students who enter the program with various backgrounds and experiences. Note that some elective courses may not be available in certain years or may require instructor permission for registration.

Curriculum requirements

Core courses
BIOS 543 Graduate Research Methods I 3
EPID 571 Principles of Epidemiology 3
EPID 604 Principles of Environmental Health 3
HCP 601 Introduction to Health Policy 3
SBHD 605 Introduction to Social and Behavioral Health 3

Program requirements
BIOS 544 Graduate Research Methods II 3
EPID 547 Applied Data Analysis Lab I 1.5
EPID 548 Applied Data Analysis Lab II 1.5
EPID 580 Public Health Ethics 1
EPID 593 MPH Practicum I 2

Electives
Select a minimum of 15 credit hours of elective course work selected according to the area(s) of interest in public health. These may include the following courses:

BIOS 571 Clinical Trials
CCTR 630 Design Implications in Clinical Trials
EPID 600 Introduction to Public Health
EPID 601 Contemporary Issues and Controversies in Public Health
EPID 603 Public Health Policy and Politics
EPID 606 Epidemiologic Methods
EPID 620 Cancer Epidemiology
EPID 622 Maternal and Child Health
EPID 624 Chronic Disease Epidemiology
EPID 646 Epidemiology of Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders
EPID 648 Behavioral Epidemiology
EPID 691 Special Topics
EPID 692 Independent Study
GRAD 614 Introduction to Grant Writing
GRTY 501 Physiological Aging
GRTY 510 Aging
GRTY 603 Social Gerontology
GRTY 604 Problems, Issues and Trends in Gerontology
HEMS 505 Contemporary Issues in Health
HEMS 550 Exercise, Nutrition and Weight Management
HEMS 604 Nutrition for Health and Physical Activity
HEMS 605 Psychology of Physical Activity
HEMS 606 Psychosocial Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity
HGEN 501 Introduction to Human Genetics
HGEN 502 Advanced Human Genetics
HGEN 620 Principles of Human Behavioral Genetics
HSEP 601 Emergency Management: Response Planning and Incident Command
HSEP 603 Risk Assessment
HSEP 650 Public Health Preparedness
PSYC 660 Health Psychology
SBHD 608 Health Communication
SBHD 611 Health Literacy
SBHD 630 Theoretical Foundations of Social and Behavioral Health
SBHD 632 Health Disparities and Social Justice
SBHD 636 Community-based Participatory Research
SBHD 637 Program Evaluation
SOCY 510 Domestic and Sexual Violence in Social Context
SOCY 524 Aging and the Minority Community
SOCY 603 Seminar in Population Studies
SOCY 607 Seminar in Racial and Ethnic Relations in America
SOCY 611 Studies in the Community
SOCY 620 Seminar in Criminology
SOCY 624 Community and Community Services for the Elderly
SOCY 632 Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence: Medical Practice and Policy
SOCY 633 Application of the Policy Process to Issues of Violence
SOCY 634 Social Contexts of Childhood and Violence
SOCY 635 Theorizing Gender Violence
SOCY 645 The Sociology of Health and Illness
URSP 521 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
URSP 621 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
URSP 622 Community Socioeconomic Analysis Using GIS
URSP 625 Spatial Database Management and GIS Modeling

Integrative program requirements
EPID 693 Public Health Internship 3
EPID 694 MPH Capstone Project 3
Total Hours 45

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 45

Public health internship: The public health internship is a supervised experience designed to expose M.P.H. students to a real-world public health practice setting, such as a governmental public health agency or nonprofit organization, requiring them to integrate classroom knowledge and skills in practical applications in a professional environment. Each student intern works with a practice site supervisor who assigns tasks, instructs the student in new skills and evaluates the student’s progress. Students work a minimum of 200 hours in a professional public health organization.

Capstone project: The culminating work in the M.P.H. program is the capstone project. The project is a practical experience that allows the student to apply what has been learned in the didactic components of the curriculum to a focused project. The goal is to enhance the student’s academic experience through the application of public health concepts and skills in a supervised experience. Students are required to synthesize the literature; analyze, assess or evaluate quantitative or qualitative data; and in general apply theory and integrate knowledge gained and principles in situations that approximate some aspects of professional practice. With this mentored experience, students are able to both broaden their skills and hone their proficiency in a specific area of public health. The major product of this culminating experience is expected to vary depending on the educational goals of the student, but could include one of the following:

1. Manuscript suitable for publication in a peer-reviewed journal
2. Comprehensive disease-related report and analysis
3. Policy analysis report
4. Needs assessment for a specific population
5. Development, implementation and analysis of target population surveys
6. Program evaluation

At a minimum, the capstone experience will require the integration of multiple major competencies used by a public health professional. In fulfilling the capstone requirement, each candidate must: (a) submit a formal written paper of sufficient depth and rigor and (b) satisfactorily complete a poster presentation of the project chosen as the basis for the written paper at an appropriate venue (e.g., research forum, refereed conference, etc.) approved by the M.P.H. program director.

Non-didactic program requirements
In addition to course work, students are required to complete the following non-curricular requirements for the M.P.H. degree:

1. Attendance at 12 public health seminars
2. Twenty hours of community-based service-learning
Graduate program director
Saba Masho, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Associate professor, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Family Medicine and Population Health
saba.masho@vcuhealth.org
(804) 628-2509

Additional contact
Lisa S. Anderson
Director of educational programs, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Family Medicine and Population Health
lisa.s.anderson@vcuhealth.org
(804) 628-2512

Program website: epidemiology.vcu.edu/education/mph (http://www.epidemiology.vcu.edu/education/mph)

Public Health, Master of (M.P.H.)/Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.) [combined]

Program accreditation
Council on Education for Public Health (M.P.H.)
Council on Social Work Education (M.S.W.)

Through a collaborative program between the VCU School of Social Work and the Division of Epidemiology in the School of Medicine’s Department of Family Medicine and Population Health, students complete a three-year full-time program of study, including summer course work, to obtain the Master of Social Work and Master of Public Health degrees. The purpose of this dual-degree program is to prepare graduates to work with individuals, families, groups, communities and/or organizations; advocate for social, health care and economic justice in a diverse and multicultural society; and promote physical and mental health across the life course.

Prospective students are required to apply separately to both programs through the appropriate application portal indicated in the admission requirements section of this Bulletin and must meet both sets of admission requirements. Once admitted to both programs, the student is assigned an adviser from each to develop a plan of study, typically starting with the M.S.W. course work. It is preferable that students apply to both programs at the same time so that the structured dual-degree curriculum can be optimally planned. Students in one program may also apply to the second program during the first year of study.

Students are required to complete a minimum of 45 M.S.W. credit hours and a minimum of 36 M.P.H. credit hours, for a total of 81 semester credit hours. In the M.P.H. program, this includes 24 credit hours of core and required courses, a minimum nine credit hours of elective courses and a minimum of three credit hours of a capstone project that examines a relevant public health topic. Note that some elective courses may not be available in certain years or may require instructor permission for registration. During the third and last year of study, dual-degree students are placed in internships through the School of Social Work that focus on public health; the internship placement is approved by both the M.P.H. program director and the director of the M.S.W. field instruction. With adviser approval, the student may develop a capstone project based on work in this public health/social work placement.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.
For the M.P.H., apply online at sophas.org (http://www.sophas.org); for the M.S.W., apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Please review the admission requirements for each stand-alone degree (Master of Public Health and Master of Social Work) in the VCU Graduate Bulletin to learn the specific application requirements for each program.

Curriculum requirements

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 544</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 547</td>
<td>Applied Data Analysis Lab I</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 548</td>
<td>Applied Data Analysis Lab II</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 571</td>
<td>Principles of Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 580</td>
<td>Public Health Ethics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 593</td>
<td>MPH Practicum I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 604</td>
<td>Principles of Environmental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 694</td>
<td>MPH Capstone Project</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCAP 601</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 605</td>
<td>Introduction to Social and Behavioral Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 601</td>
<td>Human Behavior in the Social Environment I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 602</td>
<td>Policy, Community and Organizational Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 603</td>
<td>Social Work and Social Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 604</td>
<td>Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 605</td>
<td>Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 606</td>
<td>Policy, Community and Organizational Practice II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 609</td>
<td>Foundations of Research in Social Work Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 610</td>
<td>Human Behavior in the Social Environment II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 693</td>
<td>Foundation Field Instruction I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 694</td>
<td>Foundation Field Instruction II</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Concentration courses

Select one of the following concentrations: 9

M.S.W. clinical concentration:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 703</td>
<td>Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Disorders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 704</td>
<td>Clinical Social Work Practice I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 705</td>
<td>Clinical Social Work Practice II</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

M.S.W. SWAPPP concentration:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 711</td>
<td>Strategies for Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 712</td>
<td>Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 713</td>
<td>Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 793</td>
<td>Concentration Field Instruction I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 794</td>
<td>Concentration Field Instruction II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Select a minimum of nine graduate elective credits from the following: 9

BIOS 571 Clinical Trials
CCTR 630 Design Implications in Clinical Trials
EPID 600 Introduction to Public Health
EPID 601 Contemporary Issues and Controversies in Public Health
EPID 603 Public Health Policy and Politics
EPID 606 Epidemiologic Methods
EPID 620 Cancer Epidemiology
EPID 622 Maternal and Child Health
EPID 624 Chronic Disease Epidemiology
EPID 646 Epidemiology of Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders
EPID 648 Behavioral Epidemiology
EPID 691 Special Topics
EPID 692 Independent Study
GRAD 614 Introduction to Grant Writing
GRTY 501 Physiological Aging
GRTY 510 Aging
GRTY 603 Social Gerontology
GRTY 604 Problems, Issues and Trends in Gerontology
HEMS 505 Contemporary Issues in Health
HEMS 550 Exercise, Nutrition and Weight Management
HEMS 604 Nutrition for Health and Physical Activity
HEMS 605 Psychology of Physical Activity
HEMS 606 Psychosocial Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity
HGEN 501 Introduction to Human Genetics
HGEN 502 Advanced Human Genetics
HGEN 620 Principles of Human Behavioral Genetics
HSEP 601 Emergency Management: Response Planning and Incident Command
HSEP 603 Risk Assessment
HSEP 650 Public Health Preparedness
PSYC 660 Health Psychology
SBHD 608 Health Communication
SBHD 630 Theoretical Foundations of Social and Behavioral Health
SBHD 632 Health Disparities and Social Justice
SBHD 636 Community-based Participatory Research
SBHD 637 Program Evaluation
SOCY 510 Domestic and Sexual Violence in Social Context
SOCY 524 Aging and the Minority Community
SOCY 603 Seminar in Population Studies
SOCY 607 Seminar in Racial and Ethnic Relations in America
VCU 771

SOCI 611  Studies in the Community
SOCI 620  Seminar in Criminology
SOCI 624  Community and Community Services for the Elderly
SOCI 632  Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence: Medical Practice and Policy
SOCI 633  Application of the Policy Process to Issues of Violence
SOCI 634  Social Contexts of Childhood and Violence
SOCI 635  Theorizing Gender Violence
SOCI 645  The Sociology of Health and Illness
URSP 521  Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
URSP 621  Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
URSP 622  Community Socioeconomic Analysis Using GIS
URSP 625  Spatial Database Management and GIS Modeling

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) for combined M.P.H./M.S.W. 81

Typical plan of study
Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study, or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

Graduate program directors
Saba Masho, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Associate professor, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Family Medicine and Population Health
saba.masho@vcuhealth.org
(804) 628-2509

Sarah K. Price, Ph.D.
M.S.W./M.P.H. combined program coordinator
skprice@vcu.edu
(804) 828-0579

Additional contact
Lisa S. Anderson, M.P.H.
Director of educational programs, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Family Medicine and Population Health
lisa.s.anderson@vcuhealth.org
(804) 628-2512

Program websites: familymedicine.vcu.edu/education/graduate/dual-degrees (http://familymedicine.vcu.edu/education/graduate/dual-degrees) and socialwork.vcu.edu (http://www.socialwork.vcu.edu)

Social and Behavioral Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Program goal
Training to be social and behavioral scientists

Students in the doctoral program in social and behavioral sciences will acquire the skills to become scientists, educators and scientists/administrators in a broad spectrum of positions and settings. Students will gain a progressive mastery of the current state of the subject matter in the social and behavioral sciences, an ability to synthesize the information and apply this foundation to the identification of key areas of investigation/experimentation and the ability to design and interpret studies that address the questions identified. In addition, students will develop the various means of communicating core social and behavioral science knowledge and particular study designs, results and interpretations to a variety of audiences.

Student learning outcomes
1. Analytical thinking: Students will demonstrate an appropriate level of ability to interpret information relevant to social and behavioral science, to connect rationales to procedures and evidence to findings, to draw reasonable conclusions, and to generate and evaluate alternate explanations.

2. Integrated knowledge of social and behavioral science: Students will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the current elements of the social and behavioral sciences as related to disciplinary specialization and a more detailed understanding of the individual area of scholarship, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique.

3. Oral communication skills: Students will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of skill in the oral communication of social and behavioral science subject matter with respect to content, organization, logical flow, presentation, use of language and incorporation of visual aids in formal and collaborative communication.

4. Study design: Students will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify and/or create, and implement study protocols and to design and develop studies.

5. Written communication skills: Students will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling, vocabulary and use of figures, tables and citations to effectively present social and behavioral science information.

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.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Other information**

**School of Medicine graduate program policies**

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on doctoral programs is available elsewhere in this chapter of the Graduate Bulletin.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 9 (Priority consideration given to applications received by the deadline. Interviews will be conducted in February and March.)</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Special requirements**

- M.P.H. or equivalent M.A. or M.S. degree

Applicants must meet all general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18).

**Degree requirements**

The Ph.D. program in social and behavioral sciences, the only one of its kind in Virginia, prepares students to conduct theoretically based research and interventions on the social and behavioral determinants of health and disease. In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a minimum of 54 post-master’s credit hours is required for the doctoral degree, which is expected to involve four years of full-time study.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Core requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 544</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 609</td>
<td>Research Methods in Social and Behavioral Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or HCPR 732</td>
<td>Research Design and Proposal Preparation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 630</td>
<td>Theoretical Foundations of Social and Behavioral Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 632</td>
<td>Health Disparities and Social Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or HCPR 720</td>
<td>Economics of Health Disparities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 634</td>
<td>Patient-Provider Interaction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SBHD 692</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBHD 636</td>
<td>Community-based Participatory Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SBHD 692</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 637</td>
<td>Program Evaluation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 638</td>
<td>Applications in Qualitative Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 639</td>
<td>Intervention Development and Implementation</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 640</td>
<td>Seminar in Mixed Methods Research</td>
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<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
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<tr>
<td>or OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
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<td>or OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBHD 690</td>
<td>Departmental Seminar (one-credit course taken four times)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology offers neuroscience and maintains dynamic research groups in glial cell biology, plasticity, development and circuitry, and central nervous system injury and repair.

- Anatomy and Neurobiology, Master of Science (M.S.) (p. 671)
- Anatomy and Neurobiology, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics (p. 673)

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Sarah Speigel, Ph.D.
Professor and chair
biochemistry.vcu.edu (http://www.biochemistry.vcu.edu)

The Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology is home to a community of dedicated scientists, students and postdoctoral fellows who conduct innovative research on biochemical and molecular mechanisms governing cellular processes. The department offers a strong collegial atmosphere where faculty, students, postdoctoral fellows and administrators work together to promote and share in the discovery of fundamental principles governing life processes.

- Biochemistry, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 676)
- Biochemistry, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics (p. 678)
- Biochemistry, Master of Science (M.S.) (p. 681)
- Biochemistry, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics (p. 683)

Department of Biostatistics

Shumei S. Sun, Ph.D.
Professor and chair
biostatistics.vcu.edu (http://www.biostatistics.vcu.edu)

The Department of Biostatistics is committed to excellence in providing a graduate training program, conducting multidisciplinary collaborative biomedical research and developing new statistical methods. The department offers M.S. and Ph.D. programs in biostatistics, with concentrations in genomic biostatistics concentration at both levels and an additional concentration in clinical research and biostatistics at the master’s level. The majority of the department’s graduate students are supported through collaborative projects and partnerships with industry. The department also has a National Research Service Award pre-doctoral training program funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences. The purpose of this award is to train students to develop analytic methods for the study of chemical mixtures and analysis of toxicogenomic data. One faculty member also has a regular research grant funded in this area by the NIEHS.

- Biostatistics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 685)
- Biostatistics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in genomic biostatistics (p. 688)
- Biostatistics, Master of Science (M.S.) (p. 691)
- Biostatistics, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in clinical research and biostatistics (p. 693)
- Biostatistics, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in genomic biostatistics (p. 695)

**Department of Family Medicine and Population Health**

Anton J. Kuzel, M.D.
Professor and chair

familymedicine.vcu.edu (http://www.familymedicine.vcu.edu)

The Department of Family Medicine and Population Health hosts both a robust residency program for family physicians and academic programs at the graduate level dealing with critical issues in public health. Within the department, the Division of Epidemiology integrates research, education and public health service programs. The department offers a Ph.D. degree in epidemiology along with a fully accredited Master of Public Health degree. Close ties to the Virginia Department of Health allow opportunities for students to immerse themselves in experiential learning with these public health partners. The doctoral training program in epidemiology cultivates public health scientists equipped to use state-of-the-art research methods for the purpose of advancing fundamental knowledge of issues central to the improvement of population health.

- Epidemiology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 697)
- Public Health, Master of (M.P.H.) (p. 765)
- Public Health, Master of (M.P.H.)/Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.) [combined] (p. 769)
- Medicine, Doctor of (M.D.)/Public Health, Master of (M.P.H.) [combined] (p. 726)
- Pharmacy, Doctor of (Pharm.D.)/Public Health, Master of (M.P.H.) [combined] (p. 751)

**Department of Health Behavior and Policy**

Jennifer Elston-Lafata, Ph.D.
Professor and interim chair

hbp.vcu.edu (http://hbp.vcu.edu)

The Department of Health Behavior and Policy’s mission is to transform the health landscape through multidisciplinary research, education and service. The department’s research identifies the behavioral, social, organizational and policy factors that affect the health of individuals and populations. Faculty members and students utilize rigorous quantitative and qualitative methods and engage diverse communities to develop and evaluate programs and policies designed to promote health, improve health care delivery and reduce health disparities. Research findings inform the translation of effective programs and policies into practice. The department provides training to and promotes excellence in the next generation of health behavior and policy practitioners, educators and scientists.

- Healthcare Policy and Research, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 703)
- Social and Behavioral Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 771)

**Department of Human and Molecular Genetics**

Paul B. Fisher, Ph.D.

professor and chair
gen.vcu.edu (http://www.gen.vcu.edu)

The Department of Human and Molecular Genetics provides multifaceted research activities focusing on important areas of current medical and basic research. Our faculty members conduct research and clinical and educational activities at the VCU Medical Center, the Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics and the VCU Institute of Molecular Medicine. Genetic counselors and medical genetics faculty conduct their outpatient counseling, medical genetics practice and inpatient pediatrics service at the VCU Medical Center and affiliated outpatient clinics.

- Genetic Counseling, Master of Science (M.S.) (p. 700)
- Human Genetics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 705)
- Human Genetics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics (p. 707)
- Human Genetics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in quantitative human genetics (p. 710)
- Human Genetics, Master of Science (M.S.) (p. 716)
- Human Genetics, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics (p. 718)
- Human Genetics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)/Genetic Counseling, Master of Science (M.S.) [dual degree] (p. 712)

**Department of Microbiology and Immunology**

Dennis E. Ohman, Ph.D.
Professor and chair

microbiology.vcu.edu (http://microbiology.vcu.edu)

The Department of Microbiology and Immunology is focused on research, cutting-edge technologies and educational programs with emphasis on microbial pathogens, cancer and the host immune defense system, which protects individuals from disease. The training is rigorous, emphasizing conceptual and experimental strategies using state-of-the-art technologies in modern facilities.

Departmental microbiologists study the molecular mechanisms by which microorganisms (i.e., bacteria, viruses, fungi and parasites) colonize a host, evade the immune response and cause damage. Immunologists in the department study the molecular and cellular mechanisms by which the immune response either defends the host against pathogens or goes awry, such as with an allergic reaction. Many of the department’s molecular cell biologists are studying the fundamentals of cancer and new therapeutic approaches. All conduct research using the tools of molecular biology, genetics, cell culture, infection models, transgenic animals and bioinformatics.

A major goal of the department is to train the next generation of research scientists. Ph.D. students and postdoctoral fellows work alongside principal investigators to test hypotheses of medical importance. Laboratory training is supplemented with rigorous course work, seminars, journal clubs and lab meetings. Most trainees present their research findings at national and international meetings.

- Microbiology and Immunology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 730)
- Microbiology and Immunology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics (p. 733)
• Microbiology and Immunology, Master of Science (M.S.) (p. 735)
• Microbiology and Immunology, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics (p. 738)

Department of Pathology
Charles V. Clevenger, M.D., Ph.D.
Professor and chair

pathology.vcu.edu (http://www.pathology.vcu.edu)

The Department of Pathology is a diverse clinical, research and teaching department within the School of Medicine. The department offers a full range of pathology services to physicians, researchers and patients at the VCU Health System, a 780-bed tertiary-care urban teaching hospital dedicated to serving the patients and physicians of central Virginia. The 47 faculty members supervise 14 hospital laboratories including histopathology, neuropathology, cytopathology, autopsy pathology, molecular diagnostics, cytogenerics, hematology, coagulation, microbiology, immunology, clinical chemistry, toxicology and transfusion medicine staffed by more than 350 hospital employees. The department faculty conduct a robust array of research programs in numerous areas and participate in student training through a variety of mechanisms.

Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology
William L. Dewey, Ph.D.
Professor and chair

pharmtox.vcu.edu (https://pharmtox.vcu.edu)

The Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology is home to a community of researchers, students and faculty who strive to improve the treatment of medical disorders through a better understanding of the pharmacology of agents and by developing safer and more effective drugs. The department has educated alumni who have gone on to distinguished careers in government, academia and the private sector as researchers, educators and consultants. The work these students do at VCU and beyond has the potential to improve the health and well-being of people all over the world.

• Pharmacology and Toxicology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 742)
• Pharmacology and Toxicology, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics (p. 745)
• Pharmacology and Toxicology, Master of Science (M.S.) (p. 747)
• Pharmacology and Toxicology, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics (p. 749)

Department of Physiology and Biophysics
Diomedes E. Logothetis, Ph.D.
Professor and chair

physiology.vcu.edu (http://www.physiology.vcu.edu)

The Department of Physiology and Biophysics brings a long tradition to the study of physiology that spans the entire spectrum from molecules to man. Strong research programs exist in molecular biophysics, cardiovascular and gastrointestinal physiology as well as in chemical senses. Faculty recruitments are ongoing in two areas: structural biology, which aims to understand function in terms of structure, and systems physiology, which aims to elucidate fundamental ways of communication within and between physiological systems. Biophysical approaches serve as the common language used at all levels of scientific inquiry. The department offers a strong collegial atmosphere where faculty, students, postdoctoral fellows and administrators work together to promote and share in the discovery of fundamental principles governing life processes.

• Physiology and Biophysics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 754)
• Physiology and Biophysics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics (p. 757)
• Physiology and Biophysics, Master of Science (M.S.) (p. 759)
• Physiology and Biophysics, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in molecular biology and genetics (p. 761)

Department of Radiation Oncology
Mitchell Anscher, M.D.
Florence and Hyman Meyers Endowed Chair

The Department of Radiation Oncology is a key unit in the Massey Cancer Center, a National Cancer Institute-designated unit directed to the delivery of effective treatment modalities, research critical to improvement in the treatment of cancer and the education of physicians and scientists who specialize in this critical area. The department includes a Clinical Division, focusing on the delivery of advanced radiotherapy services to patient populations, the Division of Molecular Radiobiology and Targeted Imaging, conducting research to refine the understanding of the cellular response to radiation and the development of functional targeted imaging to enhance therapy, and the Division of Medical Physics, which integrates research into methods to improve radiotherapy with Ph.D. training in medical physics.

• Medical Physics, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 722)
• Medical Physics, Master of Science (M.S.) (p. 724)
• Medical Physics, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) (p. 720)
SCHOOL OF NURSING

The School of Nursing originated in 1893 as part of the University College of Medicine. Since then, the educational program has evolved from a basic diploma program to multiple programs at the baccalaureate-, master’s- and doctoral-degree levels. Additionally, the School of Nursing offers post-master’s certificate programs. The School of Nursing takes pride in its long history of service to the profession of nursing and continues to be a leader in nursing education in Virginia.

Administration

1100 East Leigh Street
P.O. Box 980567
Richmond, Virginia 23298-0567
Phone: (804) 828-0724
Fax: (804) 828-7743
nursing.vcu.edu (http://www.nursing.vcu.edu)

Jean Giddens, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
Dean

Debra Barksdale, Ph.D., FNP-BC, CNE, FAANP, FAAN
Professor and associate dean of academic programs

Deborah B. McGuire, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
Associate dean for research

Accreditation

The baccalaureate degree in nursing, master’s degree in nursing, post-master’s certificate program and the Doctor of Nursing Practice program at the VCU School of Nursing are accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (http://www.aacn.nche.edu/ccne-accreditation). In addition, the baccalaureate degree in nursing, master’s degree in nursing and post-master’s certificate program are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (http://www.acenursing.org).

The pre-licensure nursing program is approved by the Virginia Board of Nursing (http://www.dhp.virginia.gov/nursing).

Programs

The School of Nursing offers Bachelor of Science, Master of Science, post-master’s certificate, Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs. Curricula and admissions information pertaining to all of these programs is available on this website and may be accessed using the program index feature at the top of this page.

Further information may be obtained by visiting the School of Nursing website at nursing.vcu.edu (http://www.nursing.vcu.edu) or by writing to Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Nursing, Office of Enrollment and Student Services, P.O. Box 980567, Richmond, VA 23298-0567.

Facilities and resources

The faculty and administrative offices of the school are housed at 1100 E. Leigh St. Additionally, this building has a nursing clinical resource laboratory and classrooms equipped with a full range of audiovisual equipment. Both graduate and undergraduate courses are also scheduled in other classrooms on campus.

The clinical laboratories for nursing courses are conducted at the VCU Medical Center and in numerous other urban and rural hospitals and health agencies in the area, including community medical centers and state hospitals, public health services, private clinics and offices, and federal and state centers and departments. These facilities provide generalized and specialized inpatient and ambulatory services. Students are given a range of diverse experiences in hospital and community-oriented nursing. Selection of specific facilities for student experience is based upon curricular and advanced-practice certification requirements, the educational needs of the individual student and the services available.

Financial assistance

Applications for financial assistance must be filed for all forms of financial assistance. A Free Application for Federal Student Aid may be obtained from the Office of Financial Aid, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA 23298-0244 or online at fafsa.ed.gov (https://fafsa.ed.gov).

Financial assistance is available through scholarships, fellowships and assistantships administered by the School of Nursing. Additional information may be found on the school’s website at nursing.vcu.edu/admission/scholarships-and-financial-aid (http://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/scholarships-and-financial-aid).

Departments

Department of Adult Health and Nursing Systems
Beth Rodgers, Ph.D., RN, FAAN
Professor and chair

Department of Family and Community Health Nursing
Tamara Zurakowski, Ph.D., GNP-BC
Clinical associate professor and chair

Graduate information

Nondegree-seeking students

Students who have not been admitted to a graduate program in nursing may be admitted to individual courses. Permission to register for courses is granted at the discretion of the School of Nursing. Only six credits earned as a nondegree-seeking student can be applied to the master’s degree. Only three credits may be earned by post-master’s students prior to admission.

Enrollment

Students may begin study during the fall semester. Students will have an academic adviser appointed and will follow the standard program of study. Once admitted, students are expected to abide by enrollment policies of the Graduate School.
Graduates will be able to:

Student learning outcomes

1. Demonstrate core competencies in their advanced practice specialties
2. Integrate nursing and related sciences into the delivery of advanced nursing care to diverse populations and systems of health care delivery
3. Apply ethical analysis and clinical reasoning to assess, intervene and evaluate advanced nursing care delivery
4. Understand the implications of social, cultural, economic, policy and organizational systems that impact practice and outcomes
5. Synthesize evidence for practice to determine appropriate application of interventions across diverse populations and settings
6. Use quality processes and improvement science to evaluate care and ensure patient safety for individuals, populations and systems
7. Integrate organizational science and technology to make changes in the care environment to improve health outcomes and practice efficiency

Program goals

Graduates will achieve advanced nursing practice competencies by demonstrating:

1. Systems and organizational leadership
2. Implementation of advanced nursing practice interventions
3. Effective use of research and technology
4. Systematic evaluation of interventions and outcomes

Nursing, Certificate in (Post-master’s certificate) with a concentration in adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner

The VCU School of Nursing adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner concentration prepares graduates for advanced practice registered nurse roles by developing the knowledge and skills needed to manage acutely ill adults, ranging from adolescents to the elderly, through all phases of their hospitalization. Students learn to manage patients through comprehensive physical and psychosocial assessments, use of decision-making/diagnostic reasoning processes, performance of advanced practice skills and procedures, and implementation of evidence-based treatment strategies. Graduates of the AGACNP concentration are prepared to diagnose and manage complex health problems of adults across the life span, including acute/critical illness and injuries, as well as exacerbations of chronic conditions.

The AGACNP generally works in an acute care setting, often within a multidisciplinary team focused on the provision of evidence-based care to adults who are acutely ill. The sphere of influence of the nurse practitioner is that of the patient.

Graduates of the AGACNP concentration are eligible to apply for certification as an AGACNP by the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

VCU School of Nursing Student Policy and Information handbooks (http://nursing.vcu.edu/about-us/resources) are located on the school’s website.

Our international and non-native English-speaking students bring different perspectives and new thinking to our nursing programs. To ensure that all incoming student are prepared for the school’s academic rigor, all international applicants and non-native English speaking
applicants without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university must provide additional information with their applications according to the English language proficiency guidelines on the program admission tab.

Visit the School of Nursing website for program-specific application instructions (http://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/application-instructions/post-masters-certificate).

### Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Sep 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To be considered for admission to the School of Nursing, applicants must:

1. Meet the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18)
2. Be eligible for readmission or in good standing at the last college attended
3. Be a graduate of an accredited (ACEN, CCNE or CNEA) master’s or doctoral nursing degree program (Applicants to the post-master’s certificate nurse practitioner concentrations must hold a master’s or doctoral degree as an advanced practiced registered nurse (NP or CNS) from an accredited [ACEN, CCNE or CNEA] program.)
4. Have a current unrestricted R.N. license or authorization to practice as an R.N. in the U.S.
5. Provide additional information with the application according to the English language proficiency guidelines in the VCU Bulletin for applicants who are international or non-native English speakers without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university

### Degree requirements

Twenty-five graduate credit hours are required for the post-master’s certificate in nursing with a concentration in adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a candidate for the degree of Certificate in Nursing must be recommended by the faculty and must:

1. Meet academic requirements of the Graduate School
2. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum within six calendar years of the first registration for work to be credited toward the degree
3. Earn a minimum grade of B or pass grade in all nursing courses
4. Earn a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all work presented for graduation
5. Conform to School of Nursing policies in respect to pass/fail grading for course work or thesis study

The degree will be granted only after all requirements have been fulfilled and all fees to the university have been paid. Degrees are not granted in absentia unless written request is made to the dean and permission is granted.

### Curriculum requirements

Students in nurse practitioner certification concentrations are required to have completed advanced health assessment, pharmacotherapeutics and pathophysiology courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 610</td>
<td>Gero-pharmacology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 611</td>
<td>Primary Care Advanced Practice Clinical Procedures</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 612</td>
<td>Acute Care Advanced Practice Clinical Procedures</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 618</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management in Adult-Gerontology Acute Care I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 619</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management in Adult-Gerontology Acute Care II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 662</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management in Adult-Gerontology Critical Care</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 678</td>
<td>Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Practicum I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 669</td>
<td>Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Practicum II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 679</td>
<td>Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Practicum III</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 25

### Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 25

### Graduate program director

Pamela J. Biernacki, D.N.P., FNP-C  
Assistant professor, Department of Family and Community Health Nursing  
Email: pjbiernacki@vcu.edu  
Phone: (804) 628-7567

### Additional contact

Susan L. Lipp, M.S.N., R.N.  
Assistant dean for enrollment and student services  
Email: vcu_nurse@vcu.edu

### Program website: nursing.vcu.edu/programs/post-masters-certificate

Nursing, Certificate in (Post-master’s certificate) with a concentration in adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner

The VCU School of Nursing adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner concentration prepares graduates for advanced practice registered nurse roles by developing the knowledge and skills needed to diagnose and manage common acute and chronic health problems in adults, ranging from adolescents to the elderly. Students learn to manage patients through comprehensive physical and psychosocial assessments, use of decision-making/diagnostic reasoning processes, performance of advanced practice skills and procedures, and implementation of evidence-based treatment strategies, including health promotion and disease prevention.

The AGPCNP has a practice located in a variety of primary care settings, including college health services, health maintenance organizations,
community clinics, long-term care, assisted living, continuing care retirement communities, occupational health settings and private practices.

Graduates of the AGPCNP concentration are eligible to apply for certification as an AGACNP by the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

**Program goals**

Graduates will achieve advanced nursing practice competencies by demonstrating:

1. Systems and organizational leadership
2. Implementation of advanced nursing practice interventions
3. Effective use of research and technology
4. Systematic evaluation of interventions and outcomes

**Student learning outcomes**

Graduates will be able to:

1. Demonstrate core competencies in their advanced practice specialties
2. Integrate nursing and related sciences into the delivery of advanced nursing care to diverse populations and systems of health care delivery
3. Apply ethical analysis and clinical reasoning to assess, intervene and evaluate advanced nursing care delivery
4. Understand the implications of social, cultural, economic, policy and organizational systems that impact practice and outcomes
5. Synthesize evidence for practice to determine appropriate application of interventions across diverse populations and settings
6. Use quality processes and improvement science to evaluate care and ensure patient safety for individuals, populations and systems
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**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Other information**

VCU School of Nursing Student Policy and Information handbooks (http://nursing.vcu.edu/about-us/resources) are located on the school’s website.

Our international and non-native English-speaking students bring different perspectives and new thinking to our nursing programs. To ensure that all incoming student are prepared for the school’s academic rigor, all international applicants and non-native English speaking applicants without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university must provide additional information with their applications according to the English language proficiency guidelines on the program admission tab.

Visit the School of Nursing website for program-specific application instructions (http://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/application-instructions/post-masters-certificate).

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3. Be a graduate of an accredited (ACEN, CCNE or CNEA) master’s or doctoral nursing degree program (Applicants to the post-master’s
certificate nurse practitioner concentrations must hold a master’s or doctoral degree as an advanced practiced registered nurse (NP or CNS) from an accredited [ACEN, CCNE or CNEA] program.)

4. Have a current unrestricted R.N. license or authorization to practice as an R.N. in the U.S.

5. Provide additional information with the application according to the English language proficiency guidelines in the VCU Bulletin for applicants who are international or non-native English speakers without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university

Degree requirements

Twenty-four graduate credit hours are required for the post-master’s certificate in nursing with a concentration in adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a candidate for the degree of Certificate in Nursing must be recommended by the faculty and must:

1. Meet academic requirements of the Graduate School
2. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum within six calendar years of the first registration for work to be credited toward the degree
3. Earn a minimum grade of B or pass grade in all nursing courses
4. Earn a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all work presented for graduation
5. Conform to School of Nursing policies in respect to pass/fail grading for course work or thesis study

The degree will be granted only after all requirements have been fulfilled and all fees to the university have been paid. Degrees are not granted in absentia unless written request is made to the dean and permission is granted.

Curriculum requirements

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<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clinical Procedures</td>
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<td>NURS 615</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management in Adult-Gerontology</td>
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<td>Primary Care I</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Primary Care II</td>
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<td>NURS 617</td>
<td>Advanced Gerontology Primary Care Across the</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Care Continuum</td>
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<td>NURS 676</td>
<td>Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Practicum I</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Practicum II</td>
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Total Hours 24

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 24

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Assistant professor, Department of Family and Community Health Nursing
Email: pjbiernacki@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-7567

Additional contact
Susan L. Lipp, RN
Assistant dean for enrollment and student services
Email: vcu_nurse@vcu.edu

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Nursing, Certificate in (Post-master’s certificate) with a concentration in family nurse practitioner

The VCU School of Nursing family nurse practitioner concentration prepares graduates for advanced practice registered nurse roles by developing the knowledge and skills needed to diagnose and manage common acute and chronic health problems across the lifespan through comprehensive physical and psychosocial assessments, use of decision-making/diagnostic reasoning processes, performance of advanced practice skills and procedures and implementation of evidence-based treatment strategies, including health promotion and disease prevention.

The FNP is prepared to provide direct care to individuals and families in a variety of primary care settings, including college health services, health maintenance organizations, community clinics, long-term care, assisted living, continuing care retirement communities, occupational health settings, urgent care and private practices.

Graduates of the FNP concentration are eligible to apply for certification as an FNP by the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

Program goals

Graduates will achieve advanced nursing practice competencies by demonstrating:

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2. Implementation of advanced nursing practice interventions
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Student learning outcomes

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**Graduation requirements**

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Other information**

VCU School of Nursing Student Policy and Information handbooks (http://nursing.vcu.edu/about-us/resources) are located on the school’s website.

Our international and non-native English-speaking students bring different perspectives and new thinking to our nursing programs. To ensure that all incoming student are prepared for the school’s academic rigor, all international applicants and non-native English speaking applicants without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university must provide additional information with their applications according to the English language proficiency guidelines on the program admission tab.

Visit the School of Nursing website for program-specific application instructions (http://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/application-instructions/post-masters-certificate).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Sep 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To be considered for admission to the School of Nursing, applicants must:

1. Meet the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18)
2. Be eligible for readmission or in good standing at the last college attended
3. Be a graduate of an accredited (ACEN, CCNE or CNEA) master’s or doctoral nursing degree program (Applicants to the post-master’s certificate nurse practitioner concentrations must hold a master’s or doctoral degree as an advanced practiced registered nurse (NP or CNS) from an accredited [ACEN, CCNE or CNEA] program.)
4. Have a current unrestricted R.N. license or authorization to practice as an R.N. in the U.S.
5. Provide additional information with the application according to the English language proficiency guidelines in the VCU Bulletin for applicants who are international or non-native English speakers without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university

**Degree requirements**

Twenty-seven graduate credit hours are required for the Post-master’s Certificate in Nursing with a concentration in family nurse practitioner.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a candidate for the degree of Certificate in Nursing must be recommended by the faculty and must:

1. Meet academic requirements of the Graduate School
2. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum within six calendar years of the first registration for work to be credited toward the degree
3. Earn a minimum grade of B or pass grade in all nursing courses
4. Earn a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all work presented for graduation
5. Conform to School of Nursing policies in respect to pass/fail grading for course work or thesis study
The degree will be granted only after all requirements have been fulfilled and all fees to the university have been paid. Degrees are not granted in absentia unless written request is made to the dean and permission is granted.

**Curriculum requirements**

Students in nurse practitioner certification concentrations are required to have completed advanced health assessment, pharmacotherapeutics and pathophysiology courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 611</td>
<td>Primary Care Advanced Practice Clinical Procedures</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 627</td>
<td>Foundational Perspectives of Family-centered Care</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 629</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management in Family Primary Care I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 630</td>
<td>Diagnosis And Management In Family Primary Care II</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 631</td>
<td>Primary Care of Select Populations</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 643</td>
<td>Family Primary Care Practicum I</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 644</td>
<td>Family Primary Care Seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 645</td>
<td>Family Primary Care Practicum II</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 646</td>
<td>Family Primary Care Final Synthesis Seminar</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 27

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 27**

**Graduate program director**
Pamela J. Biernacki, D.N.P., FNP-C
Assistant professor, Department of Family and Community Health Nursing
Email: pjbiernacki@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-7567

**Additional contact**
Susan L. Lipp, M.S.N., R.N.
Assistant dean for enrollment and student services
Email: vcu_nurse@vcu.edu

**Program website:** nursing.vcu.edu/programs/post-masters-certificate
(http://nursing.vcu.edu/programs/post-masters-certificate)

**Nursing, Certificate in (Post-master’s certificate) with a concentration in nursing administration and leadership**

For students interested in a leadership role in a health care organization, the nursing administration and leadership concentration at the VCU School of Nursing offers a flexible and rewarding career path. Over the past three decades, this concentration has gained a reputation for educating some of the nation’s top nursing leaders. With a vision of shaping the future of health care through innovative nursing leadership, the NAL concentration prepares nurses to play an essential systems-level role in promoting and sustaining high-quality and safe patient care. Students gain advanced knowledge and skills in the areas of leadership, administration, management, health care finance, budgeting, outcomes management and evidence-based organizational practices in health care.

Graduates of the NAL concentration are prepared to succeed in nursing leadership positions and are eligible, depending on employment role, to apply for several different nursing administration certification exams offered through the American Nurses Credentialing Center of the American Nurses Association or the American Organization of Nurse Executives.

**Program goals**

Graduates will achieve advanced nursing practice competencies by demonstrating:

1. Systems and organizational leadership
2. Implementation of advanced nursing practice interventions
3. Effective use of research and technology
4. Systematic evaluation of interventions and outcomes

**Student learning outcomes**

Graduates will be able to:

1. Demonstrate core competencies in their advanced practice specialties
2. Integrate nursing and related sciences into the delivery of advanced nursing care to diverse populations and systems of health care delivery
3. Apply ethical analysis and clinical reasoning to assess, intervene and evaluate advanced nursing care delivery
4. Understand the implications of social, cultural, economic, policy and organizational systems that impact practice and outcomes
5. Synthesize evidence for practice to determine appropriate application of interventions across diverse populations and settings
6. Use quality processes and improvement science to evaluate care and ensure patient safety for individuals, populations and systems
7. Integrate organizational science and technology to make changes in the care environment to improve health outcomes and practice efficiency

**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.graduates.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)
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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
VCU School of Nursing Student Policy and Information handbooks (http://nursing.vcu.edu/about-us/resources) are located on the school’s website.

Our international and non-native English-speaking students bring different perspectives and new thinking to our nursing programs. To ensure that all incoming student are prepared for the school’s academic rigor, all international applicants and non-native English speaking applicants without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university must provide additional information with their applications according to the English language proficiency guidelines on the program admission tab.

Visit the School of Nursing website for program-specific application instructions (http://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/application-instructions/post-masters-certificate).

Admission requirements
Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
Certificate Spring Sep 15

To be considered for admission to the School of Nursing, applicants must:

1. Meet the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18)
2. Be eligible for readmission or in good standing at the last college attended
3. Be a graduate of an accredited (ACEN, CCNE or CNEA) master’s or doctoral nursing degree program (Applicants to the post-master’s certificate nurse practitioner concentrations must hold a master’s or doctoral degree as an advanced practiced registered nurse (NP or CNS) from an accredited [ACEN, CCNE or CNEA] program.)
4. Have a current unrestricted R.N. license or authorization to practice as an R.N. in the U.S.
5. Provide additional information with the application according to the English language proficiency guidelines in the VCU Bulletin for applicants who are international or non-native English speakers without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university

Degree requirements
Thirty-eight graduate credit hours are required for the Post-master’s Certificate in Nursing with a concentration in nursing administration and leadership.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a candidate for the degree of Certificate in Nursing must be recommended by the faculty and must:

1. Meet academic requirements of the Graduate School
2. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum within six calendar years of the first registration for work to be credited toward the degree
3. Earn a minimum grade of B or pass grade in all nursing courses
4. Earn a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all work presented for graduation
5. Conform to School of Nursing policies in respect to pass/fail grading for course work or thesis study

The degree will be granted only after all requirements have been fulfilled and all fees to the university have been paid. Degrees are not granted in absentia unless written request is made to the dean and permission is granted.

Curriculum requirements
Core course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 508</td>
<td>Policy, Processes and Systems for Advanced Nursing Practice (if not taken in master’s program)</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Concentration requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 609</td>
<td>Health Care Delivery and Reimbursement Systems for Nurse Leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 613</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior and Leadership for Nurse Leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 614</td>
<td>Organizational Systems and Leadership for Nurse Leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 639</td>
<td>Health Informatics for Nurse Leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 651</td>
<td>Decision Analysis for Quality Outcomes Across Populations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 652</td>
<td>Health Care Managerial Finance I: For Nurse Leaders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 653</td>
<td>Health Care Managerial Finance II: Economic Evaluation and Analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 666</td>
<td>Strategic and Change Management for Quality Outcomes for Nurse Leaders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Nursing, Certificate in (Post-master’s certificate) with a concentration in psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner

The psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner concentration prepares graduates for advanced practice registered nurse roles by developing the knowledge and skills in areas of mental health promotion, as well as mental illness prevention, assessment, diagnosis, treatment and patient education in the care of individuals across the lifespan. Students are exposed to a unique balance of neuroscience, psychological theory and evidence-based practice. Students crystalize their understanding of this content through the use of simulation, interactive case study, discussion board activity, individual and group-based projects, writing assignments, testing and supervised practicum experiences. Informed by a balanced approach to care, students receive focused instruction in both psychotherapy and psychopharmacotherapy.

The PMHNP is prepared to assess, diagnose, treat and educate individuals, families and groups with complex psychiatric-mental health problems and do so with an interprofessional lens of quality and safety. PMHNP’s work in clinical settings that include private, state or Veterans Affairs in-patient or outpatient psychiatric facilities, private psychiatric practices, and community mental health centers. PMHNP’s also provide services in settings such as correctional facilities, domestic violence shelters, residential substance abuse facilities and schools.

Graduates of the PMHNP concentration are eligible to apply for the Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner certification exam administered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

**Program goals**

Graduates will achieve advanced nursing practice competencies by demonstrating:

1. Systems and organizational leadership
2. Implementation of advanced nursing practice interventions
3. Effective use of research and technology
4. Systematic evaluation of interventions and outcomes

**Student learning outcomes**

Graduates will be able to:

1. Demonstrate core competencies in their advanced practice specialties
2. Integrate nursing and related sciences into the delivery of advanced nursing care to diverse populations and systems of health care delivery
3. Apply ethical analysis and clinical reasoning to assess, intervene and evaluate advanced nursing care delivery
4. Understand the implications of social, cultural, economic, policy and organizational systems that impact practice and outcomes
5. Synthesize evidence for practice to determine appropriate application of interventions across diverse populations and settings
6. Use quality processes and improvement science to evaluate care and ensure patient safety for individuals, populations and systems
7. Integrate organizational science and technology to make changes in the care environment to improve health outcomes and practice efficiency

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information
VCU School of Nursing Student Policy and Information handbooks (http://nursing.vcu.edu/about-us/resources) are located on the school’s website.

Our international and non-native English-speaking students bring different perspectives and new thinking to our nursing programs. To ensure that all incoming student are prepared for the school’s academic rigor, all international applicants and non-native English speaking applicants without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university must provide additional information with their applications according to the English language proficiency guidelines on the program admission tab.

Visit the School of Nursing website for program-specific application instructions (http://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/application-instructions/post-masters-certificate).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Sep 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To be considered for admission to the School of Nursing, applicants must:

1. Meet the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18)
2. Be eligible for readmission or in good standing at the last college attended
3. Be a graduate of an accredited (ACEN, CCNE or CNEA) master’s or doctoral nursing degree program (Applicants to the post-master’s certificate nurse practitioner concentrations must hold a master’s or doctoral degree as an advanced practice registered nurse (NP or CNS) from an accredited [ACEN, CCNE or CNEA] program.)
4. Have a current unrestricted R.N. license or authorization to practice as an R.N. in the U.S.
5. Provide additional information with the application according to the English language proficiency guidelines in the VCU Bulletin for applicants who are international or non-native English speakers without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university

Degree requirements
Twenty-three graduate credit hours are required for the Post-master’s Certificate in Nursing with a concentration in psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a candidate for the degree of Certificate in Nursing must be recommended by the faculty and must:

1. Meet academic requirements of the Graduate School
2. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum within six calendar years of the first registration for work to be credited toward the degree
3. Earn a minimum grade of B or pass grade in all nursing courses
4. Earn a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all work presented for graduation
5. Conform to School of Nursing policies in respect to pass/fail grading for course work or thesis study

The degree will be granted only after all requirements have been fulfilled and all fees to the university have been paid. Degrees are not granted in absentia unless written request is made to the dean and permission is granted.

Curriculum requirements
Students in nurse practitioner certification concentrations are required to have completed advanced health assessment, pharmacotherapeutics and pathophysiology courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 635</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Practicum I</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 636</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 637</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Practicum II</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 656</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management of Psychiatric Disorders Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 657</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing: Theory and Practice Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 23

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 23

Graduate program director
Pamela J. Biernacki, D.N.P., FNP-C
Assistant professor, Department of Family and Community Health Nursing
Email: pjbiernacki@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-7567

Additional contact
Susan L. Lipp, M.S.N., R.N.
Assistant dean for enrollment and student services  
Email: vcu_nurse@vcu.edu

Program website: nursing.vcu.edu/programs/post-masters-certificate
(http://nursing.vcu.edu/programs/post-masters-certificate)

Nursing, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

The goal of the Ph.D. program in nursing is to prepare nurse scientists who will advance health and health care through discovery and extension of knowledge in biobehavioral and health care quality research.

Student learning outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

1. Apply, transmit and generate knowledge in the discipline of nursing
2. Construct, test and modify theories for nursing in the context of social, ethical, scientific, cultural and economic influences
3. Analyze and synthesize knowledge from related disciplines for use in nursing
4. Exhibit scientific integrity in the design and conduct of scholarly inquiry
5. Engage in interdisciplinary collaboration in knowledge development and dissemination

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

VCU School of Nursing Student Policy and Information handbooks (http://nursing.vcu.edu/about-us/resources) are located on the school’s website.

Our international and non-native English-speaking students bring different perspectives and new thinking to our nursing programs. To ensure that all incoming student are prepared for the school’s academic rigor, all international applicants and non-native English speaking applicants without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university must provide additional information with their applications according to the English language proficiency guidelines on the program admission tab.

Visit the School of Nursing website for application instructions (http://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/application-instructions/phd).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall, odd years (part-time students)</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fall, even years (full and part-time students)</td>
<td>Note: Applications may be accepted after the deadline on a space-available basis.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must present:

1. Both a baccalaureate and a master’s degree, one of which must be in nursing (The degree in nursing must be from an ACEN-, CCNE- or CNEA-accredited school. Graduates of international nursing schools and applicants who have studied outside of the U.S. are required to provide a course-by-course external credential evaluation from a VCU-recognized professional evaluator. The professional evaluation may not be older than two years at the time of application.)
2. Graduate Record Exam score
3. Three-credit statistics course with a minimum grade of B
4. A current, unrestricted R.N. license or an authorization to practice as an R.N. in Virginia, the District of Columbia or a U.S. possession or territory (Graduates of international nursing schools who are not
licensed in a state, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. possession or territory are required to obtain a VisaScreen Certificate issued by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools.)

5. If not a native speaker, provide proof of English language proficiency by submitting one of the following test scores (taken within 24 months of the time of application):
   a. TOEFL score of 100 iBT with minimum subsection scores as noted
      i. Reading – 22
      ii. Listening – 22
      iii. Speaking – 26
      iv. Writing – 24
   b. IELTS score of 7.5 overall band

Applicants must complete and submit the following materials:

1. An application for graduate studies (Visit the School of Nursing website for application instructions (http://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/application-instructions/phd).)
2. Official transcripts from all previous universities and colleges attended for all graduate and undergraduate work
3. Official GRE score report
4. A typed personal statement, thoughtfully and scholarly answering the following questions:
   a. What are your career goals, and how do you see this doctoral program contributing to meeting them?
   b. Within your particular area of interest, identify some problems you see as offering promise for research.
   c. What particular strengths do you believe you bring to this program that would enrich the learning environment of your peers?
   d. What do you perceive as major contemporary issues in nursing, and what are your views on at least one of them?
   e. Identify one or two potential advisers from the School of Nursing Ph.D. faculty who may be a good match for your research interests, and provide a rationale for your choice.
5. A resume that includes name and address, past educational degrees, past work experiences, professional affiliations, certifications, honors and awards, presentations, and publications
6. References from three persons who can knowledgeably comment upon applicant’s ability to succeed in an academic program (e.g., former faculty) or who can evaluate applicant’s ability to be successful in nursing research (Avoid references from ministers or others who are not familiar with professional and academic abilities; from friends, either professional or personal; or from personal health care providers.)

Note: A personal interview is required.

Degree requirements
A minimum of 61 graduate credit hours are required for the Ph.D. in Nursing program.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a candidate for the doctoral degree in nursing must be recommended by the faculty and must:

1. Meet academic requirements of the Graduate School
2. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum within eight calendar years of the first registration for work to be credited toward the degree
3. Earn a minimum grade of B or pass grade in all nursing courses
4. Earn a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all work presented for graduation
5. Conform to School of Nursing policies in respect to pass/fail grading for course work or thesis study

The degree will be granted only after all requirements have been fulfilled, all fees to the university have been paid and electronic copies of the dissertation have been submitted. Degrees are not granted in absentia unless written request is made to the dean and permission is granted.

Curriculum requirements

Core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 703</td>
<td>Philosophy of Human Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 704</td>
<td>Analysis and Construction of Theory for Nursing Research</td>
<td>3</td>
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</table>

Total Hours 6

Research methods and statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 700</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity: Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 701</td>
<td>Statistical Methods for Nursing Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 702</td>
<td>Advanced Statistical Concepts for Nursing Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 770</td>
<td>Quantitative Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 772</td>
<td>Qualitative Research</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 773</td>
<td>Perspectives on Research Design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 17

Focus of inquiry

Students are required to choose and complete focus of inquiry area.

Focus of inquiry: Biobehavioral

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 720</td>
<td>Foundations of Biobehavioral Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 721</td>
<td>Advanced Concepts in Biobehavioral Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 725</td>
<td>Synthesis and Emerging Trends in Scientific Inquiry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives: Select six credits from courses designed to support the area of study (see below)

Focus of inquiry: Quality and Safety

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 610</td>
<td>Health Information and Data Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 638</td>
<td>Health Policy Leadership and Advocacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 725</td>
<td>Synthesis and Emerging Trends in Scientific Inquiry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 731</td>
<td>Foundations in Health Care Quality Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 732</td>
<td>Advanced Concepts in Health Care Quality Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 15
Research training

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 776</td>
<td>Research Program Development Seminar I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 777</td>
<td>Research Program Development Seminar II</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 778</td>
<td>Research Program Development Seminar III</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 796</td>
<td>Directed Research Experience or NURS 792 Directed Research Inquiry</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 797</td>
<td>Practicum in Nursing Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 11

Dissertation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 898</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 12

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 61

Electives

Select courses designed to support the area of study.

NEXs cluster courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NEX 600-615</td>
<td>(consult with adviser for appropriate courses)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 791</td>
<td>Special Topics</td>
<td>3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 792</td>
<td>Directed Research Inquiry</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 796</td>
<td>Directed Research Experience</td>
<td>2-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other courses approved by your adviser

Comprehensive examination requirements

The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to test synthesis of foundational knowledge in preparation for launching a program of scholarship as a beginning scientist. Three knowledge domains are critical: a) theory and philosophy, b) qualitative and c) quantitative methodological approaches. The student’s area of study is incorporated into these three domains. The comprehensive exam consists of two components, a written and an oral component, both of which must be passed. The oral exam will be conducted with the student either in person or via video conference.

Dissertation requirements

The student must conduct a substantial independent investigation and prepare a dissertation reporting the results of this research and analyzing its significance in relation to existing scientific knowledge. Satisfactory completion of the comprehensive examination and a satisfactory oral defense of the dissertation proposal are required prior to commencement of actual work outlined in the proposal. Once approved, the dissertation proposal is similar to a formal contract between the student and dissertation committee about the nature of the dissertation.

The dissertation committee must consist of a minimum of four members. A member of the graduate faculty of the School of Nursing who has an established program of research and prior experience on dissertation committees must chair a student’s dissertation committee. Other committee members must include one faculty member from the student’s focus area and one member from outside the School of Nursing. The dissertation committee is approved by the associate dean for academic programs in the School of Nursing. An oral defense of the dissertation is conducted by the student’s dissertation committee. The student is responsible for preparing the dissertation in accordance with the most current version of the Graduate School Thesis and Dissertation Manual (http://graduate.vcu.edu/media/graduate-school/docs/pdf/ThesisandDissertationManualUPDATED5-18-16.pdf)

Program director

Jo Lynne W. Robins, Ph.D., ANP-BC, CHTP, AHN-C
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Additional contact

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Educational program coordinator for doctoral programs
Email: fNeal@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-0836

Program website: nursing.vcu.edu/programs/phd (http://nursing.vcu.edu/programs/phd)

Nursing, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), B.S. to Ph.D. option

The VCU School of Nursing Doctor of philosophy program in nursing prepares scholars to develop knowledge in the discipline of nursing to become teacher-scholars or pioneering researchers committed to the highest ideals of nursing excellence. The program examines knowledge development in nursing through an understanding of the impact of a wide range of historical influences on the discipline and through analysis of how emerging societal issues influence knowledge development. Knowledge in the humanities and social sciences and an understanding of knowledge development in other disciplines is viewed as foundational to a full understanding of knowledge development in nursing. Methodologic competency (i.e., knowledge of research designs, methodologies and tools) is also essential to a full understanding of the scope, range and path of knowledge development and the relevance to nursing practice.

The online Ph.D. program includes a combination of online courses and on-campus immersions each semester to offer students a dynamic, interactive learning experience that will prepare them to become nurse scholars and scientists. This format is designed to expand the Ph.D. program’s reach to a wider range of highly motivated, independent students who aspire to become scholars, make a significant difference in the field of nursing and study with nationally recognized nurse scientists.

During the first year of the B.S. to Ph.D. option, there are some required face-to-face courses.

Student learning outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

1. Apply, transmit and generate knowledge in the discipline of nursing
2. Construct, test and modify theories for nursing in the context of social, ethical, scientific, cultural and economic influences
3. Analyze and synthesize knowledge from related disciplines for use in nursing
4. Exhibit scientific integrity in the design and conduct of scholarly inquiry
5. Engage in interdisciplinary collaboration in knowledge development and dissemination

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Other information**

VCU School of Nursing Student Policy and Information handbooks (http://nursing.vcu.edu/about-us/resources) are located on the school’s website.

Our international and non-native English-speaking students bring different perspectives and new thinking to our nursing programs. To ensure that all incoming student are prepared for the school’s academic rigor, all international applicants and non-native English speaking applicants without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university must provide additional information with their applications according to the English language proficiency guidelines on the program admission tab.

Visit the School of Nursing website for application instructions (http://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/application-instructions/phd).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ph.D.</td>
<td>Fall, odd years</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must present:

1. A baccalaureate degree in nursing (The degree in nursing must be from an ACEN-, CCNE- or CNEA-accredited school. Graduates of international nursing schools and applicants who have studied outside of the U.S. are required to provide a course-by-course external credential evaluation from a VCU-recognized professional evaluator. The professional evaluation may not be older than two years at the time of application. Applicants are not required to have completed a graduate degree.)
2. Graduate Record Exam score
3. Three-credit statistics course with a minimum grade of B
4. A current, unrestricted R.N. license or an authorization to practice as an R.N. in Virginia, the District of Columbia or a U.S. possession or territory (Graduates of international nursing schools who are not licensed in a state, the District of Columbia, or a U.S. possession or territory are required to obtain a VisaScreen Certificate issued by the Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools.)
5. If not a native speaker, provide proof of English language proficiency by submitting one of the following test scores (taken within 24 months of the time of application):
   - a. TOEFL score of 100 iBT with minimum subsection scores as noted
      - i Reading – 22
      - ii Listening – 22
      - iii Speaking – 26
      - iv Writing – 24
   - b. IELTS score of 7.5 overall band

Applicants must complete and submit the following materials:

1. An application for graduate studies (Visit the School of Nursing website for application instructions (http://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/application-instructions/phd).)
2. Official transcripts from all previous universities and colleges attended for all graduate and undergraduate work
3. Official GRE score report (if not waived)
4. A typed personal statement, thoughtfully and scholarly answering the following questions:
   a. What are your career goals, and how do you see this doctoral program contributing to meeting them?
   b. Within your particular area of interest, identify some problems you see as offering promise for research.
   c. What particular strengths do you believe you bring to this program that would enrich the learning environment of your peers?
   d. What do you perceive as major contemporary issues in nursing, and what are your views on at least one of them?
   e. Identify one or two potential advisers from the School of Nursing Ph.D. faculty who may be a good match for your research interests, and provide a rationale for your choice.

5. A resume that includes name and address, past educational degrees, past work experiences, professional affiliations, certifications, honors and awards, presentations, and publications

6. References from three persons who can knowledgeable comment upon applicant’s ability to succeed in an academic program (e.g., former faculty) or who can evaluate applicant’s ability to be successful in nursing research (Avoid references from ministers or others who are not familiar with professional and academic abilities; from friends, either professional or personal; or from personal health care providers.)

Note: A personal interview is required.

Guaranteed admission
School of Nursing B.S. graduates who earn University Honors through the VCU Honors College are eligible for guaranteed admission to the B.S. to Ph.D. program if their research interests align with the Ph.D. program. Requirements for GRE scores and references are waived. All other required application materials must be submitted.

Degree requirements
A minimum of 91 graduate credit hours are required for the post-B.S. to Ph.D. in Nursing program.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a candidate for the doctoral degree in nursing must be recommended by the faculty and must:

1. Meet academic requirements of the Graduate School
2. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum within eight calendar years of the first registration for work to be credited toward the degree
3. Earn a minimum grade of B or pass grade in all nursing courses
4. Earn a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all work presented for graduation
5. Conform to School of Nursing policies in respect to pass/fail grading for course work or thesis study

The degree will be granted only after all requirements have been fulfilled, all fees to the university have been paid and electronic copies of the dissertation have been submitted. Degrees are not granted in absentia unless written request is made to the dean and permission is granted.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Master’s-level courses</th>
<th>Ph.D.-level courses</th>
<th>Research methods and statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 503 Ethics, Advanced Nursing Practice and the Health Care Environment</td>
<td>NURS 703 Philosophy of Human Sciences</td>
<td>NURS 700 Scientific Integrity: Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 504 Advanced Nursing Practice: The Biological Basis of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>NURS 701 Statistical Methods for Nursing Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 508 Policy, Processes and Systems for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>NURS 702 Advanced Statistical Concepts for Nursing Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 512 Evidence-Based Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>NURS 770 Quantitative Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 592 Directed Study in Nursing</td>
<td>NURS 772 Qualitative Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 691 Nursing Research Practicum</td>
<td>NURS 773 Perspectives on Research Design</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional 500- and 600-level courses</td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td>Total Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Focus of inquiry

Students are required to choose and complete focus of inquiry area.

Focus of inquiry: Biobehavioral

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus of inquiry: Biobehavioral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 720 Foundations of Biobehavioral Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 721 Advanced Concepts in Biobehavioral Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 725 Synthesis and Emerging Trends in Scientific Inquiry</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives: Select six credits from courses designed to support the area of study (see below)

Focus of inquiry: Quality and safety

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Focus of inquiry: Quality and safety</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 610 Health Information and Data Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 638 Health Policy Leadership and Advocacy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 725 Synthesis and Emerging Trends in Scientific Inquiry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 731 Foundations in Health Care Quality Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
NURS 732  Advanced Concepts in Health Care Quality Research

Total Hours  15

Research training

NURS 776  Research Program Development Seminar I  2
NURS 777  Research Program Development Seminar II  2
NURS 778  Research Program Development Seminar III  2
NURS 796 or NURS 792  Directed Research Experience  2
NURS 797  Practicum in Nursing Research  3

Total Hours  11

Dissertation

NURS 898  Dissertation  12

Total Hours  12

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum)  91

Electives
Select courses designed to support the area of study.

NEXus cluster courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEXS 600 - 615 (consult with adviser for appropriate courses)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 791  Special Topics  3-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 792  Directed Research Inquiry  1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 796  Directed Research Experience  2-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other courses approved by your adviser</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Comprehensive examination requirements
The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to test synthesis of foundational knowledge in preparation for launching a program of scholarship as a beginning scientist. Three knowledge domains are critical: a) theory and philosophy, b) qualitative and c) quantitative methodological approaches. The student’s area of study is incorporated into these three domains. The comprehensive exam consists of two components, a written and an oral component, both of which must be passed. The oral exam will be conducted with the student either in person or via video conference.

Dissertation requirements
The student must conduct a substantial independent investigation and prepare a dissertation reporting the results of this research and analyzing its significance in relation to existing scientific knowledge. Satisfactory completion of the comprehensive examination and a satisfactory oral defense of the dissertation proposal are required prior to commencement of actual work outlined in the proposal. Once approved, the dissertation proposal is similar to a formal contract between the student and dissertation committee about the nature of the dissertation.

The dissertation committee must consist of a minimum of four members. A member of the graduate faculty of the School of Nursing who has an established program of research and prior experience on dissertation committees must chair a student’s dissertation committee. Other committee members must include one faculty member from the student’s focus area and one member from outside the School of Nursing. The dissertation committee is approved by the associate dean for academic programs in the School of Nursing. An oral defense of the dissertation is conducted by the student’s dissertation committee. The student is responsible for preparing the dissertation in accordance with the most current version of the Graduate School Thesis and Dissertation Manual. (http://graduate.vcu.edu/media/graduate-school/docs/pdf/ThesisandDissertationManualUPDATED5-18-16.pdf)

Program director
Jo Lynne W. Robins, Ph.D, ANP-BC, CHTP, AHN-C
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Phone: (804) 828-0836

Program website: nursing.vcu.edu/programs/phd (http://nursing.vcu.edu/programs/phd)

Nursing, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner

The VCU School of Nursing adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner concentration prepares graduates for advanced practice registered nurse roles by developing the knowledge and skills needed to manage acutely ill adults, ranging from adolescents to the elderly, through all phases of their hospitalization. Students learn to manage patients through comprehensive physical and psychosocial assessments, use of decision-making/diagnostic reasoning processes, performance of advanced practice skills and procedures, and implementation of evidence-based treatment strategies. Graduates of the AGACNP concentration are prepared to diagnose and manage complex health problems of adults across the life span, including acute/critical illness and injuries, as well as exacerbations of chronic conditions.

The AGACNP generally works in an acute care setting, often within a multidisciplinary team focused on the provision of evidence-based care to adults who are acutely ill. The sphere of influence of the nurse practitioner is that of the patient.

Graduates of the AGACNP concentration are eligible to apply for certification as an AGACNP by the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses.

Program goals
Graduates will achieve advanced nursing practice competencies by demonstrating:
1. Systems and organizational leadership
2. Implementation of advanced nursing practice interventions
3. Effective use of research and technology
4. Systematic evaluation of interventions and outcomes
Graduates will be able to:

1. Demonstrate core competencies in their advanced practice specialties.
2. Integrate nursing and related sciences into the delivery of advanced nursing care to diverse populations and systems of health care delivery.
3. Apply ethical analysis and clinical reasoning to assess, intervene and evaluate advanced nursing care delivery.
4. Understand the implications of social, cultural, economic, policy and organizational systems that impact practice and outcomes.
5. Synthesize evidence for practice to determine appropriate application of interventions across diverse populations and settings.
6. Use quality processes and improvement science to evaluate care and ensure patient safety for individuals, populations and systems.
7. Integrate organizational science and technology to make changes in the care environment to improve health outcomes and practice efficiency.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Other information**

VCU School of Nursing Student Policy and Information handbooks (http://nursing.vcu.edu/about-us/resources) are located on the school’s website.

Our international and non-native English-speaking students bring different perspectives and new thinking to our nursing programs. To ensure that all incoming student are prepared for the school’s academic rigor, all international applicants and non-native English speaking applicants without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university must provide additional information with their applications according to the English language proficiency guidelines in the program admission tab.

Visit the School of Nursing website for program-specific application instructions (http://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/application-instructions/masters).

**Admission requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To be considered for admission to the School of Nursing, applicants must:

1. Meet the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18)
2. Be eligible for readmission or in good standing at the last college attended
3. Be a baccalaureate (or higher) graduate of an accredited (ACEN, CCNE or CNEA) nursing program
4. Have a current unrestricted R.N. license or authorization to practice as an R.N. in the U.S.
5. Complete a minimum of three credit hours in statistics with a minimum grade of B
6. Provide additional information with the application according to the English language proficiency guidelines in the VCU Bulletin for applicants who are international or non-native English speakers without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university

School of Nursing B.S. graduates who successfully completed the requirements of the VCU Honors College are eligible for guaranteed admission to the master’s program or the post-B.S. to Ph.D. program upon submission of an application form and personal statement. Requirements for references are waived.
Degree requirements

Forty-nine graduate credit hours are required for the adult-gerontology acute care nurse practitioner concentration.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a candidate for the degree of Master of Science in Nursing must be recommended by the faculty and must:

1. Meet academic requirements of the Graduate School
2. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum within six calendar years of the first registration for work to be credited toward the degree
3. Earn a minimum grade of B or pass grade in all nursing courses
4. Earn a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all work presented for graduation
5. Conform to School of Nursing policies in respect to pass/fail grading for course work or thesis study

The degree will be granted only after all requirements have been fulfilled and all fees to the university have been paid. Degrees are not granted in absentia unless written request is made to the dean and permission is granted.

Curriculum requirements

Core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 501</td>
<td>Advanced Professionalization I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 502</td>
<td>Advanced Nursing Practice: Pharmacotherapeutics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 503</td>
<td>Ethics, Advanced Nursing Practice and the Health Care Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 504</td>
<td>Advanced Nursing Practice: The Biological Basis of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 507</td>
<td>Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 508</td>
<td>Policy, Processes and Systems for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 511</td>
<td>Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 512</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 601</td>
<td>Advanced Professionalization II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concentration courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 610</td>
<td>Gero-pharmacology</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 611</td>
<td>Primary Care Advanced Practice Clinical Procedures</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 612</td>
<td>Acute Care Advanced Practice Clinical Procedures</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 618</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management in Adult-Gerontology Acute Care I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>NURS 619</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management in Adult-Gerontology Acute Care II</td>
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<td>NURS 662</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management in Adult-Gerontology Critical Care</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 678</td>
<td>Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Practicum I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 49**

Graduate program director

Pamela J. Biernacki, D.N.P., FNP-C
Assistant professor, Department of Family and Community Health Nursing
Email: pjbiernacki@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-7567

Additional contact

Susan L. Lipp, RN
Assistant dean for enrollment and student services
Email: vcu_nurse@vcu.edu

Program website: nursing.vcu.edu/education/masters (http://www.nursing.vcu.edu/education/masters)

Nursing, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner

The VCU School of Nursing adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner concentration prepares graduates for advanced practice registered nurse roles by developing the knowledge and skills needed to diagnose and manage common acute and chronic health problems in adults, ranging from adolescents to the elderly. Students learn to manage patients through comprehensive physical and psychosocial assessments, use of decision-making/diagnostic reasoning processes, performance of advanced practice skills and procedures, and implementation of evidence-based treatment strategies, including health promotion and disease prevention.

The AGPCNP has a practice located in a variety of primary care settings, including college health services, health maintenance organizations, community clinics, long-term care, assisted living, continuing care retirement communities, occupational health settings and private practices.

Graduates of the AGPCNP concentration are eligible to apply for certification as an AGACNP by the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Association of Nurse Practitioners.

Program goals

Graduates will achieve advanced nursing practice competencies by demonstrating:

1. Systems and organizational leadership
2. Implementation of advanced nursing practice interventions
3. Effective use of research and technology
4. Systematic evaluation of interventions and outcomes

Student learning outcomes

Graduates will be able to:
1. Demonstrate core competencies in their advanced practice specialties
2. Integrate nursing and related sciences into the delivery of advanced nursing care to diverse populations and systems of health care delivery
3. Apply ethical analysis and clinical reasoning to assess, intervene and evaluate advanced nursing care delivery
4. Understand the implications of social, cultural, economic, policy and organizational systems that impact practice and outcomes
5. Synthesize evidence for practice to determine appropriate application of interventions across diverse populations and settings
6. Use quality processes and improvement science to evaluate care and ensure patient safety for individuals, populations and systems
7. Integrate organizational science and technology to make changes in the care environment to improve health outcomes and practice efficiency

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.gradient.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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.

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

VCU School of Nursing Student Policy and Information handbooks (http://nursing.vcu.edu/about-us/resources) are located on the school’s website.

Our international and non-native English-speaking students bring different perspectives and new thinking to our nursing programs. To ensure that all incoming student are prepared for the school’s academic rigor, all international applicants and non-native English speaking applicants without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university must provide additional information with their applications according to the English language proficiency guidelines on the program admission tab.

Visit the School of Nursing website for program-specific application instructions (http://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/application-instructions/masters).

Admission requirements

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<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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To be considered for admission to the School of Nursing, applicants must:

1. Meet the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18)
2. Be eligible for readmission or in good standing at the last college attended
3. Be a baccalaureate (or higher) graduate of an accredited (ACEN, CCNE or CNEA) nursing program
4. Have a current unrestricted R.N. license or authorization to practice as an R.N. in the U.S.
5. Complete a minimum of three credit hours in statistics with a minimum grade of B
6. Provide additional information with the application according to the English language proficiency guidelines in the VCU Bulletin for applicants who are international or non-native English speakers without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university

School of Nursing B.S. graduates who successfully completed the requirements of the VCU Honors College are eligible for guaranteed admission to the master’s program or the post-B.S. to Ph.D. program upon submission of an application form and personal statement. Requirements for references are waived.

Degree requirements

Forty-eight graduate credit hours are required for the adult-gerontology primary care nurse practitioner concentration.
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a candidate for the degree of Master of Science in Nursing must be recommended by the faculty and must:

1. Meet academic requirements of the Graduate School
2. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum within six calendar years of the first registration for work to be credited toward the degree
3. Earn a minimum grade of B or pass grade in all nursing courses
4. Earn a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all work presented for graduation
5. Conform to School of Nursing policies in respect to pass/fail grading for course work or thesis study

The degree will be granted only after all requirements have been fulfilled and all fees to the university have been paid. Degrees are not granted in absentia unless written request is made to the dean and permission is granted.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Core courses**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 501</td>
<td>Advanced Professionalization I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 502</td>
<td>Advanced Nursing Practice: Pharmacotherapeutics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 503</td>
<td>Ethics, Advanced Nursing Practice and the Health Care Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 504</td>
<td>Advanced Nursing Practice: The Biological Basis of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 507</td>
<td>Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 508</td>
<td>Policy, Processes and Systems for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>NURS 511</td>
<td>Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 512</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 601</td>
<td>Advanced Professionalization II</td>
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<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
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<td>NURS 611</td>
<td>Primary Care Advanced Practice Clinical Procedures</td>
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<td>NURS 615</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management in Adult-Gerontology Primary Care I</td>
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<td>NURS 616</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management in Adult-Gerontology Primary Care II</td>
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<td>NURS 617</td>
<td>Advanced Gerontology Primary Care Across the Care Continuum</td>
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<td>NURS 676</td>
<td>Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Practicum I</td>
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<td>NURS 675</td>
<td>Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Practicum II</td>
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<td>NURS 677</td>
<td>Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Practicum III</td>
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<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
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</tr>
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</table>

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 48**

**Graduate program director**
Pamela J. Biernacki, D.N.P., FNP-C
Assistant professor, Department of Family and Community Health Nursing
Email: pjbiernacki@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-7567

**Additional contact**
Susan L. Lipp, RN
Assistant dean for enrollment and student services
Email: vcu_nurse@vcu.edu

**Program website:** nursing.vcu.edu/education/masters (http://www.nursing.vcu.edu/education/masters)

**Nursing, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in family nurse practitioner**

The VCU School of Nursing family nurse practitioner concentration prepares graduates for advanced practice registered nurse roles by developing the knowledge and skills needed to diagnose and manage common acute and chronic health problems across the lifespan through comprehensive physical and psychosocial assessments, use of decision-making/diagnostic reasoning processes, performance of advanced practice skills and procedures and implementation of evidence-based treatment strategies, including health promotion and disease prevention.

The FNP is prepared to provide direct care to individuals and families in a variety of primary care settings, including college health services, health maintenance organizations, community clinics, long-term care, assisted living, continuing care retirement communities, occupational health settings, urgent care and private practices.

Graduates of the FNP concentration are eligible to apply for certification as a FNP by the American Nurses Credentialing Center or the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners.

**Program goals**

Graduates will achieve advanced nursing practice competencies by demonstrating:

1. Systems and organizational leadership
2. Implementation of advanced nursing practice interventions
3. Effective use of research and technology
4. Systematic evaluation of interventions and outcomes

**Student learning outcomes**

Graduates will be able to:

1. Demonstrate core competencies in their advanced practice specialties
2. Integrate nursing and related sciences into the delivery of advanced nursing care to diverse populations and systems of health care delivery
3. Apply ethical analysis and clinical reasoning to assess, intervene and evaluate advanced nursing care delivery
4. Understand the implications of social, cultural, economic, policy and organizational systems that impact practice and outcomes
5. Synthesize evidence for practice to determine appropriate application of interventions across diverse populations and settings
6. Use quality processes and improvement science to evaluate care and ensure patient safety for individuals, populations and systems
7. Integrate organizational science and technology to make changes in the care environment to improve health outcomes and practice efficiency

Virginia Commonwealth University Graduate School, 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

VCU School of Nursing Student Policy and Information handbooks (http://nursing.vcu.edu/about-us/resources) are located on the school’s website.

Our international and non-native English-speaking students bring different perspectives and new thinking to our nursing programs. To ensure that all incoming student are prepared for the school’s academic rigor, all international applicants and non-native English speaking applicants without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university must provide additional information with their applications according to the English language proficiency guidelines on the program admission tab.

Visit the School of Nursing website for program-specific application instructions (http://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/application-instructions/masters).

Admission requirements

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<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
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To be considered for admission to the School of Nursing, applicants must:

1. Meet the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18)
2. Be eligible for readmission or in good standing at the last college attended
3. Be a baccalaureate (or higher) graduate of an accredited (ACEN, CCNE or CNEA) nursing program
4. Have a current unrestricted R.N. license or authorization to practice as an R.N. in the U.S.
5. Complete a minimum of three credit hours in statistics with a minimum grade of B
6. Provide additional information with the application according to the English language proficiency guidelines in the VCU Bulletin for applicants who are international or non-native English speakers without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university

School of Nursing B.S. graduates who successfully completed the requirements of the VCU Honors College are eligible for guaranteed admission to the master’s program or the post-B.S. to Ph.D. program upon submission of an application form and personal statement. Requirements for references are waived.

Degree requirements

Fifty-one credit hours are required for the family nurse practitioner concentration.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a candidate for the degree of Master of Science in Nursing must be recommended by the faculty and must:

1. Meet academic requirements of the Graduate School
2. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum within six calendar years of the first registration for work to be credited toward the degree
3. Earn a minimum grade of B or pass grade in all nursing courses
4. Earn a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all work presented for graduation
5. Conform to School of Nursing policies in respect to pass/fail grading for course work or thesis study

The degree will be granted only after all requirements have been fulfilled and all fees to the university have been paid. Degrees are not granted in absentia unless written request is made to the dean and permission is granted.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Core courses**

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<td>NURS 503</td>
<td>Ethics, Advanced Nursing Practice and the Health Care Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 504</td>
<td>Advanced Nursing Practice: The Biological Basis of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 507</td>
<td>Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 508</td>
<td>Policy, Processes and Systems for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 511</td>
<td>Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 512</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 601</td>
<td>Advanced Professionalization II</td>
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**Total Hours** 24

**Concentration courses**

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<thead>
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<td>NURS 627</td>
<td>Foundational Perspectives of Family-centered Care</td>
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<td>NURS 629</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management in Family Primary Care I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 630</td>
<td>Diagnosis And Management In Family Primary Care II</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 631</td>
<td>Primary Care of Select Populations</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>NURS 643</td>
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<td>NURS 645</td>
<td>Family Primary Care Practicum II</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 646</td>
<td>Family Primary Care Final Synthesis Seminar</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 27

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum)** 51

**Graduate program director**

Pamela J. Biernacki, D.N.P., FNP-C
Assistant professor, Department of Family and Community Health Nursing
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**Additional contact**

Susan L. Lipp, RN

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Email: vcu_nurse@vcu.edu

**Program website**: nursing.vcu.edu/education/masters (http://www.nursing.vcu.edu/education/masters)

**Nursing, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in nursing administration and leadership**

For students interested in a leadership role in a health care organization, the nursing administration and leadership concentration at the VCU School of Nursing offers a flexible and rewarding career path. Over the past three decades, this concentration has gained a reputation for educating some of the nation's top nursing leaders. With a vision of shaping the future of health care through innovative nursing leadership, the NAL concentration prepares nurses to play an essential systems-level role in promoting and sustaining high-quality and safe patient care. Students gain advanced knowledge and skills in the areas of leadership, administration, management, health care finance, budgeting, outcomes management and evidence-based organizational practices in health care.

Graduates of the NAL concentration are prepared to succeed in nursing leadership positions and are eligible, depending on employment role, to apply for several different nursing administration certification exams offered through the American Nurses Credentialing Center of the American Nurses Association or the American Organization of Nurse Executives.

**Program goals**

Graduates will achieve advanced nursing practice competencies by demonstrating:

1. Systems and organizational leadership
2. Implementation of advanced nursing practice interventions
3. Effective use of research and technology
4. Systematic evaluation of interventions and outcomes

**Student learning outcomes**

Graduates will be able to:

1. Demonstrate core competencies in their advanced practice specialties
2. Integrate nursing and related sciences into the delivery of advanced nursing care to diverse populations and systems of health care delivery
3. Apply ethical analysis and clinical reasoning to assess, intervene and evaluate advanced nursing care delivery
4. Understand the implications of social, cultural, economic, policy and organizational systems that impact practice and outcomes
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5. Complete a minimum of three credit hours in statistics with a minimum grade of B
6. Provide additional information with the application according to the English language proficiency guidelines in the VCU Bulletin for applicants who are international or non-native English speakers without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university

School of Nursing B.S. graduates who successfully completed the requirements of the VCU Honors College are eligible for guaranteed admission to the master’s program or the post-B.S. to Ph.D. program upon submission of an application form and personal statement. Requirements for references are waived.

Degree requirements

Forty-one graduate credit hours are required for the nurse administration and leadership concentration.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a candidate for the degree of Master of Science in Nursing must be recommended by the faculty and must:

1. Meet academic requirements of the Graduate School
2. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum within six calendar years of the first registration for work to be credited toward the degree
3. Earn a minimum grade of B or pass grade in all nursing courses
4. Earn a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all work presented for graduation
5. Conform to School of Nursing policies in respect to pass/fail grading for course work or thesis study

The degree will be granted only after all requirements have been fulfilled and all fees to the university have been paid. Degrees are not granted in absentia unless written request is made to the dean and permission is granted.
Curriculum requirements

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Concentration courses

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 609</td>
<td>Health Care Delivery and Reimbursement Systems for Nurse Leaders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 613</td>
<td>Organizational Behavior and Leadership for Nurse Leaders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 614</td>
<td>Organizational Systems and Leadership for Nurse Leaders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 639</td>
<td>Health Informatics for Nurse Leaders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 651</td>
<td>Decision Analysis for Quality Outcomes Across Populations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 652</td>
<td>Health Care Managerial Finance I: For Nurse Leaders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 653</td>
<td>Health Care Managerial Finance II: Economic Evaluation and Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 666</td>
<td>Strategic and Change Management for Quality Outcomes for Nurse Leaders</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 668</td>
<td>Human Resource and Customer Relationship Management for Nurse Leaders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 695</td>
<td>Managing for Performance and Health Care Outcomes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 696</td>
<td>Practicum I: Comparative Health Care Delivery Systems for Nurse Leaders</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 697</td>
<td>Practicum II: Comparative Interdisciplinary Health Care Leadership Roles</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 698</td>
<td>Practicum III: Applied Integrative Health Care Delivery Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 41

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 41

Graduate program director
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Program website: nursing.vcu.edu/education/masters (http://www.nursing.vcu.edu/education/masters)

Nursing, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner

The psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner concentration prepares graduates for advanced practice registered nurse roles by developing the knowledge and skills in areas of mental health promotion, as well as mental illness prevention, assessment, diagnosis, treatment and patient education in the care of individuals across the lifespan. Students are exposed to a unique balance of neuroscience, psychological theory and evidence-based practice. Students crystalize their understanding of this content through the use of simulation, interactive case study, discussion board activity, individual and group-based projects, writing assignments, testing and supervised practicum experiences. Informed by a balanced approach to care, students receive focused instruction in both psychotherapy and psychopharmacotherapy.

The PMHNP is prepared to assess, diagnose, treat and educate individuals, families and groups with complex psychiatric-mental health problems and do so with an interprofessional lens of quality and safety. PMHNPs work in clinical settings that include private, state or Veterans Affairs in-patient or outpatient psychiatric facilities, private psychiatric practices, and community mental health centers. PMHMPs also provide services in settings such as correctional facilities, domestic violence shelters, residential substance abuse facilities and schools.

Graduates of the PMHNP concentration are eligible to apply for the Psychiatric and Mental Health Nurse Practitioner certification exam administered by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Program goals

Graduates will achieve advanced nursing practice competencies by demonstrating:
1. Systems and organizational leadership
2. Implementation of advanced nursing practice interventions
3. Effective use of research and technology
4. Systematic evaluation of interventions and outcomes

Student learning outcomes

Graduates will be able to:
1. Demonstrate core competencies in their advanced practice specialties
2. Integrate nursing and related sciences into the delivery of advanced nursing care to diverse populations and systems of health care delivery
3. Apply ethical analysis and clinical reasoning to assess, intervene and evaluate advanced nursing care delivery
4. Understand the implications of social, cultural, economic, policy and organizational systems that impact practice and outcomes
5. Synthesize evidence for practice to determine appropriate application of interventions across diverse populations and settings
6. Use quality processes and improvement science to evaluate care and ensure patient safety for individuals, populations and systems
7. Integrate organizational science and technology to make changes in the care environment to improve health outcomes and practice efficiency
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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

VCU School of Nursing Student Policy and Information handbooks (http://nursing.vcu.edu/about-us/resources) are located on the school’s website.

Our international and non-native English-speaking students bring different perspectives and new thinking to our nursing programs. To ensure that all incoming student are prepared for the school’s academic rigor, all international applicants and non-native English speaking applicants without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university must provide additional information with their applications according to the English language proficiency guidelines on the program admission tab.

Visit the School of Nursing website for program-specific application instructions (http://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/application-instructions/masters).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Mar 15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To be considered for admission to the School of Nursing, applicants must:

1. Meet the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18)
2. Be eligible for readmission or in good standing at the last college attended
3. Be a baccalaureate (or higher) graduate of an accredited (ACEN, CCNE or CNEA) nursing program
4. Have a current unrestricted R.N. license or authorization to practice as an R.N. in the U.S.
5. Complete a minimum of three credit hours in statistics with a minimum grade of B
6. Provide additional information with the application according to the English language proficiency guidelines in the VCU Bulletin for applicants who are international or non-native English speakers without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university

School of Nursing B.S. graduates who successfully completed the requirements of the VCU Honors College are eligible for guaranteed admission to the master’s program or the post-B.S. to Ph.D. program upon submission of an application form and personal statement. Requirements for references are waived.

Degree requirements

Forty-seven graduate credit hours are required for the psychiatric-mental health nurse practitioner concentration.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a candidate for the degree of Master of Science in Nursing must be recommended by the faculty and must:

1. Meet academic requirements of the Graduate School
2. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum within six calendar years of the first registration for work to be credited toward the degree
3. Earn a minimum grade of B or pass grade in all nursing courses
4. Earn a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all work presented for graduation
5. Conform to School of Nursing policies in respect to pass/fail grading for course work or thesis study

The degree will be granted only after all requirements have been fulfilled and all fees to the university have been paid. Degrees are not granted in absentia unless written request is made to the dean and permission is granted.
Curriculum requirements

Core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 501</td>
<td>Advanced Professionalization I</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 502</td>
<td>Advanced Nursing Practice: Pharmacotherapeutics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 503</td>
<td>Ethics, Advanced Nursing Practice and the Health Care Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 504</td>
<td>Advanced Nursing Practice: The Biological Basis of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 507</td>
<td>Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 508</td>
<td>Policy, Processes and Systems for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>NURS 511</td>
<td>Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 512</td>
<td>Evidence-Based Advanced Nursing Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>NURS 601</td>
<td>Advanced Professionalization II</td>
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Total Hours: 24

Concentration courses

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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NURS 635</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Practicum I</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 636</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 637</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Practicum II</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 656</td>
<td>Diagnosis and Management of Psychiatric Disorders Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 657</td>
<td>Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing: Theory and Practice Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 23

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 47

Graduate program director
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Email: vcu_nurse@vcu.edu

Program website: nursing.vcu.edu/education/masters (http://www.nursing.vcu.edu/education/masters)

Nursing Practice, Doctor of (D.N.P.)

Building on the strength of the Magnet-designated VCU Health System and the School of Nursing’s Langston Center for Quality, Safety and Innovation, this program is strongly positioned to prepare students to improve the quality of health care delivery and patient outcomes. The Institute of Medicine’s 2011 report “The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health” noted that nurses have a critical role in transforming today’s increasingly complex health care system and called for increased education to provide nurses with key knowledge and skills to expand their influence. In order to meet this charge, graduates of the D.N.P. program at VCU will be prepared to improve health care delivery by critically appraising scientific evidence to inform practice, sharing clinical expertise in collaborative and dynamic environments, leading interprofessional teams, providing systems leadership for sustainable best practices in clinical settings and influencing health policy.

Further, graduates of VCU’s School of Nursing D.N.P. program will be prepared to engage in evidence-based, clinically focused scholarship. With support from the Langston Center, students will design, implement and evaluate innovative projects that advance quality and safety science.

Designed to accommodate master’s-prepared nurses already established in advanced practice registered nurse or nurse executive positions, the D.N.P. program is planned as a post-master’s degree requiring completion of a minimum of 39 credits. While the traditional plan of study follows an eight-semester format, an accelerated option is also available. The program will employ an online format with students coming to campus three times per year.

The D.N.P. offers a solution-focused program designed to prepare nurses to lead interprofessional efforts to develop patient quality and safety innovations, influence policy change in the transformation of health care systems and ensure ethical stewardship in practice. The program seeks to foster and broaden inquiry that sparks new insights as students make connections across disciplines to improve health care and its delivery. Building on the university’s mission to improve human health, VCU D.N.P. graduates will translate evidence that leads to sustainable practice change for improved patient quality and safety outcomes.

Program goals

Students will achieve D.N.P.-level competencies by demonstrating:

1. Use of quality and safety outcomes to evaluate practice improvement initiatives
2. Skills in using evidence-based practice to achieve sustainable practice change
3. Advanced decision-making skills founded in ethics and the highest level of nursing practice
4. Leadership strategies to influence health policies
5. Interprofessional collaboration in health care systems

Student learning outcomes

At the completion of the D.N.P. program, students will have the knowledge and skills to:

1. Demonstrate strategic management skills in systems-based care delivery models and approaches designed to promote quality, safety and excellence in nursing practice
2. Assume a leadership role in the development, implementation and evaluation of health policies that improve quality and safety in health care systems
3. Translate and disseminate evidence-based practices to improve health care outcomes and reduce disparities
4. Integrate professional intra- and interdisciplinary best practices to create collaborative sustainable practice change
5. Integrate knowledge of specialized nursing practice with knowledge from other sciences as the basis for the highest level of nursing practice
6. Lead efforts to preserve, promote and improve the health of specialty populations
7. Use health information technology to promote best practices in health care systems
8. Ensure fiscal accountability when planning practice initiatives that will improve the quality of care delivery
9. Demonstrate advanced levels of ethical and moral judgment and decision-making

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

Other information

VCU School of Nursing Student Policy and Information handbooks (http://nursing.vcu.edu/about-us/resources) are located on the school’s website.

Our international and non-native English-speaking students bring different perspectives and new thinking to our nursing programs. To ensure that all incoming student are prepared for the school’s academic rigor, all international applicants and non-native English speaking applicants without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university must provide additional information with their applications according to the English language proficiency guidelines on the program admission tab.

Visit the School of Nursing website for program-specific application instructions (http://nursing.vcu.edu/admission/application-instructions/dnp).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>D.N.P.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Feb 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: A personal interview is required.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must:

1. Be a graduate of an accredited (ACEN, CCNE or CNEA) master’s degree nursing program
2. Have a current unrestricted R.N. license or authorization to practice as an R.N. in the U.S.
3. Have a current certification in an advanced practice specialty (NP, CNS or nursing administration certification) by the time of entry into the program
4. Provide additional information with the application according to the English language proficiency guidelines in the VCU Bulletin for applicants who are international or non-native English speakers without a degree from a U.S. high school, college or university
5. Complete a personal interview

Degree requirements

A minimum of 39 graduate credit hours are required for the Doctor of Nursing Practice program.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), a candidate for the D.N.P. degree must be recommended by the faculty and must:

1. Meet academic requirements of the Graduate School
2. Complete all requirements for the prescribed curriculum within six calendar years of the first registration for work to be credited toward the degree
3. Earn a minimum grade of B or pass grade in all nursing courses
4. Earn a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all work presented for graduation
5. Conform to School of Nursing policies in respect to pass/fail grading for course work and D.N.P. project

The degree will be granted only after all requirements have been fulfilled and all fees to the university have been paid. Degrees are not granted in absentia unless written request is made to the dean and permission is granted.
The manuscript provides evidence of the student's critical thinking and ability to translate research and best evidence through problem identification, proposal development, implementation and evaluation. The project will be overseen by the student's adviser and a D.N.P. project team composed of the adviser and two doctorally prepared content experts selected by the student in consultation with the adviser. One member must be from the practice setting where the student conducts the project. The curriculum is designed so that students begin planning their D.N.P. project during initial course work and complete the project in their final semester of study. Two project courses, NURS 665 and NURS 667, are built into the curriculum in the final two semesters of study. Each course is graded pass-fail — the D.N.P. project adviser serves as the faculty member of record for each course. Students will develop a proposal and have it approved (including by the VCU Institutional Review Board, if required) during the first course, and implement the project in the second course. Students defend the written project in an oral presentation to their D.N.P. project team at the end of the final course, and each team member votes to approve or disapprove the project. In the event of two or more negative votes, the D.N.P. project team will make recommendations for revisions or additional course work and will specify a timeline for completion of the revised project. Students will be given a second opportunity to successfully complete the oral formal review. In the event of two failures, the student will be dismissed from the program.

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Program website: nursing.vcu.edu/programs/dnp (http://www.nursing.vcu.edu/programs/dnp)
The School of Pharmacy was established officially in 1898; the University College of Medicine had a school of pharmacy when it opened in 1893. The two-year curriculum gave way to a three-year program in 1925, and in 1932 the school required four years of college work and a Bachelor of Science degree was awarded. In 1960, the program lengthened to a five-year course leading to a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree. In 1975, authority was granted to offer to selected students a six-year program leading to the Doctor of Pharmacy degree and this program was adopted as the only professional offering by the school in 1995. The School of Pharmacy currently enrolls students in a four-year professional Doctor of Pharmacy program curriculum following completion of at least 73 credits of pre-professional studies taken at VCU or elsewhere. In 1996 a part-time program was offered that permitted current Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy degree holders to earn the Doctor of Pharmacy degree in a nontraditional format requiring students to come to campus infrequently. This program was phased out in 2015 and no longer accepts students for enrollment. Since 1971, all pharmacy students have participated in a clerkship program (now referred to as advanced pharmacy practice experiences) during the final year of the curriculum. Beginning 2008, the school added introductory pharmacy practice experiences during the first three years of the program to gradually transition the student from the academic classroom setting into the practice arena. Students spend their final year in a variety of practice settings under the supervision of highly qualified faculty preceptors.

The authority to award graduate degrees in the pharmaceutical sciences was granted by the Graduate Council in 1952. Departments in the school have the responsibility for administering a graduate program leading to the M.S. and Ph.D. in Pharmaceutical Sciences. This program includes areas of specialization in medicinal chemistry, pharmaceutics, pharmacotherapy and pharmacy administration. These programs provide the preparation and research experience for academic, governmental and industrial careers. Graduate degrees in pharmaceutical sciences do not provide eligibility for licensure as a pharmacist.

Administration

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Dean

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Executive associate dean for academic affairs

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Associate dean for admissions and student services

Aron Lichtman, Ph.D.
Associate dean for research and graduate studies

Phylliss M. Moret
Assistant dean for experiential education

Victoria Savoy
Assistant dean for finance and administration

Michael J. Clarke, Pharm.D.
Assistant dean for INOVA Campus

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Assistant dean for UVa campus

Sean L. Bates
Executive director for postgraduate educational programs

Veronica P. Shuford
Director of educational innovation and assessment

Ellen Carfagno
Director of development

Brian A. Canaday
Director of academic technology

Cynthia H. McMullen
Assistant dean for experiential education

Assistant dean for finance and administration

Statement of purpose

The School of Pharmacy at Virginia Commonwealth University exists to provide exceptional programs benefiting the commonwealth of Virginia and society by offering the highest quality education and training for the development of health care practitioners, scientists, professional leaders and responsible citizens. These individuals are committed to shaping the health care world of tomorrow while serving society’s health care needs today.

Mission statement

Mission

The mission of the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy is to achieve excellence in professional and graduate programs through innovative education and leading-edge research. The school will graduate outstanding future pharmacists and scientists who will improve human health, foster exemplary research and provide sustaining contributions to interprofessional patient care.

Vision

The Virginia Commonwealth University School of Pharmacy will be a transformational leader in pharmacy education, clinical practice and clinical and pharmaceutical research.

Core values

Core values express deeply held beliefs and form the foundation on which we conduct ourselves. In an everchanging world, core values are constant. The students, faculty and staff at the School of Pharmacy embrace a set of core values that creates a culture conducive to producing an optimal learning and work environment.

We:

1. Are innovative and open-minded
   We embrace innovation and are open to change and diversity of ideas.

2. Embrace change that drives excellence
   We maintain a willingness to change to further the mission and vision of the school.
3. **Pursue growth and personal development**
   We pursue professional and personal growth and development to drive excellence.

4. **Demonstrate integrity and respect**
   We demonstrate moral and ethical principles, personal responsibility and respect for others.

5. **Foster collaboration**
   We embrace interprofessional and interdisciplinary collaboration in patient care, teaching, learning and research.

6. **Seek value-added solutions**
   Faculty and staff enhance their service by taking extra steps necessary to fully contribute to the school’s mission.

7. **Encourage commitment**
   We believe that all faculty, staff and students must strive to achieve the school’s mission.

8. **Express gratitude**
   We embrace innovation and are open to change and diversity of ideas.

**Philosophy**

The School of Pharmacy has committed to developing progressive models of pharmacy practice while maintaining the foundational pharmaceutical sciences. In developing the curriculum of the school, the faculty recognizes that an educated person should be prepared to assume a responsible and rewarding role in society. The new paradigm of patient-centered, team-based care guides the school’s curriculum committee and faculty in the design and implementation of the Doctor of Pharmacy curriculum. The curriculum is designed to provide a sound, scientific and professional background for both those who will enter the practice of pharmacy directly and those who wish to continue graduate education in the pharmaceutical sciences. It also includes courses in the arts and humanities in order to provide students with a broad educational base that will permit participation in community life, not only as a professional, but also as an informed, concerned citizen. The professional curriculum is rigorous and highly demanding of the student’s time. The faculty has adopted educational outcomes for the curriculum that describe the knowledge, skills, behaviors, abilities and attitudes that promote holistic patient well-being expected of graduates to deliver the highest quality of direct patient care as an interprofessional team member.

**Facilities**

The School of Pharmacy is located in the Robert Blackwell Smith Building at 12th and East Clay streets. This building — named in honor of a distinguished former dean of pharmacy, former president of the Medical College of Virginia and former provost of the MCV Campus — was completed in 1984 with the help of contributions from many alumni and friends of the School of Pharmacy. Additional classrooms, offices and laboratories are located in McGuire Hall and the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park, both located within a few blocks of the Smith Building.

Classes for students in pharmacy also are conducted in Sanger Hall, located between 11th and 12th streets on East Marshall Street, and McGuire Hall, located at the corner of 12th and Clay streets. In conjunction with VCU Health, students receive clinical experience in the hospitals and clinics on the MCV Campus. Other facilities available for teaching include area hospitals and pharmacies. The major library holdings are in the Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences at 12th and East Clay streets.

Location in a major health sciences center provides excellent opportunities for interdisciplinary research and access to clinical facilities. The school is well equipped for graduate research and provides leadership to the VCU Institute for Structural Biology, Drug Discovery and Development at the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park. The school also supports the Center for Compounding Practice and Research, the Center for Biomarker Research and Precision Medicine, and the Center for Pharmacy Practice Innovation.

**Pharmaceutical Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in medicinal chemistry**

**Program goal**

The School of Pharmacy offers the highest quality of graduate training in pharmaceutical sciences research and mentorship at the doctoral level.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. **Knowledge of research in pharmaceutical sciences**
   The candidate should demonstrate a general knowledge of the elements of the pharmaceutical sciences and a detailed knowledge of his/her area of research, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature, policies and procedures, and methodology pertaining to their field.

2. **Design experiments in pharmaceutical sciences**
   The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the design of experimental protocols and the technical conduct of experimentation related to his/her research.

3. **Demonstrate appropriate communication skills**
   The candidate should demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skill has been acquired.

4. **Identify problems in pharmaceutical sciences**
   The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification of meaningful problems in the pharmaceutical sciences and the design of and implementation of appropriate problem-solving methods.

**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://wwwgraduate.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.
Degree candidacy requirements

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

School of Pharmacy policies and procedures for graduate students (http://www.pharmacy.vcu.edu/programs/pharmd/current/statements_and_policies)
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Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.pharmacy.vcu.edu/programs/pharmd/current)

Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline: Test requirements:
Ph.D. Fall Jan 1 GRE, TOEFL (international applicants)

Special requirements

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Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), Ph.D. students in pharmaceutical sciences must complete a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours beyond the master’s degree of required (both school and department core) and elective hours. All Ph.D. students must pass the comprehensive exam in each department in order to advance to candidacy. The exam consists of a written and oral component and is administered by either the student advisory committee (oral and written) and/or department faculty (written), depending on which option the student chooses. All Ph.D. students must pass the dissertation review and defense in each department in order to graduate.

All School of Pharmacy graduate students must fulfill curricular requirements of the School of Pharmacy core curriculum and the core curriculum required by their respective options. Course work taken as part of a master’s degree program may be waived; however, students must replace those courses with additional course work or directed research to meet the minimum 30 credit hour requirement for the Ph.D.

Curriculum requirements

School of Pharmacy core curriculum

Select one of the following: 3

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<thead>
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<th>Course Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
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<td>MEDC 541</td>
<td>Survey of Molecular Modeling Methods (1 credit repeated)</td>
</tr>
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</tr>
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<td>Laboratory Safety (or equivalent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Scientific Integrity (or equivalent)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select a minimum of one credit from the following: 1

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Course Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCEU/MEDC/ PHAR 614</td>
<td>Research Techniques (variable credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 526</td>
<td>Research Techniques in Medicinal Chemistry (variable credit)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select a minimum of one credit from the following: 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCEU 690</td>
<td>Pharmaceutics Research Seminar (variable credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 690</td>
<td>Departmental Research Seminar (variable credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 690</td>
<td>Pharmacy Research Seminar (variable credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 607 &amp; PSCI 608</td>
<td>Introduction to Pharmaceutical Sciences From Bench to Shelf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the pharmaceutical sciences core courses, students must fulfill course and other degree requirements in their respective concentrations as outlined below.

Concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 504</td>
<td>Advanced Organic Chemistry I 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 526</td>
<td>Research Techniques in Medicinal Chemistry 1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 541</td>
<td>Survey of Molecular Modeling Methods 1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student learning outcomes

1. Knowledge of research in pharmaceutical sciences
   The candidate should demonstrate a general knowledge of the elements of the pharmaceutical sciences and a detailed knowledge of his/her area of research, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature, policies and procedures, and methodology pertaining to their field.

2. Design experiments in pharmaceutical sciences
   The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the design of experimental protocols and the technical conduct of experimentation related to his/her research.

3. Demonstrate appropriate communication skills
   The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skill has been acquired.

4. Identify problems in pharmaceutical sciences
   The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification of meaningful problems in the pharmaceutical sciences and the design of and implementation of appropriate problem-solving methods.

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

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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.

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Other information

School of Pharmacy policies and procedures for graduate students

Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
Ph.D. Fall May 1 (priority consideration for financial aid Feb 1)
Spring Oct 1

Special requirements

- Pharm.D. or bachelor’s degree in a related area

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have received a baccalaureate from an accredited institution in a related area demonstrating the ability to perform at the graduate level. Prerequisite and foundation course work may be required, depending upon the applicant’s discipline.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), Ph.D. students in pharmaceutical sciences must complete a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours beyond the master’s degree of required (both school and department core) and elective hours. All Ph.D. students must pass the comprehensive exam in each department in order to advance to candidacy. The exam consists of a written and oral component and is administered by either the student advisory committee (oral and written) and/or department faculty (written), depending on which option the student chooses. All Ph.D. students must pass the dissertation review and defense in each department in order to graduate.

All School of Pharmacy graduate students must fulfill curricular requirements of the School of Pharmacy core curriculum and the core curriculum required by their respective options. Course work taken as part of a master’s degree program may be waived; however, students must replace those courses with additional course work or directed research to meet the minimum 30 credit hour requirement for the Ph.D.

Curriculum requirements

Prerequisites

All students should have prerequisite knowledge in chemistry, mathematics and biology. The following departmental courses or their equivalents are required for admission into the Department of Pharmaceutics option. If a prospective student has not met any of the prerequisites, the course(s) may be included in the student’s core course requirements upon recommendation by the prospective graduate adviser and approval by the respective course coordinator (see below).

Degree requirements

In addition to the pharmaceutical sciences core courses, students must fulfill course and other degree requirements in their respective concentrations as outlined below.

Concentration

BIOS 543 Graduate Research Methods I 3
or STAT 543 Statistical Methods I

PCEU 612 Advanced Physical Pharmacy and Biopharmaceutics 3

PCEU 625 Pharmaceutical Analysis 2

PCEU 690 Pharmaceutics Research Seminar 1

Total Hours 9

Electives

Electives (see details below) 12
In addition to the core curriculum above, Ph.D. students will be encouraged but not required to take elective courses. A minimum 12 elective credit hours are recommended for the Ph.D. These courses will be selected based upon individual research program needs and will be chosen through mutual consultation with the student and major adviser.

Research
Students are required to complete a dissertation. The 30 credit-hour minimum directed research requirement may be waived for circumstances such as a prior M.S. degree. If waived, students must still complete minimum number of hours required for the degree.

Take a minimum of 30 credits in the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCEU 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Pharmaceutics (variable credit)</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60
Graduate program director
Aron Lichtman, Ph.D.
Associate dean for research and graduate studies
Email: alichtma@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-5233

Additional contact
Shakim Jackson
Education coordinator
Email: sjackson29@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-4408

Program website: pharmacy.vcu.edu (http://www.pharmacy.vcu.edu)

Pharmaceutical Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in pharmacoeconomics and health outcomes

Program goal
The School of Pharmacy offers the highest quality of graduate training in pharmaceutical sciences research and mentorship at the doctoral level.

Student learning outcomes
1. Knowledge of research in pharmaceutical sciences
   The candidate should demonstrate a general knowledge of the elements of the pharmaceutical sciences and a detailed knowledge of his/her area of research, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature, policies and procedures, and methodology pertaining to their field.
2. Design experiments in pharmaceutical sciences
   The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the design of experimental protocols and the technical conduct of experimentation related to his/her research.
3. Demonstrate appropriate communication skills
   The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skill has been acquired.
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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.

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Graduation requirements
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<table>
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Special requirements

- Pharm.D. or bachelor’s degree in a related area

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have received a baccalaureate from an accredited institution in a related area demonstrating the ability to perform at the graduate level. Prerequisite and foundation course work may be required, depending upon the applicant’s discipline.

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Curriculum requirements

School of Pharmacy core curriculum

Select one of the following:

- BIOS 543 Graduate Research Methods I
- or STAT 544 Statistical Methods I
- MEDC 541 Survey of Molecular Modeling Methods (1 credit repeated)
- MEDC 601 Advanced Medicinal Chemistry I (1 credit repeated)
- IBMS 600 Laboratory Safety (or equivalent)
- OVPR 601 Scientific Integrity (or equivalent)

Select a minimum of one credit from the following:

- PCEL/MEDC/PHAR 614 Research Techniques (variable credit)
- PSCI 607 Introduction to Pharmaceutical Sciences From Bench to Shelf
- MEDC 690 Departmental Research Seminar (variable credit)
- PHAR 690 Pharmacy Research Seminar (variable credit)

In addition to the pharmaceutical sciences core courses, students must fulfill course and other degree requirements in their respective concentrations as outlined below.

Concentration

- BIOS 544 Graduate Research Methods II (or equivalent) 3
- or STAT 544 Statistical Methods II 3
- PHAR 637 Introduction to Research Methods in Pharmaceutical Sciences 3
- PHAR 638 Pharmaceutical Benefit Management 3
- PHAR 671 Applied Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research 3

Total Hours 12

Electives

Electives (see details below) 12

In addition to the core curriculum above, Ph.D. students in pharmacoeconomics and health outcomes will typically be requested to take elective courses that exceed 24 credit hours in an area of concentration. A minimum 12 elective credit hours are recommended for the Ph.D. These courses will be selected based upon the mutual consent of the student and major adviser.

Research

Students are required to complete a dissertation. The 30 credit-hour minimum directed research requirement may be waived for circumstances such as a prior M.S. degree. If waived, students must still complete minimum number of hours required for the degree.

Take a minimum of 30 credits in the following course: 30

- PHAR 697 Directed Research in Pharmacy (variable credit)

Total Hours 30

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Graduate program director
Aron Lichtman, Ph.D.
Associate dean for research and graduate studies
Email: alichtma@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-5233

Additional contact
Shakim Jackson
Education coordinator
Email: sjackson29@vcu.edu
Pharmaceutical Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in pharmacotherapy

Program goal
The School of Pharmacy offers the highest quality of graduate training in pharmaceutical sciences research and mentorship at the doctoral level.

Student learning outcomes
1. Knowledge of research in pharmaceutical sciences
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### Curriculum requirements

#### School of Pharmacy core curriculum

Select one of the following:

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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 607 &amp; PSCI 608</td>
<td>Introduction to Pharmaceutical Sciences From Bench to Shelf and Introduction to Pharmaceutical Sciences From Bench to Shelf</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the pharmaceutical sciences core courses, students must fulfill course and other degree requirements in their respective concentrations as outlined below.

#### Concentration

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<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>BIOS 544</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods II (or equivalent)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 544</td>
<td>Statistical Methods II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 626</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacotherapy Research Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Graduate program director
Aron Lichtman, Ph.D.
Associate dean for research and graduate studies
Email: alichtma@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-5233

Additional contact
Shakim Jackson
Education coordinator
Email: sjackson29@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-4408

Program website: pharmacy.vcu.edu (http://www.pharmacy.vcu.edu)

### Pharmaceutical Sciences, Master of (M.P.S.) with a concentration in medicinal chemistry

#### Program goal

The School of Pharmacy offers the highest quality of teaching in the pharmaceutical sciences graduate program at the Master of Pharmaceutical Sciences level. The M.P.S. is a non-thesis degree.

#### Student learning outcomes

1. **Knowledge of research in pharmaceutical sciences**
   Candidates should demonstrate a general knowledge of the elements of the pharmaceutical sciences and a detailed knowledge of their areas of research, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature, policies and procedures, and methodology pertaining to their fields.

2. **Design experiments in pharmaceutical sciences**
   Candidates should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the design of experimental protocols and the technical conduct of experimentation related to their research.

3. **Demonstrate appropriate communication skills**
Candidates should demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skill has been acquired.

4. **Identify problems in pharmaceutical sciences**
Candidates should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification of meaningful problems in the pharmaceutical sciences and the design of and implementation of appropriate problem-solving methods.

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**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.

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**Curriculum requirements**

**School of Pharmacy core curriculum**

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**Program goal**

The School of Pharmacy offers the highest quality of teaching in the pharmaceutical sciences graduate program at the Master of Pharmaceutical Sciences level. The M.P.S. is a non-thesis degree.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. **Knowledge of research in pharmaceutical sciences**
   Candidates should demonstrate a general knowledge of the elements of the pharmaceutical sciences and a detailed knowledge of their areas of research, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature, policies and procedures, and methodology pertaining to their fields.

2. **Design experiments in pharmaceutical sciences**
   Candidates should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the design of experimental protocols and the technical conduct of experimentation related to their research.

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**Degree candidacy requirements**

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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**Other information**

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**Special requirements**

- Pharm.D. or bachelor's degree in a related area

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have received a baccalaureate from an accredited institution in a related area demonstrating the ability to perform at the graduate level. Prerequisite and foundation course work may be required, depending upon the applicant's discipline.

**Degree requirements**

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**Prerequisites**

All students should have prerequisite knowledge in chemistry, mathematics and biology. The following departmental courses or their equivalents are required for admission into the Department of Pharmaceutics option. If a prospective student has not met any of the prerequisites, the course(s) may be included in the student's core course requirements upon recommendation by the prospective graduate adviser and approval by the respective course coordinator (see below).

| CHEM 409 | Instrumental Analysis and Instrumental Analysis Laboratory *(1)* |
| PCEU 507 | Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics I (except pharmaceutical calculus) |
| PCEU 508 | Pharmacokinetics |
| PCEU 509 | Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics II |

* Undergraduate prerequisite course work may not count toward the minimum 30 graduate credit hours required for the degree and may not be included in the calculation of graduate statistics, i.e., GPA, 20 percent C or below rule, etc.

**School of Pharmacy core curriculum**

Select one of the following: 3

| BISO 543 | Graduate Research Methods I |
| or STAT 543 | Statistical Methods I |
| MEDC 541 | Survey of Molecular Modeling Methods *(1 credit repeated)* |
| MEDC 601 | Advanced Medicinal Chemistry I *(1 credit repeated)* |
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Select a minimum of one credit from the following: 1

| PCEU/MEDC/PHAR 614 | Research Techniques (variable credit) |
| MEDC 526 | Research Techniques in Medicinal Chemistry (variable credit) |

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| PCEU 690 | Pharmaceutics Research Seminar (variable credit) |
| MEDC 690 | Departmental Research Seminar (variable credit) |
| PHAR 690 | Pharmacy Research Seminar (variable credit) |
| PSCI 607 & PSCI 608 | Introduction to Pharmaceutical Sciences From Bench to Shelf (2) |

In addition to the pharmaceutical sciences core courses, students must fulfill course and other degree requirements in their respective concentrations as outlined below.
Pharmaceutical Sciences, Master of (M.P.S.) with a concentration in pharmacoconomics and health outcomes

Program goal

The School of Pharmacy offers the highest quality of teaching in the pharmaceutical sciences graduate program at the Master of Pharmaceutical Sciences level. The M.P.S. is a non-thesis degree.

Student learning outcomes

1. Knowledge of research in pharmaceutical sciences
   Candidates should demonstrate a general knowledge of the elements of the pharmaceutical sciences and a detailed knowledge of their areas of research, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature, policies and procedures, and methodology pertaining to their fields.

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Graduation requirements

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Special requirements
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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have received a baccalaureate from an accredited institution in a related area demonstrating the ability to perform at the graduate level. Prerequisite and foundation course work may be required, depending upon the applicant’s discipline.

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Curriculum requirements

School of Pharmacy core curriculum
Select one of the following: 3
- BIOS 543 Graduate Research Methods I
- STAT 544 Statistical Methods I
- MEDC 541 Survey of Molecular Modeling Methods (1 credit repeated)
- MEDC 601 Advanced Medicinal Chemistry I (1 credit repeated)
- IBMS 600 Laboratory Safety (or equivalent)
- OVPR 601 Scientific Integrity (or equivalent)
- Select a minimum of one credit from the following: 1

Select a minimum of one credit from the following:
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- MEDC 526 Research Techniques in Medicinal Chemistry (variable credit)
- PCEU 690 Pharmaceutics Research Seminar (variable credit)
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- PHAR 690 Pharmacy Research Seminar (variable credit)
- PSCI 607 & PSCI 608 Introduction to Pharmaceutical Sciences From Bench to Shelf (variable credit)
- PHAR 614 Research Techniques in Medicinal Chemistry (variable credit)

In addition to the pharmaceutical sciences core courses, students must fulfill course and other degree requirements in their respective concentrations as outlined below.

Concentration
- BIOS 544 or STAT 544 Graduate Research Methods II or Statistical Methods II 3
- PHAR 637 Introduction to Research Methods in Pharmaceutical Sciences 3
- PHAR 638 Pharmaceutical Benefit Management 3
- PHAR 671 Applied Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research 3

Total Hours 12

Electives
Electives (minimum six credits) 6

A minimum of six elective credit hours is recommended for the M.P.S. The elective courses taken will generally be selected from a list identified by the major adviser and will be agreed upon by the major adviser and student.

Research
Students are required to complete a project. The six credit-hour minimum directed research requirement may be waived for circumstances such as a prior related degree. If waived, students must still complete minimum number of hours required for the degree.

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Graduate program director
Aron Lichtman, Ph.D.
Associate dean for research and graduate studies
Email: alichtma@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-5233

Additional contact
Shakim Jackson
Education coordinator
Email: sjackson29@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-4408
Program website: pharmacy.vcu.edu (http://www.pharmacy.vcu.edu)

Pharmaceutical Sciences, Master of (M.P.S.) with a concentration in pharmacotherapy

Program goal
The School of Pharmacy offers the highest quality of teaching in the pharmaceutical sciences graduate program at the Master of Pharmaceutical Sciences level. The M.P.S. is a non-thesis degree.

Student learning outcomes
1. **Knowledge of research in pharmaceutical sciences**
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School of Pharmacy core curriculum

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<td>PHAR 690</td>
<td>Pharmacy Research Seminar (variable credit)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 607 &amp; PSCI 608</td>
<td>Introduction to Pharmaceutical Sciences From Bench to Shelf and Introduction to Pharmaceutical Sciences From Bench to Shelf</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition to the pharmaceutical sciences core courses, students must fulfill course and other degree requirements in their respective concentrations as outlined below.

Concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 544</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods II (or equivalent)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 544</td>
<td>Statistical Methods II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 626</td>
<td>Advanced Pharmacotherapy Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 637</td>
<td>Introduction to Research Methods in Pharmaceutical Sciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 9

Electives

Electives (minimum six credits) 6

A minimum of six elective credit hours is required for the M.P.S. The elective courses taken will generally be selected from a list identified by the major adviser and will be agreed upon by the major adviser and student.

Research

Students are required to complete a project. The six credit-hour minimum directed research requirement may be waived for circumstances such as a prior related degree. If waived, students must still complete minimum number of hours required for the degree.

PHAR 697 Directed Research in Pharmacy (variable credit; minimum six credits)

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Graduate program director
Aron Lichtman, Ph.D.
Associate dean for research and graduate studies
Email: alichtma@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-5233

Additional contact
Shakim Jackson
Education coordinator
Email: sjackson29@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-4408

Program website: pharmacy.vcu.edu (http://www.pharmacy.vcu.edu)

Pharmaceutical Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in medicinal chemistry

Program goal

The School of Pharmacy offers the highest quality of graduate training in pharmaceutical sciences research and mentorship at the Master of Science level.

Student learning outcomes

1. Knowledge of research in pharmaceutical sciences
   The candidate should demonstrate a general knowledge of the elements of the pharmaceutical sciences and a detailed knowledge of his/her area of research, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature, policies and procedures, and methodology pertaining to their field.

2. Design experiments in pharmaceutical sciences
   The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the design of experimental protocols and the technical conduct of experimentation related to his/her research.

3. Demonstrate appropriate communication skills
   The candidate should demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skill has been acquired.

4. Identify problems in pharmaceutical sciences
   The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification of meaningful problems in the pharmaceutical sciences and the design of and implementation of appropriate problem-solving methods.
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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

Graduation requirements

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

School of Pharmacy policies and procedures for graduate students pharmacy.vcu.edu/programs/pharmd/current/statements_and_policies (http://www.pharmacy.vcu.edu/programs/pharmd/current/statements_and_policies)

Website for current students: pharmacy.vcu.edu/programs/graduate/current-students (http://www.pharmacy.vcu.edu/programs/graduate/current-students)

Website for prospective students: pharmacy.vcu.edu/programs/graduate/prospective-students (http://www.pharmacy.vcu.edu/programs/graduate/prospective-students)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 1</td>
<td>GRE, TOEFL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(international applicants)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

• Pharm.D. or bachelor's degree in a related area

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have received a baccalaureate from an accredited institution in a related area, demonstrating the ability to perform at the graduate level. Prerequisite and foundation course work may be required, depending upon the applicant’s discipline.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), M.S. students in pharmaceutical sciences must complete a minimum of 30 didactic credit hours of required (both school and department core) and elective hours. All M.S. students must pass the thesis review and defense in each department in order to advance to graduate.

Curriculum requirements

School of Pharmacy core curriculum

Select one of the following: 3

| BIOS 543 | Graduate Research Methods I |
| MEDC 541 | Survey of Molecular Modeling Methods |
| MEDC 601 | Advanced Medicinal Chemistry I |
| IBMS 600 | Laboratory Safety |
| OVPR 601 | Scientific Integrity |

Select a minimum of one credit from the following: 1

| PHAR 614 | Research Techniques (variable credit) |
| MEDC 526 | Research Techniques in Medicinal Chemistry (variable credit) |

Select a minimum of one credit from the following: 1

| PCEU 690 | Pharmaceutics Research Seminar (variable credit) |
| MEDC 690 | Departmental Research Seminar (variable credit) |
| PHAR 690 | Pharmacy Research Seminar (variable credit) |

PSCI 607 & PSCI 608 | Introduction to Pharmaceutical Sciences From Bench to Shelf | 2
In addition to the pharmaceutical sciences core courses, students must fulfill course and other degree requirements in their respective concentrations as outlined below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concentration</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 504</td>
<td>Advanced Organic Chemistry I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 526</td>
<td>Research Techniques in Medicinal Chemistry</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 541 or CHEM 510</td>
<td>Survey of Molecular Modeling Methods</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 591</td>
<td>Special Topics in Medicinal Chemistry</td>
<td>1-3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 601</td>
<td>Advanced Medicinal Chemistry I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

Electives (minimum six credits)

A minimum of six elective credit hours is recommended for the M.S. The elective courses taken will generally be selected from a list identified by the major adviser and will be agreed upon by the major adviser and student. These electives may include courses outside the department.

**Research**

Students are required to complete a thesis. The six credit-hour minimum directed research requirement may be waived for circumstances such as a prior related degree. If waived, students must still complete minimum number of hours required for the degree.

MEDC 697                               | Directed Research in Medicinal Chemistry (variable credit; minimum six credits) | 6       |

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30**

**Graduate program director**
Aron Lichtman, Ph.D.
Associate dean for research and graduate studies
Email: alichtma@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-5233

**Additional contact**
Shakim Jackson
Education coordinator
Email: sjackson29@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-4408

**Program website**: pharmacy.vcu.edu (http://www.pharmacy.vcu.edu)

**Pharmaceutical Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in pharmaceutics**

**Program goal**
The School of Pharmacy offers the highest quality of graduate training in pharmaceutical sciences research and mentorship at the Master of Science level.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. **Knowledge of research in pharmaceutical sciences**
   The candidate should demonstrate a general knowledge of the elements of the pharmaceutical sciences and a detailed knowledge of his/her area of research, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature, policies and procedures, and methodology pertaining to their field.

2. **Design experiments in pharmaceutical sciences**
   The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the design of experimental protocols and the technical conduct of experimentation related to his/her research.

3. **Demonstrate appropriate communication skills**
   The candidate should demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skill has been acquired.

4. **Identify problems in pharmaceutical sciences**
   The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification of meaningful problems in the pharmaceutical sciences and the design of and implementation of appropriate problem-solving methods.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**Degree candidacy requirements**
A 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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**Graduation requirements**
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pharmacy.vcu.edu/programs/graduate/current-students (http://www.pharmacy.vcu.edu/programs/graduate/current-students)
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<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>May 1 (priority consideration for financial aid Feb 1)</td>
<td>GRE, TOEFL (international applicants)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

• Pharm.D. or bachelor’s degree in a related area

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have received a baccalaureate from an accredited institution in a related area demonstrating the ability to perform at the graduate level. Prerequisite and foundation course work may be required, depending upon the applicant’s discipline.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), M.S. students in pharmaceutical sciences must complete a minimum of 30 didactic credit hours of required (both school and department core) and elective hours. All M.S. students must pass the thesis review and defense in each department in order to advance to graduate.

Curriculum requirements

Prerequisites
All students should have prerequisite knowledge in chemistry, mathematics and biology. The following departmental courses or their equivalents are required for admission into the Department of Pharmaceutics option. If a prospective student has not met any of the prerequisites, the course(s) may be included in the student’s core course requirements upon recommendation by the prospective graduate adviser and approval by the respective course coordinator (see below).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHEM 409 &amp; CHEZ 409</td>
<td>Instrumental Analysis and Instrumental Analysis Laboratory</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCEU 507</td>
<td>Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics I (except pharmaceutical calculus)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCEU 508</td>
<td>Pharmacokinetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCEU 509</td>
<td>Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Undergraduate prerequisite course work may not count toward the minimum 30 graduate credit hours required for the degree and may not be included in the calculation of graduate statistics, i.e., GPA, 20 percent C or below rule, etc.

School of Pharmacy core curriculum
Select one of the following: 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543 or STAT 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I or Statistical Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 541</td>
<td>Survey of Molecular Modeling Methods (1 credit repeated)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 601</td>
<td>Advanced Medicinal Chemistry I (1 credit repeated)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IBMS 600</td>
<td>Laboratory Safety (or equivalent)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity (or equivalent)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select a minimum of one credit from the following: 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCEU/MEDC/PHAR 614</td>
<td>Research Techniques (variable credit)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 526</td>
<td>Research Techniques in Medicinal Chemistry (variable credit)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select a minimum of one credit from the following: 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PCEU 690</td>
<td>Pharmaceutics Research Seminar (variable credit)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 690</td>
<td>Departmental Research Seminar (variable credit)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 690</td>
<td>Pharmacy Research Seminar (variable credit)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSCI 607 &amp; PSCI 608</td>
<td>Introduction to Pharmaceutical Sciences From Bench to Shelf and Introduction to Pharmaceutical Sciences From Bench to Shelf</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 9

In addition to the pharmaceutical sciences core courses, students must fulfill course and other degree requirements in their respective concentrations as outlined below.

Concentration

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCEU 612</td>
<td>Advanced Physical Pharmacy and Biopharmaceutics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCEU 625</td>
<td>Pharmaceutical Analysis</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCEU 690</td>
<td>Pharmaceutics Research Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 9

Electives

Electives (minimum six credits) 6

A minimum of six elective credit hours is recommended for the M.S. These courses will be selected based upon individual research program
needs and will be chosen through mutual consultation with the student and major adviser.

Research
Students are required to complete a thesis. The six credit-hour minimum may be waived for circumstances such as a prior related degree. If waived, students must still complete minimum number of hours required for the degree.

PCEU 697 Directed Research in Pharmaceutics (variable credit; minimum six credits)

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Graduate program director
Aron Lichtman, Ph.D.
Associate dean for research and graduate studies
Email: alichtma@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-5233

Additional contact
Shakim Jackson
Education coordinator
Email: sjackson29@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-4408

Program website: pharmacy.vcu.edu (http://www.pharmacy.vcu.edu)

Pharmaceutical Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in pharmacoeconomics and health outcomes

Program goal
The School of Pharmacy offers the highest quality of graduate training in pharmaceutical sciences research and mentorship at the Master of Science level.

Student learning outcomes

1. Knowledge of research in pharmaceutical sciences
   The candidate should demonstrate a general knowledge of the elements of the pharmaceutical sciences and a detailed knowledge of his/her area of research, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature, policies and procedures, and methodology pertaining to their field.

2. Design experiments in pharmaceutical sciences
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Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
M.S. Fall May 1 (priority consideration for financial aid Feb 1) GRE, TOEFL (international applicants)

Spring Oct 1

Special requirements

- Pharm.D. or bachelor’s degree in a related area

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have received a baccalaureate from an accredited institution in a related area demonstrating the ability to perform at the graduate level. Prerequisite and foundation course work may be required, depending upon the applicant’s discipline.

Degree requirements

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Curriculum requirements

School of Pharmacy core curriculum
Select one of the following: 3

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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(1 credit repeated)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>Scientific Integrity (or equivalent)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Select a minimum of one credit from the following:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>Research Techniques (variable credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 614</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 526</td>
<td>Research Techniques in Medicinal Chemistry (variable credit)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select a minimum of one credit from the following: 1

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<td>Pharmaceutics Research Seminar (variable credit)</td>
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<td>MEDC 690</td>
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In addition to the pharmaceutical sciences core courses, students must fulfill course and other degree requirements in their respective concentrations as outlined below.

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<table>
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<td>Statistical Methods II</td>
</tr>
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<td>PHAR 637</td>
<td>Introduction to Research Methods in Pharmaceutical Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 638</td>
<td>Pharmaceutical Benefit Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHAR 671</td>
<td>Applied Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 12

Electives

Electives (minimum six credits): 6

A minimum of six elective credit hours is recommended for the M.S. The elective courses taken will generally be selected from a list identified by the major adviser and will be agreed upon by the major adviser and student.

Research

Students are required to complete a thesis. The six credit-hour minimum directed research requirement may be waived for circumstances such as a prior related degree. If waived, students must still complete minimum number of hours required for the degree.

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<tr>
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Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Graduate program director
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Pharmaceutical Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.) with a concentration in pharmacotherapy

Program goal

The School of Pharmacy offers the highest quality of graduate training in pharmaceutical sciences research and mentorship at the Master of Science level.
Student learning outcomes

1. Knowledge of research in pharmaceutical sciences
   The candidate should demonstrate a general knowledge of the elements of the pharmaceutical sciences and a detailed knowledge of his/her area of research, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature, policies and procedures, and methodology pertaining to their field.

2. Design experiments in pharmaceutical sciences
   The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the design of experimental protocols and the technical conduct of experimentation related to his/her research.

3. Demonstrate appropriate communication skills
   The candidate should demonstrate that an appropriate level of oral, written and visual communication skill has been acquired.

4. Identify problems in pharmaceutical sciences
   The candidate should demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification of meaningful problems in the pharmaceutical sciences and the design of and implementation of appropriate problem-solving methods.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Other information

School of Pharmacy policies and procedures for graduate students

Website for current students:

Website for prospective students:

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.pharmacy.vcu.edu/programs/graduate/prospective-students).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>May 1 (priority consideration for financial aid Feb 1)</td>
<td>GRE, TOEFL (international applicants)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Oct 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- Pharm.D. or bachelor’s degree in a related area

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have received a baccalaureate from an accredited institution in a related area demonstrating the ability to perform at the graduate level. Prerequisite and foundation course work may be required, depending upon the applicant’s discipline.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), M.S. students in pharmaceutical sciences must complete a minimum of 30 didactic credit hours of required (both school and department core) and elective hours. All M.S. students must pass the thesis review and defense in each department in order to advance to graduate.

Curriculum requirements

School of Pharmacy core curriculum

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BIOS 543</th>
<th>Graduate Research Methods I</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The combined Pharm.D./Ph.D. program in the School of Pharmacy is a full-time program of professional education that offers an opportunity for advanced study in pharmaceutical sciences. The program recognizes the need for pharmacy practitioners with excellent research skills in clinical, academic, industrial and regulatory environments. The program is designed to take advantage of efficiencies in both the Pharm.D. and Ph.D. curricula and to allow Pharm.D./Ph.D. students to complete the program requirements of both programs after approximately six years, with both degrees being awarded at the same graduation ceremony.

Pharm.D./Ph.D. students can focus on the following research areas within the School of Pharmacy: pharmacotherapy and health outcomes, pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics, biopharmaceutical analysis, pharmaceutical/physical pharmacy, and medicinal chemistry. Students also may focus on pharmacology and toxicology within the School of Medicine. The choice of research area determines the required graduate course requirements.

During their P-2 through P-4 years, Pharm.D./Ph.D. students will complete the required Pharm.D. curriculum using graduate courses in lieu of required Pharm.D. courses and Pharm.D. electives. In addition, Pharm.D./Ph.D. students will engage in graduate research during the summer semesters following the P-2 and P-4 years. After the P-4 year and beyond (G-1 and G-2), Pharm.D./Ph.D. students will complete both their graduate course requirements and Ph.D. dissertation research project as full-time graduate students. Stipends and tuition reimbursement may be provided for Pharm.D./Ph.D. students serving as graduate teaching or research assistants.

**Note:** Admission to this program has been suspended.

**Application to the combined program**

Students may be admitted into the combined Pharm.D./Ph.D. program during the first or second year (P-1 and P-2) of enrollment in the Pharm.D. program. Applicants must demonstrate a good academic record, experience in research (e.g., during summer research fellowships after the P-1 year with one of the School of Pharmacy’s graduate faculty) and successful completion of the Graduate Record Examination. Additionally, the application must be sponsored by a graduate faculty member as the prospective major graduate adviser. Appropriate progress of Pharm.D./Ph.D. students in the program will be assessed by the Pharm.D./Ph.D. subcommittee after each semester until successful completion of the comprehensive examinations.

**Graduate program director**

Aron Lichtman, Ph.D.

Email: alichtma@vcu.edu
Pharmacy, Doctor of (Pharm.D.)/Pharmaceutical Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.) [combined]

The School of Pharmacy offers a Pharm.D./Master of Science (M.S.) in Pharmaceutical Sciences as a combined graduate/professional degree program that teaches individuals to analyze and solve problems of interest to pharmacists. Students develop a broad range of skills by taking classes and working closely with faculty. Since the degree is offered concurrently with the professional pharmacy degree, certain efficiencies can be realized that permit students to graduate sooner than might be expected; although, this degree may require up to two years of study beyond the Pharm.D. program depending on the student’s educational background and chosen area of study. Students will take the required Pharm.D. curriculum, with selected substitutions of required courses with graduate-level courses, in addition to the graduate curriculum.

In their first two years (P-1 and P-2), the Pharm.D./M.S. students will complete the required Pharm.D. curriculum while attending research seminars and possibly pursuing graduate courses as electives. After admission into the graduate program, students will take required graduate courses in lieu of Pharm.D. courses during the P-3 (G-1) year followed by graduate research during the summer. During the G-2 through G-4 years, students will complete the graduate course requirements and the required Pharm.D. clerkships and work on their graduate research projects. Stipends and tuition may be provided for students serving as graduate teaching or research assistants. During that period, the student will follow procedures prescribed for students in the pharmaceutical sciences.

Students can focus on the following research areas within the School of Pharmacy: pharmacotherapy, pharmacokinetics, biopharmaceutical analysis, pharmacokinetics/physical pharmacy, pharmacy administration and medicinal chemistry. Also, students may focus on the following research areas within the School of Medicine: pharmacology and toxicology. The choice of research area determines the required graduate course work.

The combined Pharm.D./M.S. program in the School of Pharmacy is a full-time program of professional education that offers an opportunity for advanced study in pharmaceutical sciences. The program recognizes the need for pharmacy practitioners with excellent research skills in clinical, academic, industrial and regulatory environments. The combined program is designed to take advantage of efficiencies in both the Pharm.D. and the M.S. programs and allows students to complete the program requirements of both programs after five or six years. Both degrees are awarded at the same graduation ceremony.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Application to the Pharm.D./M.S. program
Students may be admitted into the combined program before or during their first two years of enrollment in the Pharm.D. program. Applicants must demonstrate a good academic record, experience in research (e.g., during summer research fellowships with the school’s graduate faculty) and successful completion of the Graduate Record Examination. Additionally, each applicant must be sponsored by a graduate faculty member.

Graduate program director
Aron Lichtman, Ph.D.
Associate dean for research and graduate studies
Email: alichtma@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-5233

Additional contact
Shakim Jackson
Education coordinator
Email: sjackson29@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-4408

Program website: pharmacy.vcu.edu (http://www.pharmacy.vcu.edu)

Department of Medicinal Chemistry
Richard A. Glennon, Ph.D.
Professor and chair

The Department of Medicinal Chemistry applies the latest strategies and concepts from several broad scientific disciplines including synthetic chemistry, molecular modeling, computational biology, structural genomics and pharmacology.

Department of Pharmaceutics
Douglas H. Sweet, Ph.D.
Professor and chair

The Department of Pharmaceutics offers graduate study leading to the degrees of Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmaceutical Sciences. In addition, students may elect to pursue a joint Pharm.D./Ph.D. program. These programs provide the preparation and research experience for academic, federal and industrial careers.

Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science
Donald F. Brophy, Pharm.D., FCCP, FASN, BCPS
Professor and chair

The Department of Pharmacotherapy and Outcomes Science is the largest of the three departments at the VCU School of Pharmacy. The focus of the department is pharmacotherapy (the safe and effective use of drugs in humans) and pharmacy administration (evaluation of the social and economic impact of drug therapy in humans and in health care systems).
SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

The oldest of its kind in the South, Virginia Commonwealth University’s School of Social Work was established in 1917 as the Richmond School of Social Economy. Later renamed the School of Social Work and Public Health, it became the first unit of Richmond Professional Institute. The school was created initially in response to community needs in working with World War I veterans and their social and health problems. Subsequent development of the school has expanded activity into all areas of human service.

With the creation of VCU in 1968, the School of Social Work became a unit of what is now the university’s Monroe Park Campus. The school offers baccalaureate-, master’s- and doctoral-level programs in Richmond, and the capital provides educational opportunities in many state government agencies.

Social work education at VCU is highly individualized and is characterized by a close relationship between faculty and students. Faculty members help students learn the form and method of social work practice, and students are encouraged to discover their own unique style of helping others. The school’s educational programs are designed to prepare students for practice in many different kinds of social agencies. A combination of classroom courses and concurrent fieldwork experiences facilitates integration of knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary for professional practice. The integrated class and fieldwork curriculum offers students the opportunity to acquire a substantial base in social work practice, patterns of human behavior and development, organization and operation of social welfare programs and policies, the methods of scientific inquiry in social work, and the needs of special populations.

The profession of social work

The goals of the profession of social work are to provide services to persons who are vulnerable due to a lack of personal, social and/or institutional resources to meet their emotional, health and economic needs. Social work practice is the application of professional knowledge, skills and values across a range of settings and populations. The focus of practice is on individuals, couples, families, groups and communities. In addition to direct clinical social work practice, social workers are involved in the administration of human service programs, social planning, the development of social policies, research and evaluation, and teaching.

In order to achieve the goals of promoting social justice and enhancing well-being for individuals, families, groups and communities, social workers provide a variety of services primarily in public and nonprofit organizational contexts. Examples of the range of settings in which social workers practice include community centers, public social services, child welfare, residential treatment facilities, schools, community mental health agencies, family and children’s service agencies, psychiatric and acute care hospitals, substance abuse treatment facilities, services for the elderly, court services and adult and juvenile rehabilitation facilities.

Professional education for social work practice dates to the early 1900s. The contributions of the profession are evidenced in health and mental health care, the well-being of children and families, the development and implementation of social policies, the planning, delivery and evaluation of human services, and a broad base of research on the human condition. The knowledge base of the profession and the integration of related social, behavioral and biological sciences acquired through professional education facilitates the contributions of social workers in multidisciplinary contexts.

Social work practice is designed to enrich quality of life by enabling individuals, groups, communities and organizations to achieve their greatest potential development. The goal of the School of Social Work at VCU is to provide professional education in response to these needs.

Administration

1000 Floyd Avenue
P.O. Box 842027
Richmond, Virginia 23284-2027
(804) 828-1030
Fax: (804) 828-0716
socialwork.vcu.edu (http://socialwork.vcu.edu)

James E. Hinterlong, Ph.D.
Dean

Humberto Fabelo, Ph.D.
Associate dean for academic and student affairs

Elizabeth M.Z. Farmer, Ph.D.
Associate dean for research

Denise Burnett, Ph.D.
Director of Ph.D. program

Melissa L. Abell, Ph.D.
Director, M.S.W. Program

Ananda Newmark, Ph.D.
Director, B.S.W. Program

Accreditation

VCU’s Bachelor of Social Work and Master of Social Work programs are accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education — the accrediting body for all schools of social work at both the baccalaureate and master’s levels. Copies of the Accreditation Standards and Curriculum Policy Statement are available in the Office of the Dean.

Financial assistance

Although financial assistance is limited, some funds are available from a variety of sources. No prospective student should refrain from seeking admission to the school for financial reasons alone. Besides the federal financial aid programs outlined in the undergraduate or graduate study areas of the bulletins, the university and the school also offer scholarships and/or teaching assistantships at all degree levels.

The H.H. Hibbs Loan Fund was established by the School of Social Work Alumni Association for short-term emergency needs. Enrolled students who wish to apply for a loan should discuss this with their faculty adviser and the associate dean.

For more information on these financial aid opportunities, visit the School of Social Work website at socialwork.vcu.edu/student/scholarships (https://socialwork.vcu.edu/student/scholarships).
Continuing education

Continuing education is a vital part of professional development. The School of Social Work offers institutes and workshops as part of the school’s commitment to enhance social work practice and broaden educational experiences for students, social workers, field instructors and others in social service delivery systems.

State, regional and local agencies and institutions frequently identify educational and training needs in content or skill areas for selected staff members. The school, through contractual arrangements, contributes expertise in designing and implementing short-term training courses and materials. Offerings are planned throughout the year.

Associations and student interest groups

Alumni Association

The School of Social Work Alumni Association supports the school, its students and faculty. All graduates of the School of Social Work are members of the alumni association. The association falls under the umbrella of the VCU Alumni Association.

B.S.W. Student Association

The Baccalaureate Social Work Student Association, an organization of students in the Bachelor of Social Work Program, was established to facilitate communication among students and between the student body and the school faculty and staff. This organization plays a vital role in the educational process. Through student representation on committees within the school, BSWSA members participate in decision-making processes. In addition, the association enables students to conduct a variety of social and professional activities throughout the year.

M.S.W. Student Association

The Master of Social Work Student Association is the organization of M.S.W. students enrolled in the school. Established for the purposes of facilitating communication among students and between the student body and the school, the association provides a means by which student concerns and ideas can be formulated and acted upon. It also enables students to conduct a variety of social, civic and educational activities throughout the year.

This organization plays a vital role in the educational process. Student contributions to the governance and curriculum of the school are of value to both the institution and the students. Participation in the decision-making process is accomplished through student representation on committees. Faculty and students work closely together throughout the year to meet the needs of graduate social work education. Students participate as full members of committees within the school.

Association of Black Social Workers – VCU Chapter

The Association of Black Social Workers was established to create and maintain an atmosphere of unity and support among black students in the School of Social Work. It serves to assist students in their personal and professional growth and development. Membership in this organization helps students to develop a keen awareness of the acute needs of the black community and the active role that must be assumed by the dedicated black professional social worker in promoting the general welfare of black citizens. To attain these goals, the organization utilizes the educational process and related experiences of students at the school and in fieldwork. Students are encouraged to participate in all phases of the academic environment.

LGBTQIA and Allied Social Work Group VCU

The LGBTQIA and Allied Social Work Group provides a safe space for LGBTQIA and allied social workers to collaborate and engage in advocacy efforts. The organization also promotes awareness of LGBTQIA topics within the VCU social work community through curriculum building, education and social events.

Doctoral Student Association

The Doctoral Student Association is a collegial association available to all doctoral students regardless of full- or part-time status. Its primary purpose is to provide information, resources, advocacy and support to students throughout the doctoral program experience. Governance of the association is conducted on a rotating leadership and consensual basis. The Doctoral Student Association provides doctoral student representatives to various committees of the school governance structure.

Other student interest groups

The School of Social Work supports the development of groups that address a variety of student needs and interests.

M.S.W. Program

Melissa L. Abell
Director, M.S.W. Program
Email: mlabell@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-2007

The M.S.W. Program administers the Master of Social Work curriculum.

• Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.) with a concentration in administration, planning and policy practice (p. 829)
• Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.) with a concentration in clinical practice (p. 834)
• Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.)/Aging Studies, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) [combined] (p. 838)
• Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.)/Divinity, Master of from the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond or the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University [combined] (p. 839)
• Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.)/Gender Violence Intervention, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) [combined] (p. 839)
• Social Work, Master of M.S.W.)/Juris Doctor with the University of Richmond [combined] (p. 840)
• Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.)/Nonprofit Management, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) [combined] (p. 841)
• Public Health, Master of (M.P.H.)/Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.) [combined] (p. 842)
• Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.)/school social work practice certification [combined] (p. 841)

Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.) with a concentration in administration, planning and policy practice

Program accreditation
Program goal

The VCU School of Social Work offers a graduate professional curriculum accredited by the Council on Social Work Education leading to the Master of Social Work degree. The purpose of the M.S.W. program at VCU is to educate persons for advanced practice in either clinical social work or social work administration, planning and policy practice. The guiding principle in educating students is the promotion of a more just society that includes a commitment to the value of diversity and social work practice in a multicultural society. The VCU School of Social Work emphasizes critical thinking, self-awareness, data-based decision-making and ethical integrity. Graduates of this program will be able to address personal and social problems; formulate, implement and evaluate policies and programs; engage in knowledge development for the profession; and influence community decision-making. The educational program focuses on service to and empowerment of people who experience oppression or vulnerability due to inadequate or inequitable distribution of personal, social or institutional resources. Within this context, social work practice is defined as the application of professional knowledge, skills and values across a range of settings and populations for the prevention and amelioration of personal and social problems. The interactions among persons and their environments are the primary targets of social work practice. Services provided by social workers include the restoration, rehabilitation, maintenance and enhancement of optimal functioning of individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations. Knowledge for social work practice is based on analysis and critical application of qualitative and quantitative research from within the profession and related social, behavioral and biological sciences. Skill in professional practice is based on the differential application of theories and research findings about people in their sociocultural and organizational contexts. Skill is developed by the social worker through the educational process, self-critical practice and the use of supervision and consultation. Values in social work practice are articulated in the profession’s code of ethics and reflect the core values of service, social justice, dignity and worth of each individual, importance of human relationships, integrity, and competence.

Student learning outcomes

1. A foundation of knowledge, skills, ethics and values essential for work with individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations
2. A concentration that prepares students for advanced practice in clinical social work or social work administration, planning and policy practice in a range of settings
3. To apply the profession’s values and ethical principles
4. The implications of diversity by through education on identifying cultural strengths and ways to counteract individual and institutional prejudice, oppression and discrimination
5. To use research methods to analyze and critically evaluate professional practice, programs and service delivery systems
6. Advocacy and involvement in advocacy to affect social and economic justice

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.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.W.</td>
<td>Summer (advanced standing format)</td>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on admission requirements.
Special requirements

- The School of Social Work requires a specific outline for the personal statement that is different from what is shown in the graduate admissions website and also requires that a checklist be submitted with application materials. Please visit the School of Social Work website for this specific information.

Full-time, part-time and distance education format applicants are admitted to begin study in the fall semester only. Advanced standing format applicants are admitted for the summer session only. At the time of application, applicants may apply for only one of the following: full-time on-campus Richmond, part-time on-campus Richmond, part-time distance education or advanced standing. Application forms and instructions for applying to all graduate programs are available on the Graduate Admissions website (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the School of Social Work has established the following minimum criteria for admission to the 60-credit hour full-time or part-time format:

1. A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university
2. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for all undergraduate course work and a 3.0 (B) for the last 60 credit hours
3. A broad liberal arts background. Applicants must have completed a minimum of 30 semester credit hours in the liberal arts. Applicants must have completed at least one course (unless otherwise specified) in each of the following four areas:
   a. Mathematics/computer sciences: math, logic, statistics, computer sciences
   b. Humanities: English composition, literature, art history, music appreciation, philosophy, languages, religious studies, multicultural studies
   c. Social and behavioral sciences: psychology, sociology, anthropology, history, political science, economics (with at least three credit hours in psychology and three credit hours in sociology)
   d. Biology and physical sciences: anatomy/physiology, botany, general biology, zoology, chemistry, ecology, physics, geology, astronomy (with a minimum of three credit hours in human biology content)

Applications who have not completed all the liberal arts prerequisites may be considered for admission but must have completed the prerequisite courses prior to enrollment and must provide official transcripts to document their completion. Courses may be completed at a community college or four-year institution. In addition to the academic requirements, the applicant must demonstrate commitment to social welfare and social justice. This should be reflected in (1) the personal statement and (2) the applicant’s academic background, social work employment, internships and volunteer work in community agencies serving vulnerable and/or oppressed populations.

General admission procedures

Applications will only be reviewed when they are complete and received by the deadline. This includes the application form, three letters of reference (such as from faculty, employers and/or colleagues who know the applicant’s academic and work/volunteer abilities), official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate colleges and universities attended, including VCU transcripts from those who are VCU graduates, a personal statement based upon the outline provided on the M.S.W. website (http://socialwork.vcu.edu/programs/msw/admission.html) and an employment and volunteer experience resume. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that all materials are submitted prior to the application deadline.

Admission to the advanced standing format

The advanced standing format leads to a Master of Social Work degree upon completion of 42 credit hours. This format begins in late May, continues through the summer and culminates with graduation the following May. The advanced standing format is offered full-time only and cannot be pursued on a part-time basis. Admission to the advanced standing format is available to a select group of students with a bachelor’s degree (B.S.W.) from an undergraduate social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, completed no more than five years prior to the date of application to the M.S.W. program. The minimum requirement for admission to the advanced standing format is a 3.2 GPA on a 4.0 scale for all undergraduate course work. As part of the application packet, applicants must submit their field practicum evaluation(s) and a reference letter from the field practicum faculty. Applicants who meet these criteria will be scheduled for a structured on-campus interview, which includes a written case assessment. Refer to the M.S.W. website (http://socialwork.vcu.edu/programs/msw/admission.html) for more information.

Transfer admits

Applicants transferring from other CSWE-accredited M.S.W. programs must submit course syllabi, field practicum evaluations and a statement of good standing from the dean or director of the program from which the student is transferring. These materials must be submitted in addition to the required application form, transcripts, personal statement, resume and reference letters. No more than 30 credit hours will be accepted in transfer, and transfer credit will be awarded in accordance with university policies governing transfer credit and time limits for degree completion.

Applicants from non-social work graduate programs must submit course syllabi for transfer evaluation. A maximum of six credit hours of elective course work may be accepted in transfer from non-social work graduate programs in accordance with Graduate School policies governing transfer credit and time limits for degree completion. No course credit is given for life or work experience.

Course waiver information for new M.S.W. students

Students may request to be waived from courses in the M.S.W. program if they can demonstrate they have satisfactorily completed the equivalent courses. Students must present evidence of content equivalency to the M.S.W. program director and have earned an A or B grade in the courses that are the basis for the waiver request; these courses must have been completed within the past five years. A portfolio process is used to assess equivalency. Graduate students from non-M.S.W. programs, from B.S.W. programs (but not in the advanced standing format), and from B.A., B.S. or other undergraduate programs may be waived from no more than three of the following foundation courses:
The course waiver does not result in award of credit. Credit may be awarded only through transfer of graduate courses (see Transfer Policy). Students who are granted waivers but not transfer credit hours must take elective courses to fulfill the number of credit hours that have been waived. Students interested in pursuing a waiver for one or more of the specified foundation courses should contact the M.S.W. program office to request the Equivalency Portfolio Form(s) and instructions.

Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the regular standing format for the M.S.W. degree requires the completion of 60 credit hours of graduate study (two years of full-time study). The first 30 credit hours (foundation curriculum) may be taken in one academic year on a full-time basis or may be extended to a maximum of two years in the structured part-time format. To earn the M.S.W. degree in the advanced standing format requires 42 credits of full-time graduate study. Students in the advanced standing format do not complete the foundation curriculum but instead take 12 credit hours during the summer prior to entering the concentration curriculum.

All students select an area of concentration for the last 30 credit hours, which can be completed in one academic year on a full-time basis or extended to a maximum of two years in the structured part-time format. Students are usually in a field instruction practicum two days each week during the foundation curriculum and three days each week during the concentration curriculum. Course credit for work or life experience is not granted in lieu of M.S.W. course credit hours.

The purpose of the Master of Social Work program is to prepare graduate-level social workers with mastery of the knowledge, values and skills essential for advanced social work practice in a multicultural society.

The foundation curriculum comprises the first 30 credit hours of the M.S.W. program. The purpose of the foundation practice, in laying the groundwork for concentration study, is to develop the knowledge and skill base necessary to apply and carry out core competencies (relationship building, problem identification, assessment, selecting and planning interventions, implementation, and evaluation) with individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations. Foundation practice emphasizes critical thinking, client strengths, commitment to social work values and ethical principles, self-awareness, professional development, evidence-based decision-making, multicultural competency and social and economic justice. The foundation curriculum includes courses in social work practice, human behavior, social policy, social justice, research and field instruction.

Concentration options
After completion of the foundation year of study or summer studies for advanced standing, M.S.W. students choose an advanced concentration in clinical practice or in administration, planning and policy practice. The concentration curriculum prepares graduates for active roles in practice and program evaluation and in the generation of knowledge for future practice, programs and policy.

Administration, planning and policy practice concentration (SWAPPP)
The concentration in administration, planning and policy practice prepares graduates to become leaders skilled in analyzing, formulating, implementing and evaluating policies, plans and programs. The knowledge, values and skills that are taught emphasize current theory and research through classroom and field-based experiences. Practice takes place in the context of a complex, changing environment in which communities and governmental, legislative, nonprofit and for-profit organizations advocate for, plan and deliver social services and advocate for social change. The major themes within the integrated curriculum are social and economic justice, diversity, leadership and advocacy. This concentration is not available to distance education students at this time.

Curriculum requirements
Foundation courses
| SLWK 601 | Human Behavior in the Social Environment I | 3 |
| SLWK 602 | Policy, Community and Organizational Practice I | 3 |
| SLWK 603 | Social Work and Social Justice | 3 |
| SLWK 604 | Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups I | 3 |
| SLWK 605 | Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups II | 3 |
| SLWK 606 | Policy, Community and Organizational Practice II | 3 |
| SLWK 609 | Foundations of Research in Social Work Practice | 3 |
| SLWK 610 | Human Behavior in the Social Environment II | 3 |

Select one of the following:

| SLWK 693 & SLWK 694 | and Foundation Field Instruction II | 3 |
| SLWK 695 | Block Foundation Field Instruction | 6 |

Total Hours 30

1 Part-time students may choose a block field placement in lieu of SLWK 693 and SLWK 694. Only one field placement can be a block placement

In the advanced standing format students do not take foundation courses outlined above, but instead take 12 credit hours in the summer prior to their concentration year that include courses in practice/human behavior, policy, and research, in addition to completing a field education course with a field placement that will extend throughout their concentration year of study. The purpose of this curriculum is to enhance and restore understanding of the foundation curriculum content for entering BSW students prior to entering the concentration year.

Advanced standing format
Summer semester prior to concentration

<p>| SLWK 607 | Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups for Advanced-standing Students | 3 |
| SLWK 608 | Social Work Practice in Organizations and Communities for Advanced-standing Students | 3 |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 611</td>
<td>Social Work Research for Advanced-standing Students</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 612</td>
<td>Advanced-standing Field Instruction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>12</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Required administration, planning and policy concentration courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 710</td>
<td>Concentration Social Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 711</td>
<td>Strategies for Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 712</td>
<td>Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 713</td>
<td>Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 714</td>
<td>Research for Social Work Administration, Planning and Policy Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 715</td>
<td>Research for Social Work Administration, Planning and Policy Practice II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
</tr>
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</table>

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 793</td>
<td>Concentration Field Instruction I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 794</td>
<td>Concentration Field Instruction II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 795</td>
<td>Concentration Block Field Instruction I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part-time students may choose a block field placement in lieu of SLWK 793 and SLWK 794. Only one field placement can be a block placement.

**Electives**

A variety of electives are offered every semester and in the summer. The following courses have been approved as electives by the university; however elective offerings for any particular semester are limited. In addition, electives from outside of the School of Social Work are accepted as part of our combined offerings for dual degrees and certificates. Other electives from outside of the School of Social Work may be accepted with prior approval from the M.S.W. program director.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 716</td>
<td>Concentration Social Policy for Social Work Administration, Planning and Policy Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 719</td>
<td>Gender and Substance Abuse: Social Work Practice Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 726</td>
<td>Social Work Practice and Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 727</td>
<td>Trauma and Social Work Practice: Theory, Assessment and Intervention</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 728</td>
<td>The Interdisciplinary Team in Social Work Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 739</td>
<td>Social Work and the Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 741</td>
<td>Social Work Practice and the Neurosciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 745</td>
<td>Social Work Practice in Community Mental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 746</td>
<td>Social Work Practice and Psychopharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 747</td>
<td>Social Work Intervention with Children and Adolescents</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 748</td>
<td>Group Methods in Social Work Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>SLWK 749</td>
<td>Social Work Intervention in Substance Abuse</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLWK 755</td>
<td>Social Work Practice in Organizing for Social Change</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLWK 759</td>
<td>Art Therapy in Social Work Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 761</td>
<td>Interpersonal Violence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 770</td>
<td>International Social Work Study Abroad</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 791</td>
<td>Topical Seminar</td>
<td>1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60</strong></td>
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</table>

**Sample plan of study**

**Year one**

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 601</td>
<td>Human Behavior in the Social Environment I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 602</td>
<td>Policy, Community and Organizational Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 603</td>
<td>Social Work and Social Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 604</td>
<td>Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 693</td>
<td>Foundation Field Instruction I</td>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
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</table>

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 711</td>
<td>Strategies for Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 712</td>
<td>Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 714</td>
<td>Research for Social Work Administration, Planning and Policy Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 793</td>
<td>Concentration Field Instruction I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
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</table>

**Year two**

**Fall semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 711</td>
<td>Strategies for Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 712</td>
<td>Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 714</td>
<td>Research for Social Work Administration, Planning and Policy Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 793</td>
<td>Concentration Field Instruction I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 710</td>
<td>Concentration Social Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 713</td>
<td>Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 715</td>
<td>Research for Social Work Administration, Planning and Policy Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 794</td>
<td>Concentration Field Instruction II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student learning outcomes

1. A foundation of knowledge, skills, ethics and values essential for work with individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations

2. A concentration that prepares students for advanced practice in clinical social work or social work administration, planning and policy practice in a range of settings

3. To apply the profession’s values and ethical principles

4. The implications of diversity by through education on identifying cultural strengths and ways to counteract individual and institutional prejudice, oppression and discrimination

5. To use research methods to analyze and critically evaluate professional practice, programs and service delivery systems

6. Advocacy and involvement in advocacy to affect social and economic justice

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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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.W.</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(advanced standing format)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(regular standing formats – all on-campus part- and full-time and distance education)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- The School of Social Work requires a specific outline for the personal statement that is different from what is shown in the graduate admissions website and also requires that a checklist be submitted with application materials. Please visit the School of Social Work website for this specific information.

Full-time, part-time and distance education format applicants are admitted to begin study in the fall semester only. Advanced standing format applicants are admitted for the summer session only. At the time of application, applicants may apply for only one of the following: full-time on-campus Richmond, part-time on-campus Richmond, part-time distance education or advanced standing. Application forms and instructions for applying to all graduate programs are available on the Graduate Admissions website (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the School of Social Work has established the following minimum criteria for admission to the 60-credit hour full-time or part-time format:

1. A bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university
2. A cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for all undergraduate course work and a 3.0 (B) for the last 60 credit hours
3. A broad liberal arts background. Applicants must have completed a minimum of 30 semester credit hours in the liberal arts. Applicants must have completed at least one course (unless otherwise specified) in each of the following four areas:
   a. Mathematics/computer sciences: math, logic, statistics, computer sciences
   b. Humanities: English composition, literature, art history, music appreciation, philosophy, languages, religious studies, multicultural studies
   c. Social and behavioral sciences: psychology, sociology, anthropology, history, political science, economics (with at least three credit hours in psychology and three credit hours in sociology)
   d. Biology and physical sciences: anatomy/physiology, botany, general biology, zoology, chemistry, ecology, physics, geology, astronomy (with a minimum of three credit hours in human biology content)

Applicants who have not completed all the liberal arts prerequisites may be considered for admission but must have completed the prerequisite courses prior to enrollment and must provide official transcripts to document their completion. Courses may be completed at a community college or four-year institution. In addition to the academic requirements, the applicant must demonstrate commitment to social welfare and social justice. This should be reflected in (1) the personal statement and (2) the applicant’s academic background, social work employment, internships and volunteer work in community agencies serving vulnerable and/or oppressed populations.

General admission procedures

Applications will only be reviewed when they are complete and received by the deadline. This includes the application form, three letters of reference (such as from faculty, employers and/or colleagues who know the applicant’s academic and work/volunteer abilities), official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate colleges and universities attended, including VCU transcripts from those who are VCU graduates, a personal statement based upon the outline provided on the M.S.W. website (http://socialwork.vcu.edu/programs/msw/admission.html) and an employment and volunteer experience resume. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that all materials are submitted prior to the application deadline.

Admission to the advanced standing format

The advanced standing format leads to a Master of Social Work degree upon completion of 42 credit hours. This format begins in late May, continues through the summer and culminates with graduation the following May. The advanced standing format is offered full-time only and cannot be pursued on a part-time basis. Admission to the advanced standing format is available to a select group of students with a bachelor’s degree (B.S.W.) from an undergraduate social work program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, completed no more than five years prior to the date of application to the M.S.W. program. The minimum requirement for admission to the advanced standing format is a 3.2 GPA on a 4.0 scale for all undergraduate course work. As part of the application packet, applicants must submit their field practicum evaluation(s) and a reference letter from the field practicum faculty. Applicants who meet these criteria will be scheduled for a structured on-campus interview, which includes a written case assessment. Refer to the M.S.W. website (http://socialwork.vcu.edu/programs/msw/admission.html) for more information.

Transfer admits

Applicants transferring from other CSWE-accredited M.S.W. programs must submit course syllabi, field practicum evaluations and a statement of good standing from the dean or director of the program from which the student is transferring. These materials must be submitted in addition to the required application form, transcripts, personal statement, resume and reference letters. No more than 30 credit hours will be accepted in transfer, and transfer credit will be awarded in accordance with university policies governing transfer credit and time limits for degree completion.

Applicants from non-social work graduate programs must submit course syllabi for transfer evaluation. A maximum of six credit hours of elective course work may be accepted in transfer from non-social work graduate programs in accordance with Graduate School policies governing transfer credit and time limits for degree completion. No course credit is given for life or work experience.
Course waiver information for new M.S.W. students

Students may request to be waived from courses in the M.S.W. program if they can demonstrate they have satisfactorily completed the equivalent courses. Students must present evidence of content equivalency to the M.S.W. program director and have earned an A or B grade in the courses that are the basis for the waiver request; these courses must have been completed within the past five years. A portfolio process is used to assess equivalency. Graduate students from non-M.S.W. programs, from B.S.W. programs (but not in the advanced standing format), and from B.A., B.S. or other undergraduate programs may be waived from no more than three of the following foundation courses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 601</td>
<td>Human Behavior in the Social Environment I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 610</td>
<td>Human Behavior in the Social Environment II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 609</td>
<td>Foundations of Research in Social Work Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The course waiver does not result in award of credit. Credit may be awarded only through transfer of graduate courses (see Transfer Policy). Students who are granted waivers but not transfer credit hours must take elective courses to fulfill the number of credit hours that have been waived. Students interested in pursuing a waiver for one or more of the specified foundation courses should contact the M.S.W. program office to request the Equivalency Portfolio Form(s) and instructions.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the regular standing format for the M.S.W. degree requires the completion of 60 credit hours of graduate study (two years of full-time study). The first 30 credit hours (foundation curriculum) may be taken in one academic year on a full-time basis or may be extended to a maximum of two years in the structured part-time format. To earn the M.S.W. degree in the advanced standing format requires 42 credits of full-time graduate study. Students in the advanced standing format do not complete the foundation curriculum but instead take 12 credit hours during the summer prior to entering the concentration curriculum.

All students select an area of concentration for the last 30 credit hours, which can be completed in one academic year on a full-time basis or extended to a maximum of two years in the structured part-time format. Students are usually in a field instruction practicum two days each week during the foundation curriculum and three days each week during the concentration curriculum. Course credit for work or life experience is not granted in lieu of M.S.W. course credit hours.

The purpose of the Master of Social Work program is to prepare graduate-level social workers with mastery of the knowledge, values and skills essential for advanced social work practice in a multicultural society.

The foundation curriculum comprises the first 30 credit hours of the M.S.W. program. The purpose of the foundation practice, in laying the groundwork for concentration study, is to develop the knowledge and skill base necessary to apply and carry out core competencies (relationship building, problem identification, assessment, selecting and planning interventions, implementation, and evaluation) with individuals, families, groups, communities and organizations. Foundation practice emphasizes critical thinking, client strengths, commitment to social work values and ethical principles, self-awareness, professional development, evidence-based decision-making, multicultural competency and social and economic justice. The foundation curriculum includes courses in social work practice, human behavior, social policy, social justice, research and field instruction.

Concentration options

After completion of the foundation year of study or summer studies for advanced standing, M.S.W. students choose an advanced concentration in clinical practice or in administration, planning and policy practice. The concentration curriculum prepares graduates for active roles in practice and program evaluation and in the generation of knowledge for future practice, programs and policy.

Clinical practice concentration

Clinical social work practice involves a mutual problem-solving process in which multidimensional assessment, goal setting, planned intervention and evaluation are prominent components, all of which are informed by current scientific knowledge. All clinical practice is grounded in the values and purposes of the social work profession. The goal of clinical social work is to promote effective coping with life challenges and transitions. This is achieved by helping people solve problems, change dysfunctional behavior, resolve emotional and interpersonal conflicts, develop and use social networks and resources, and maintain achieved capacities and strengths. This goal rests on the fundamental belief in the dignity of all human beings and in communal responsibility for all members of the multicultural society.

Clinical social work practice takes place in the context of a purposeful relationship. The conscious use of the professional self is central in building and maintaining such relationships. Interventions may involve therapeutic, supportive, educational and resource-management activities. These interventions are based on a process of strengthening and reordering organizational structures in the lives of clients: intrapersonal (including intrapsychic), interpersonal, institutional and/or social.

Curriculum requirements

**Foundation courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 601</td>
<td>Human Behavior in the Social Environment I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 602</td>
<td>Policy, Community and Organizational Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 603</td>
<td>Social Work and Social Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 604</td>
<td>Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 605</td>
<td>Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 606</td>
<td>Policy, Community and Organizational Practice II</td>
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<td>SLWK 609</td>
<td>Foundations of Research in Social Work Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLWK 610</td>
<td>Human Behavior in the Social Environment II</td>
<td>3</td>
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Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 693</td>
<td>Foundation Field Instruction I</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; SLWK 694</td>
<td>Foundation Field Instruction II</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 695</td>
<td>Block Foundation Field Instruction</td>
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</table>

Total Hours 30
Part-time students may choose a block field placement in lieu of SLWK 693 and SLWK 694. Only one field placement can be a block placement.

In the advanced standing format students do not take foundation courses outlined above, but instead take 12 credit hours in the summer prior to their concentration year that include courses in practice/human behavior, policy, and research, in addition to completing a field education course with a field placement that will extend throughout their concentration year of study. The purpose of this curriculum is to enhance and restore understanding of the foundation curriculum content for entering BSW students prior to entering the concentration year.

Advanced standing format
Summer semester prior to concentration

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 607</td>
<td>Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups for Advanced-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>standing Students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 608</td>
<td>Social Work Practice in Organizations and Communities for Advanced-</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>standing Students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 611</td>
<td>Social Work Research for Advanced-standing Students</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 612</td>
<td>Advanced-standing Field Instruction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
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Required clinical concentration courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 703</td>
<td>Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 704</td>
<td>Clinical Social Work Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 705</td>
<td>Clinical Social Work Practice II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 706</td>
<td>Research for Clinical Social Work Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 707</td>
<td>Research for Clinical Social Work Practice II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 710</td>
<td>Concentration Social Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Select one of the following:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 793</td>
<td>Concentration Field Instruction I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 794</td>
<td>and Concentration Field Instruction II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 795</td>
<td>Concentration Block Field Instruction</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>24</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60

Sample plan of study

Year one
Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 601</td>
<td>Human Behavior in the Social Environment I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 602</td>
<td>Policy, Community and Organizational Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 603</td>
<td>Social Work and Social Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 604</td>
<td>Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 693</td>
<td>Foundation Field Instruction I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Spring semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 605</td>
<td>Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 606</td>
<td>Policy, Community and Organizational Practice II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 609</td>
<td>Foundations of Research in Social Work Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 610</td>
<td>Human Behavior in the Social Environment II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 694</td>
<td>Foundation Field Instruction II</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
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</table>

Year two
Fall semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 703</td>
<td>Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Part-time students may choose a block field placement in lieu of SLWK 793 and SLWK 794. Only one field placement can be a block placement.

Electives
A variety of electives are offered every semester and in the summer. The following courses have been approved as electives by the university; however elective offerings for any particular semester are limited. In addition, electives from outside of the School of Social Work are accepted as part of our combined offerings for dual degrees and certificates. Other electives from outside of the School of Social Work may be accepted with prior approval from the M.S.W. program director.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 719</td>
<td>Gender and Substance Abuse: Social Work Practice Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 726</td>
<td>Social Work Practice and Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 727</td>
<td>Trauma and Social Work Practice: Theory, Assessment and Intervention</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 728</td>
<td>The Interdisciplinary Team in Social Work Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 739</td>
<td>Social Work and the Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 741</td>
<td>Social Work Practice and the Neurosciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 745</td>
<td>Social Work Practice in Community Mental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 746</td>
<td>Social Work Practice and Psychopharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 747</td>
<td>Social Work Intervention with Children and Adolescents</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 748</td>
<td>Group Methods in Social Work Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 749</td>
<td>Social Work Intervention in Substance Abuse</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 755</td>
<td>Social Work Practice in Organizing for Social Change</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 759</td>
<td>Art Therapy in Social Work Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 761</td>
<td>Interpersonal Violence</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 770</td>
<td>International Social Work Study Abroad</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 791</td>
<td>Topical Seminar</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 716</td>
<td>Social Work Administration, Planning and Policy Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 719</td>
<td>Gender and Substance Abuse: Social Work Practice Issues</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 726</td>
<td>Social Work Practice and Health Care</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 727</td>
<td>Trauma and Social Work Practice: Theory, Assessment and Intervention</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>The Interdisciplinary Team in Social Work Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLWK 739</td>
<td>Social Work and the Law</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLWK 741</td>
<td>Social Work Practice and the Neurosciences</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 745</td>
<td>Social Work Practice in Community Mental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 746</td>
<td>Social Work Practice and Psychopharmacology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 747</td>
<td>Social Work Intervention with Children and Adolescents</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 748</td>
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<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 749</td>
<td>Social Work Intervention in Substance Abuse</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 755</td>
<td>Social Work Practice in Organizing for Social Change</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 759</td>
<td>Art Therapy in Social Work Practice</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLWK 761</td>
<td>Interpersonal Violence</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 770</td>
<td>International Social Work Study Abroad</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 791</td>
<td>Topical Seminar</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 716</td>
<td>Social Work Administration, Planning and Policy Practice</td>
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</table>
Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.)/Aging Studies, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) [combined]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 704</td>
<td>Clinical Social Work Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 706</td>
<td>Research for Clinical Social Work Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 793</td>
<td>Concentration Field Instruction I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
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</table>

**Spring semester**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 705</td>
<td>Clinical Social Work Practice II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 707</td>
<td>Research for Clinical Social Work Practice II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 710</td>
<td>Concentration Social Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 794</td>
<td>Concentration Field Instruction II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term Hours:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours:** 60

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 60**

Program accreditation

Council on Social Work Education (M.S.W.)

The School of Social Work in cooperation with the Department of Gerontology of the School of Allied Health Professions at VCU provides students with a unique educational opportunity in social work and gerontology. Master of Social Work students interested in work with elders or in gerontological programs may earn a Certificate in Aging Studies while completing the master's degree requirements.

In order to meet the requirements of the M.S.W. degree and the Certificate in Aging Studies, students complete a total of 65 graduate credit hours. All foundation and concentration courses of the Master of Social Work Program are completed, and core courses (nine credit hours) of the Certificate in Aging Studies Program are completed. Other requirements are met by (1) completion of M.S.W. research courses in which students undertake a project focused on aging, (2) completion of second-year field instruction practicum requirements (six credit hours) in a social work setting related to aging and (3) completion of an independent study course in gerontology, which integrates research and practicum courses.

See the individual program pages for specific admission requirements, application deadlines, program goals, student learning outcomes, degree requirements and graduation requirements for the M.S.W. and Certificate in Aging Studies degree programs.

**Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).**

Application process

Students must meet the admission requirements of the Master of Social Work program of the School of Social Work and of the Certificate in Aging Studies program in the Department of Gerontology. Admission into one program does not guarantee admission into the other.

Additional information may be obtained from the websites listed above or either of the following offices:

Virginia Commonwealth University
School of Allied Health Professions
Department of Gerontology
P.O. Box 980228
Richmond, VA 23298-0228
Attention: M.S.W.-Gerontology Certificate Adviser

Virginia Commonwealth University
School of Social Work
P.O. Box 842027
Richmond, VA 23284-2027
Attention: M.S.W.-Gerontology Certificate Adviser

**Curriculum requirements**

Students must complete the M.S.W. foundation curriculum or the advanced standing format and the concentration curriculum (either clinical practice or SWAPPP), including the following social work courses and the additional following courses from the Department of Gerontology.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 601</td>
<td>Biological and Physiological Aging</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 602</td>
<td>Psychology of Aging</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 605</td>
<td>Social Science Research Methods Applied to Gerontology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRTY 692</td>
<td>Independent Studies</td>
<td>2</td>
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Select one of the following: 6

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 706</td>
<td>Research for Clinical Social Work Practice I</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 707</td>
<td>Research for Clinical Social Work Practice II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 714</td>
<td>Research for Social Work Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>SLWK 715</td>
<td>Research for Social Work Practice II</td>
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Select one of the following: 6

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<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 793</td>
<td>Concentration Field Instruction I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 794</td>
<td>Concentration Field Instruction II</td>
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</table>

Six credit hours of the GRTY courses will count toward your concentration electives

**Total Hours:** 29
Total number of graduate credit hours required (minimum) to complete the Certificate in Aging Studies for students in the M.S.W. program 29

Graduate program director
Melissa L. Abell, Ph.D.
M.S.W. program director
Email: mlabell@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-2007

Graduate program director
E. Ayn Welleford, Ph.D.
Chair, Department of Gerontology
Email: ewellefo@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1565

Program websites: socialwork.vcu.edu (http://www.socialwork.vcu.edu) and sahp.vcu.edu/gerontology (http://www.sahp.vcu.edu/gerontology)

Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.)/Divinity, Master of (M.Div.) from the Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond or the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University [combined]

The combined Master of Social Work and Master of Divinity program is a four-year professional degree program offered by Virginia Commonwealth University in cooperation with Richmond Theological Consortium schools that include Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond and Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology at Virginia Union University. The purpose of the dual-degree program is to prepare students for service in occupations where social work and the church’s ministries intersect; to enable social workers to perform and evaluate social work practices as they relate to biblical, theological, ethical, educational and pastoral perspectives; and to equip graduates for various forms of ministry in which clinical and administrative skills in social work are critical.

This program requires four continuous years of study and leads to a Master of Social Work degree conferred by VCU and a Master of Divinity degree conferred by the chosen RTC school. Permission for part-time study must be given by the dual-degree adviser at VCU and the appropriate theological school dean of faculty. All degree requirements must be completed within seven years of matriculation. Students need to apply and be accepted both programs and may begin study at either institution following the approved curriculum plan. Or, a student may begin at either VCU or the seminary and then apply for admission to the other school during the first year of study in accordance with application deadline dates.

The M.S.W. requires 60 credit hours that do not include the required integrative seminar and one course transferred from the seminary to satisfy a three-credit hour M.S.W. elective requirement. The integrative seminar is taken in the final year of study and is co-taught by a member of the VCU School of Social Work faculty and a member of a faculty of an RTC school. The seminar enables the student to integrate theoretical, social justice, empirical, ethical and practical dimensions of social work with biblical, theological, educational and pastoral perspectives.

See the individual program pages for specific admission requirements, application deadlines, program goals, student learning outcomes, degree requirements and graduation requirements for the M.S.W. degree program.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Application process
Prospective students apply to the VCU School of Social Work and one of the participating theological schools, must meet both sets of admission standards and must be accepted into both programs. For the M.S.W. program, refer to the “Admission to the master’s degree program” section. For information about admission to an RTC Master of Divinity program, contact one of the following schools:

Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond
3400 Brook Road
Richmond, VA 23286-3446
Phone: (804) 345-2877

Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology
1500 N. Lombardy St.
Richmond, VA 23220
Phone: (804) 257-5715

M.S.W. program applications can be obtained from the VCU Graduate Admissions website at www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Graduate program director
Melissa L. Abell, Ph.D.
M.S.W. program director
Email: mlabell@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-2007

Additional contact
Joseph Walsh, Ph.D.
Professor, VCU School of Social Work
Email: jwalsh@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-0408

Program website: socialwork.vcu.edu (http://www.socialwork.vcu.edu)

Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.)/Gender Violence Intervention, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) [combined]

The combined Master of Social Work and Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention program is a collaborative effort among the L. Douglas Wilder School of Public Affairs, the School of Social Work and community advocates working in the area of sexual and domestic violence. The certificate requires a total of 18 credit hours comprising five required courses and one elective.

To enroll in the Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention simultaneously with the M.S.W., students must complete a graduate application for the certificate program and pay the required fee to Graduate Admissions; however, no supporting information is required for students who are already enrolled in good standing in the M.S.W. program.
Applicants will need to complete an online admission application and select from the drop down menu “GVI Certificate.” Applicants then pay the application fee and attach an essay on why they wish to be in the program. Students should also indicate on the right-hand side of the admission application that they are currently in the M.S.W. program, which will alert the admissions office that the application can be sent directly to the program chair for an admissions decision.

Please arrange for references and transcripts to be forwarded to the Wilder School graduate studies office from the School of Social Work and they will be added to the application admission. Students should indicate in the “Comments” section of the application form that they are already enrolled in the M.S.W. program.

Additional information may be obtained from Virginia Commonwealth University, School of Social Work, P.O. Box 842027, Richmond, VA 23284-2027, Attention: Elizabeth Cramer, Ph.D., [ecramer@vcu.edu; (804) 828-9027], Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention Adviser. Detailed information about the Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention is available from Sarah Jane Brubaker, Ph.D., Wilder School [sbrubaker@vcu.edu; (804) 827-2400]. Certificate courses can be completed after M.S.W. degree requirements have been completed as long as there is continuous enrollment. All M.S.W. students interested in the certificate should check the course schedule for changes and other course offerings.

See the individual program pages for specific admission requirements, application deadlines, program goals, student learning outcomes, degree requirements and graduation requirements for the M.S.W. and Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention programs.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

### Admission requirements

| Degree: M.S.W. and Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate | Semester(s) of entry: | Deadline dates: | Test requirements:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jul 15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Nov 15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Curriculum requirements

**Required courses**

- GVPA 623: Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs ³
- GVPA 693: Internship ²
- PADM 650: Principles of Nonprofit Management ³
- SLWK 761: Interpersonal Violence
- SOCY 635: Theorizing Gender Violence

**Elective**

- Select three elective credits

**Total Hours**: 18

¹ GVPA 623: satisfied by SLWK 706-SLWK 707 or SLWK 714-SLWK 715 [clinical or social work planning, administrative and policy practice research course (three credit hours)].

² GVPA 693: satisfied by SLWK 693-SLWK 694, SLWK 695; or SLWK 793-SLWK 794, SLWK 795 [a social work field practicum in an agency providing sexual or domestic violence services (three credit hours)].

³ PADM 650: satisfied by SLWK 602-SLWK 606 (three credit hours).

### Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) for the Certificate in Gender Violence Intervention for students in the M.S.W. program

18

### Field placements

Once students are admitted and enrolled in the certificate program, they should consult the certificate adviser when they choose their field placements to ensure that at least one placement is conducted in a setting that addresses gender violence.

Through a cooperative arrangement with the Wilder School, M.S.W. students may simultaneously earn this graduate certificate by completing two required courses: SOCY 635 and SLWK 761.

#### Graduate program directors

- Melissa L. Abell, Ph.D., Director, M.S.W. program
  Email: mlabell@vcu.edu
  Phone: (804) 827-2007

- Sarah Jane Brubaker, Ph.D., Director, Gender violence intervention program
  Email: sbrubaker@vcu.edu
  Phone: (804) 827-2400

#### Additional contact

- Simon H. Okoth, Ph.D., Director of graduate studies, Wilder School
  Email: okothsh@vcu.edu
  Phone: (804) 827-1430

Program websites: socialwork.vcu.edu (http://socialwork.vcu.edu) and wilder.vcu.edu/academic/certificate/intervention.html (http://wilder.vcu.edu/academic/certificate/intervention.html)

### Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.)/Juris Doctor (J.D.) with the University of Richmond [combined]

Through a cooperative arrangement with the University of Richmond T.C. Williams Law School, selected students in either school may pursue a combined four-year curriculum of graduate study leading to the degrees of Master of Social Work and Juris Doctor. The program is established in recognition of the role of public law in social and economic life. The dual-degree program prepares professionals versed in the values, knowledge and skills of both fields, bringing an integrated base of competency to the resolution of human and social problems. The time normally required for completion of the integrated four-year curriculum is one academic year less than if each degree were taken separately. Elective courses will enable students to select areas in law and in social work which meet their particular interests.

See the individual program pages for specific admission requirements, application deadlines, program goals, student learning outcomes,
degree requirements and graduation requirements for the M.S.W. degree program and its concentrations.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Application process

Applicants must successfully meet the admission requirements of both schools and upon admission are assigned an adviser in each school. Students in dual-degree study may begin the course work in either school, with the sequence of courses being determined by the point of entry.

Application for admission must be made to each institution separately. Those interested should contact both the Admissions Office of the T.C. Williams Law School, University of Richmond, VA 23173 and the VCU Graduate Admissions Office at www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu)

Graduate program director
Melissa L. Abell, Ph.D.
M.S.W. program director
Email: mlabell@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-2007

Additional contact
James Gibson, J.D.
Professor of law
University of Richmond
T.C. Williams Law School
Email: jgibson@richmond.edu
Phone: (804) 287-6398

Program website: socialwork.vcu.edu (http://www.socialwork.vcu.edu)

Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.)/Nonprofit Management, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate) [combined]

Through a cooperative arrangement with the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs, Master of Social Work students pursuing the concentration in administration, planning and policy practice may simultaneously earn the post-baccalaureate graduate certificate in nonprofit management offered by the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs.

Application process

To earn the Certificate in Nonprofit Management simultaneously with the M.S.W., it is necessary to complete a graduate admissions application for the certificate program; however, no supporting documents are required for students who are already enrolled in good standing in the M.S.W. degree program.

Certificate requirements for M.S.W. students

Social work students enrolled in the SWAPPP concentration are required to complete three nonprofit courses: PADM 656, PADM 659 and PADM 661. Two social work SWAPPP courses are substituted for six credit hours of the certificate’s 15 credit-hour requirement. One of these courses is SLWK 712. The second course may be SLWK 711 or SLWK 713.

Note: M.S.W. students pursuing the clinical concentration must complete the entire 15 credit hours required for the Certificate in Nonprofit Management. Any six of the PADM nonprofit credit hours will satisfy the M.S.W. elective requirement for either concentration.

See the individual program pages for specific admission requirements, application deadlines, program goals, student learning outcomes, degree requirements and graduation requirements for the stand-alone M.S.W. and Certificate in Nonprofit Management programs.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PADM 656</td>
<td>Fund Development for the Nonprofit Sector</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 659</td>
<td>Financial Management for Nonprofit Organizations</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 661</td>
<td>Nonprofit Law, Governance and Ethics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 712</td>
<td>Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 711</td>
<td>Strategies for Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or SLWK 713</td>
<td>Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 15

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) for the Certificate in Nonprofit Management for students in the M.S.W. program SWAPPP concentration 15

Graduate program directors
Melissa L. Abell, Ph.D.
Director, M.S.W. program
Email: mlabell@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-2007

Richard F. Huff, Ph.D.
Program chair, Public Administration
Email: rrhuff@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-9813

Additional contacts
Simon H. Okoth, Ph.D.
Director of graduate studies, Wilder School
Email: okothsh@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 827-1430

Program websites: socialwork.vcu.edu (http://www.socialwork.vcu.edu) and wilder.vcu.edu/academic/certificate/nonprofit.html (http://www.wilder.vcu.edu/academic/certificate/nonprofit.html)

Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.)/school social work practice certification [combined]

Program accreditation
Council on Social Work Education
Through a collaborative program with the VCU School of Education, students may meet Virginia Department of Education standards for certification as school social workers in Virginia in addition to meeting requirements for the M.S.W. degree.

In order to meet the requirements of the M.S.W. and the School Social Work certification option, students complete the clinical concentration and earn a total of 63 graduate credit hours, including six credit hours of approved graduate courses in the School of Education. Students must enroll in SLWK 717 Social Work Practice in the School Setting and take two additional courses from the School of Education.

Students interested in certification in school social work should contact their advisers during the first semester of the M.S.W. program.

Additional information may be obtained from the School of Social Work website (http://www.socialwork.vcu.edu) or by writing:

Virginia Commonwealth University
School of Social Work
P.O. 842027
Richmond, VA 23284-2027
Attention: Stephanie Odera, Certificate for School Social Work Adviser

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry</th>
<th>Deadline dates</th>
<th>Test requirements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.W.</td>
<td>Summer (advanced standing format)</td>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certification</td>
<td>Fall (regular standing formats – all on-campus part- and full-time and distance education)</td>
<td>Jan 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Note: does not result in the awarding of a VCU certificate degree or diploma)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- The School of Social Work requires a specific outline for the personal statement that is different from what is shown in the graduate admissions website and also requires that a checklist be submitted with application materials. Please visit the School of Social Work website for this specific information.

Curriculum requirements

M.S.W. with a concentration in clinical practice requirements

Students must complete the requirements for the M.S.W. with a concentration in clinical practice, including the following:

- SLWK 717 Social Work Practice in the School Setting

School of Education courses

Select two courses from the following options:

- Assessment of evaluation:
  - CLED 606 Assessment Techniques for Counselors
  - EDUS 603 Seminar in Child Growth and Development

- Certification:
  - EDUS 605 Child and Adolescent Development
  - SEDP/TEDU 619 Multicultural Perspectives in Education
  - SEDP 631 Classroom Management and Behavior Support for Students with Disabilities

- Education of exceptionailities:
  - SEDP 501 Characteristics of Students with High Incidence Disabilities (on-campus students may not take the online section of this course)
  - SEDP 532 Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder (offered online every semester)
  - SEDP 611 Secondary Education and Transition Planning
  - SEDP 631 Classroom Management and Behavior Support for Students with Disabilities
  - TEDU/SEDP 619 Multicultural Perspectives in Education

School administration, law and policy:

- ADMS 600 Public School Administration
- ADMS 606 Organizational Behavior and Change in Educational Settings
- ADMS 607 Principles of Educational Leadership
- ADMS 611 School Law
- ADMS 632 Administration and Supervision of Special Education
- SEDP 630 Trends in Special Education (hybrid course offered every semester and online in the summer; recommended for M.S.W. students)

Total Hours 63

Total number of graduate credit hours required (minimum) for M.S.W. with a concentration in clinical and certification for school social work practice 1 63

1 Note: Certification for school social work practice does not result in the awarding of a university degree or diploma.

Graduate program director
Melissa L. Abell, Ph.D.
M.S.W. program director
Email: mlabell@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-2007

Program website: socialwork.vcu.edu (http://www.socialwork.vcu.edu)

Public Health, Master of (M.P.H.)/Social Work, Master of (M.S.W.) [combined]

Program accreditation
Council on Education for Public Health (M.P.H.)
Council on Social Work Education (M.S.W.)

Through a collaborative program between the VCU School of Social Work and the Division of Epidemiology in the School of Medicine's Department of Family Medicine and Population Health, students complete a three-year full-time program of study, including summer course work, to obtain the Master of Social Work and Master of Public Health degrees. The purpose of this dual-degree program is to prepare graduates to work with
individuals, families, groups, communities and/or organizations; advocate for social, health care and economic justice in a diverse and multicultural society; and promote physical and mental health across the life course.

Prospective students are required to apply separately to both programs through the appropriate application portal indicated in the admission requirements section of this Bulletin and must meet both sets of admission requirements. Once admitted to both programs, the student is assigned an adviser from each to develop a plan of study, typically starting with the M.S.W. course work. It is preferable that students apply to both programs at the same time so that the structured dual-degree curriculum can be optimally planned. Students in one program may also apply to the second program during the first year of study.

Students are required to complete a minimum of 45 M.S.W. credit hours and a minimum of 36 M.P.H. credit hours, for a total of 81 semester credit hours. In the M.P.H. program, this includes 24 credit hours of core and required courses, a minimum nine credit hours of elective courses and a minimum of three credit hours of a capstone project that examines a relevant public health topic. Note that some elective courses may not be available in certain years or may require instructor permission for registration. During the third and last year of study, dual-degree students are placed in internships through the School of Social Work that focus on public health; the internship placement is approved by both the M.P.H. program director and the director of the M.S.W. field instruction. With adviser approval, the student may develop a capstone project based on work in this public health/social work placement.

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

**Other information**

School of Medicine graduate program policies

The School of Medicine provides policies applicable to all programs administratively housed in the school. Information on master’s programs (p. 663) is available elsewhere in the Graduate Bulletin.

For the M.P.H., apply online at sophas.org (http://www.sophas.org); for the M.S.W., apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Please review the admission requirements for each stand-alone degree (Master of Public Health and Master of Social Work) in the VCU Graduate Bulletin to learn the specific application requirements for each program.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Required courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 544</td>
<td>Graduate Research Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 547</td>
<td>Applied Data Analysis Lab I</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 548</td>
<td>Applied Data Analysis Lab II</td>
<td>1.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 571</td>
<td>Principles of Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 580</td>
<td>Public Health Ethics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 593</td>
<td>MPH Practicum I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 604</td>
<td>Principles of Environmental Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 694</td>
<td>MPH Capstone Project</td>
<td>1-6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCPR 601</td>
<td>Introduction to Health Policy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBHD 605</td>
<td>Introduction to Social and Behavioral Health</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 601</td>
<td>Human Behavior in the Social Environment I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 602</td>
<td>Policy, Community and Organizational Practice I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 603</td>
<td>Social Work and Social Justice</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 604</td>
<td>Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 605</td>
<td>Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SLWK 606</td>
<td>Policy, Community and Organizational Practice II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SLWK 609  Foundations of Research in Social Work Practice  3
SLWK 610  Human Behavior in the Social Environment II  3
SLWK 693  Foundation Field Instruction I  3
SLWK 694  Foundation Field Instruction II  3

**Concentration courses**
Select one of the following concentrations:  9

**M.S.W. clinical concentration:**
- SLWK 703  Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Disorders
- SLWK 704  Clinical Social Work Practice I
- SLWK 705  Clinical Social Work Practice II

**M.S.W. SWAPPP concentration:**
- SLWK 711  Strategies for Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice
- SLWK 712  Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice I
- SLWK 713  Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice II
- SLWK 793  Concentration Field Instruction I  3
- SLWK 794  Concentration Field Instruction II  3

**Electives**
Select a minimum of nine graduate elective credits from the following:  9
- BIOS 571  Clinical Trials
- CCTR 630  Design Implications in Clinical Trials
- EPID 600  Introduction to Public Health
- EPID 601  Contemporary Issues and Controversies in Public Health
- EPID 603  Public Health Policy and Politics
- EPID 606  Epidemiologic Methods
- EPID 620  Cancer Epidemiology
- EPID 622  Maternal and Child Health
- EPID 624  Chronic Disease Epidemiology
- EPID 646  Epidemiology of Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders
- EPID 648  Behavioral Epidemiology
- EPID 691  Special Topics
- EPID 692  Independent Study
- GRAD 614  Introduction to Grant Writing
- GRTY 501  Physiological Aging
- GRTY 510  Aging
- GRTY 603  Social Gerontology
- GRTY 604  Problems, Issues and Trends in Gerontology
- HEMS 505  Contemporary Issues in Health
- HEMS 550  Exercise, Nutrition and Weight Management
- HEMS 604  Nutrition for Health and Physical Activity
- HEMS 605  Psychology of Physical Activity
- HEMS 606  Psychosocial Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity
- HGEN 501  Introduction to Human Genetics
- HGEN 502  Advanced Human Genetics
- HGEN 620  Principles of Human Behavioral Genetics
- HSEP 601  Emergency Management: Response Planning and Incident Command
- HSEP 603  Risk Assessment
- HSEP 650  Public Health Preparedness
- PSYC 660  Health Psychology
- SBHD 608  Health Communication
- SBHD 630  Theoretical Foundations of Social and Behavioral Health
- SBHD 632  Health Disparities and Social Justice
- SBHD 636  Community-based Participatory Research
- SBHD 637  Program Evaluation
- SOCY 510  Domestic and Sexual Violence in Social Context
- SOCY 524  Aging and the Minority Community
- SOCY 603  Seminar in Population Studies
- SOCY 607  Seminar in Racial and Ethnic Relations in America
- SOCY 611  Studies in the Community
- SOCY 620  Seminar in Criminology
- SOCY 624  Community and Community Services for the Elderly
- SOCY 632  Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence: Medical Practice and Policy
- SOCY 633  Application of the Policy Process to Issues of Violence
- SOCY 634  Social Contexts of Childhood and Violence
- SOCY 635  Theorizing Gender Violence
- SOCY 645  The Sociology of Health and Illness
- URSP 521  Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
- URSP 621  Introduction to Geographic Information Systems
- URSP 622  Community Socioeconomic Analysis Using GIS
- URSP 625  Spatial Database Management and GIS Modeling

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) for combined M.P.H./M.S.W. 81**

**Typical plan of study**

Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study, or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

**Graduate program directors**
Saba Masho, M.D., Dr.P.H.
Associate professor, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Family Medicine and Population Health
saba.masho@vcuhealth.org
(804) 628-2509

Sarah K. Price, Ph.D.
M.S.W./M.P.H. combined program coordinator
skprice@vcu.edu
(804) 828-0579

Additional contact
Lisa S. Anderson, M.P.H.
Director of educational programs, Division of Epidemiology, Department of Family Medicine and Population Health
lisa.s.anderson@vcuhealth.org
(804) 628-2512

Program websites: familymedicine.vcu.edu/education/graduate/dual-degrees (http://familymedicine.vcu.edu/education/graduate/dual-degrees) and socialwork.vcu.edu (http://www.socialwork.vcu.edu)

Ph.D. Program
Denise Burnette, Ph.D.
Professor and director
Email: jdburnette@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-2859

The Ph.D. Program administers the curriculum that leads to the Doctor of Philosophy in Social Work.

- Social Work, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) (p. 845)

Social Work, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Program goals
VCU's Ph.D. in Social Work program is a research-oriented educational enterprise with a mission to develop scholars and leaders for education and practice in human services. Its vision is a program that builds and nurtures students' intellectual curiosity, creativity and courage, as well as their desire to “make a difference.” The program is built around excellence in teaching, mentorship and socialization of students, as well as collaborative involvement in the program by its diverse faculty. Graduates of the program become active in teaching, consultation, research, practice and program evaluation, staff and program development, policy analysis and advocacy. They are employed in universities and colleges and in human service organizations and agencies at the local, state, national and international levels. In the program’s activities and events, emphasis is placed on the following areas:

1. The development of an intellectual community that values critical and creative thinking
2. The connections among the philosophy of science, theory, research and practice
3. The analysis and integration of knowledge and values, especially their relevance to diverse populations and issues of social justice

Student learning outcomes
1. A critical understanding of multiple paradigms in the philosophy of science and the implications of these for contemporary research
2. Mastery of a range of research methodologies and data analysis strategies and competence in conducting independent inquiry on issues of importance to the field
3. Competence in the analysis and application of a wide range of social, behavioral and practice theories
4. An ability to design and propose theoretically and empirically grounded models of social work intervention for coping with personal transitions and challenges, addressing social problems and promoting equity and social justice
5. A critical understanding of the historical place of social work and social welfare in the evolution of social thought and cultural values
6. Expertise in a chosen substantive area related to social work, including skills related to dissemination of this knowledge
7. Familiarity and beginning expertise about the exchange and dissemination of professional knowledge via submissions and presentations to meetings, journals and other professional outlets

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

Comprehensive exam/admission to candidacy

Upon completion of all required course work, students are required to take a comprehensive exam under the supervision of a comprehensive examination committee. Through the comprehensive examination,
students must demonstrate the ability to integrate the whole of their educational experience by adequately addressing complex questions pertinent to the current and developing knowledge base of the human service field. Students must register for a minimum of one credit hour of independent study (SWKD 792) in the semester in which they take the comprehensive examination. Upon successful completion of all portions of the comprehensive exam, students are approved for degree candidacy and for registration for a minimum of one credit hour of dissertation research.

If one or more portions of the examination are not passed upon the first attempt, the student receives a mark of I in the independent study course and the following semester reattempts all (or portions) of the comprehensive examination one additional time. The grade of I is changed to A upon successful completion of the comprehensive exam on the second attempt and results in approval of degree candidacy and registration for dissertation research. If a student fails to pass all portions of the comprehensive examination a second time the grade of I is changed to F in the independent study course and the student is dismissed from the program. If a student chooses not to attempt the failed portion(s) of the comprehensive examination a second time, the grade of I is changed to F in the independent study course and the student is dismissed from the program.

Dissertation

After admission to candidacy, students proceed to propose, complete and defend their dissertations. The dissertation is completed under the supervision of a dissertation committee. A cumulative total of at least 15 credit hours of dissertation research must be completed in order to receive the Ph.D.; however, students may register for as many credits as needed/desired. Students are required to maintain continuous enrollment of at least three credit hours per semester (excluding summer) until they have attained 12 hours of dissertation credit, after which they may enroll for as few as one credit per semester. The dissertation must represent independent research and should be based on an original question or hypothesis relevant to social work. Successful defense of the dissertation, after the completion of 54 hours of course work and dissertation credits, completes the requirements for the degree.

Upon successful completion of the comprehensive examinations and entering candidacy, doctoral candidates enroll in SWKD 898 every fall and spring semester until graduation. Candidates must have successfully defended their dissertation proposal within four consecutive academic terms (fall and spring semesters), inclusive of the semester entering candidacy. Failure to have successfully defended the dissertation proposal within the time limit specified above will result in an unsatisfactory grade (U) in the fourth term of enrollment in SWKD 898. Failure to successfully defend the dissertation proposal by the end of the next fall or spring semester will result in another U grade in SWKD 898 and dismissal from the program. The semester limits noted above for successfully defending the dissertation proposal are in effect whether a candidate is actively matriculated or on a leave of absence.

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.
Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must meet the following requirements.

A minimum of 54 graduate credit hours is required, which comprises 27 hours of core course work common for all students, nine credit hours of electives selected individually to suit the student's course of study, three credit hours of directed research and a minimum of 15 credit hours of dissertation research. The Graduate School requirements for candidacy exams and dissertation committees apply to students in this program. Up to six credit hours may be granted for courses completed at another university. Full-time students ordinarily complete 18 to 20 credit hours per academic year.

The Ph.D. curriculum is designed for students to specialize in a substantive area and increase their relevant research skills. Students take three hours of directed research (SWKD 797) in preparation for their independent dissertation research and nine hours of elective credit, which includes three credit hours of advanced statistics and/or research courses, and another six credit hours of elective courses or independent study customized to their areas of interest. In addition to elective courses offered by the program, students may enroll in appropriate courses in other schools and departments at VCU with approval of their advisers. A minimum of 39 credit hours of course work, as outlined above, is required before admission to candidacy.

Curriculum requirements

Core curriculum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWKD 701</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Methods and Analysis I</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWKD 702</td>
<td>Quantitative Research Methods and Analysis II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWKD 703</td>
<td>Philosophical Issues in Social Work Knowledge Building</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWKD 704</td>
<td>Multiparadigmatic Qualitative Methods and Analysis</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWKD 705</td>
<td>Multivariate Analysis in Social Work and Human Services Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWKD 708</td>
<td>Social Science Foundations for Social Work</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWKD 710</td>
<td>Social Work, Social Welfare and Social Thought</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWKD 715</td>
<td>Development and Evaluation of Social Work Practice Theories and Models</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWKD 798</td>
<td>Integrative Seminar</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 513</td>
<td>Mathematical Statistics I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 514</td>
<td>Mathematical Statistics II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 553</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 554</td>
<td>Biostatistical Methods II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 571</td>
<td>Clinical Trials</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 572</td>
<td>Analysis of Biomedical Data I</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 625</td>
<td>Categorical Data Analysis and Generalized Linear Models</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional elective courses or independent study

Select an additional six credits customized to student's area of interest

Total Hours

In addition to elective courses offered by the program, students may enroll in appropriate courses in other schools and departments at VCU with approval of their advisers. Outside elective courses may be selected from classes at the 500 level or higher in BIOS, CCTR, CMSC, CLED, CRJS, ECSE, ECON, EDUS, ENV, EPID, GSWS, GRTY, GVPA, GRAD, HADM, HCP, HSEM, HGEN, HUMS, INFO, IDAS, IDDS, MASC, MATX, NURS, OVPR, PHAR, PSYC, PADM, PPAD, SBHD, SLWK, SWKD, SOCY, SEDP, STAT, SYSM, TEDU AND USRP.

Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SWKD 797</td>
<td>Directed Research</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWKD 898</td>
<td>Dissertation Research (a minimum of 15 credits)</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours</td>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 54

Graduate program director
Denise Burnette, Ph.D.
Professor and Samuel S. Wurtzel Endowed Chair in Social Work
Email: jdburnette@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-2859

Additional contact
Leslie Choplin, D.Ed.Min.
Ph.D. program assistant
Email: lachoplin@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-1044

Program website: socialwork.vcu.edu (http://www.socialwork.vcu.edu)
VCU LIFE SCIENCES

VCU entered a new era when it implemented, as one of its highest priorities, a new universitywide matrix academic organization called VCU Life Sciences, created in response to the need to prepare students for the anticipated growth in new life sciences jobs in the coming decades. The skills identified for these jobs require highly interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary approaches, often falling between the boundaries of traditional academic disciplines. The way that the life sciences are understood and taught is likely to be fundamentally different, with increasing emphasis on systems biosciences as an important complement to more traditional, purely reductive approaches. The objective of Phase II of VCU’s strategic plan specifically outlines the need to bring VCU’s major academic and administrative divisions together to work on mutual initiatives that will accomplish VCU’s goal of national leadership. VCU Life Sciences is a response to that objective.

Faculty

VCU Life Sciences faculty members are drawn from departments across the university. Lists of participating faculty and academic affiliations are available on the VCU Life Sciences website (http://www.vcu.edu/lifesci) for each program.

Facilities

VCU Life Sciences comprises the resources and interests not only of the Monroe Park Campus and the VCU Medical Center, but also the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park (http://www.vabitech.com) and the Inger and Walter Rice Center for Environmental Life Sciences (http://www.vcu.edu/rice), a property of 342 acres overlooking the James River in Charles City County. The $27 million Eugene P. and Lois E. Trani Center for Life Sciences houses administrative offices, the Center for Environmental Studies, state-of-the-art laboratories and classrooms, and a climate-controlled greenhouse. The Center for the Study of Biological Complexity, including the Center for High Performance Computing at VCU, is housed in Grace E. Harris Hall.

VCU Life Sciences supports two university centers for its research and teaching efforts: the Center for Environmental Studies (http://ces.vcu.edu) and the Center for the Study of Biological Complexity (http://www.vcu.edu/csbc).

Administration

1000 West Cary Street
P.O. Box 842030
Richmond, Virginia 23284-2030
Phone: (804) 827-5600
Fax: (804) 828-1961
vcu.edu/lifesci (http://www.vcu.edu/lifesci)

Robert M. Tombes, Ph.D.
Vice provost for life sciences

Gregory A. Buck, Ph.D.
Director, Center for the Study of Biological Complexity

Herschell S. Emery, Ph.D.
Director of undergraduate curricula

Rodney J. Dyer, Ph.D.
Director, Center for Environmental Studies

Brian Verrelli, Ph.D.
Director, Ph.D. in Integrative Life Sciences program

Graduate information

Transfer credit

Graduate-level course work completed prior to matriculation into the program, including course work taken in another program at VCU or at another institution, shall be evaluated to determine whether it can be used to fulfill degree requirements of this program. There is no limit to the number of credits that can be transferred from another program at VCU as long as they have not been previously applied toward another degree. A maximum of six credit hours earned at an institution other than VCU can be accepted for transfer into the program if not previously applied toward another degree. A minimum grade of B is required for transfer of credits.

Grade requirements

Degree candidates must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0. GPAs shall be based on all graduate courses attempted after acceptance into the program. The academic standing of any student who receives multiple grades of C, or a grade of D or F, will be reviewed for possible termination from the program.

Center for Environmental Studies

Rodney J. Dyer, Ph.D.
Director

Stephen P. McIninch, Ph.D.
Director for graduate studies

Lindsay Freeman
Undergraduate adviser
envsadvising@vcu.edu

ces.vcu.edu (http://ces.vcu.edu)

The undergraduate and graduate programs in environmental studies are interdisciplinary in nature, exposing students to the critical links between the areas of environmental life sciences, technology and policy.

At the undergraduate level, students gain the necessary skills for entry-level field and research positions. Class lectures and guest speakers introduce the importance of policy-making and awareness in the environmental field, while laboratory and internship experiences provide a working knowledge of the latest in environmental technology and field practices.

The graduate programs provide two options for students to further their studies in the environmental life sciences. The Master of Science in Environmental Studies is a thesis-based program designed for those individuals interested pursuing research in the environmental field. The Master of Environmental Studies (the non-thesis program) is a terminal, two-year professional degree for individuals working in the private/public sector of the environmental field.

- Environmental Studies, Master of (M.Envs.) (p. 850)
- Environmental Studies, Master of (M.Envs.), accelerated Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies (b.S.) to master’s (p. 851)
Environmental Studies, Master of (M.Envs.)

Program goal
The goal of the Master of Environmental Studies (M.Envs.) degree program is to provide an interdisciplinary master's degree program in environmental studies that emphasizes the critical links between environmental life sciences and public policy. This goal necessitates training that crosses disciplinary boundaries. Through a program of study combining environmental science, environmental technology and environmental policy, the successful graduate will gain a range of skills designed to facilitate a science-based understanding of the natural world and human interactions with it. The M.Envs. is specifically designed to provide students with professional training to prepare them for careers involving leadership in environmental science and policy.

Student learning outcomes
1. Graduates will be able to use emerging environmental technologies and apply them under real-world conditions.
2. Graduates will be able to conduct objective research and/or interpret research findings, and apply scientific concepts and information to the decision-making process for environmental regulations and policies.
3. Graduates will be able to effectively bridge the realms of policy and science on critical environmental issues and be able to make significant contributions in an interdisciplinary professional and academic environment.
4. Graduates will possess a sophisticated and practical understanding of methods for collection, analysis, presentation and critical interpretation of environmental data using appropriate statistical and quantitative tools.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Applying online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.Envs. (non-thesis degree)</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Jul 1</td>
<td>GRE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>Dec 1</td>
<td>TOEFL for international students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>May 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements
- For students seeking fall admission, preference is given to applications received before March 15. Students wishing to be considered for funding must apply by April 1.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have successfully completed undergraduate training and hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution reflecting ability to perform at the graduate level.

While qualified students from any baccalaureate program will be considered for admission to the M.S., due to the program goal of linking science and policy, students with narrow training in one field or the other may be required to complete some basic education in the alternate field prior to full admission.

Students admitted to the program are generally drawn from applicants with a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale or equivalent) and satisfactory scores on a current standardized graduate admissions test.
test (normally the GRE). Applicants holding an undergraduate degree from recognized foreign institutions should display an acceptable level of English proficiency by achieving a minimum score of 600 on the TOEFL paper-based examination or 100 on the Internet-based examination.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must:

1. Complete a minimum of 33 graduate credit hours, approved by the program director, with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0 on all graduate course work attempted after acceptance into the program (At least one-half of required course work must be at the 600 level or higher.)
2. Complete three required core courses (9 credit hours)
3. Complete an additional 21 credit hours of approved graduate electives
4. Complete 3 credit hours of practical experience (either 3 credit hours of internship or independent study)
5. Successfully complete a comprehensive oral examination administered by three faculty members

**Curriculum requirements**

**Core requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 601</td>
<td>Survey in Environmental Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 603</td>
<td>Environmental Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Practical experience**

Select three credit hours from the following:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 692</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 693</td>
<td>Internship in Environmental Studies</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Select courses from electives list below  

**Total Hours** 33

1. Students may not apply more than a total of 3 credits of ENVS 692 and/or ENVS 693 to the degree without prior approval of the major adviser and program director.
2. Courses must represent at least two of the disciplines below. Listed courses are options and are not comprehensive of all electives. Other electives may be allowed with prior permission of major adviser and program director.

**Electives**

**Environmental studies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 550</td>
<td>Ecological Risk Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS/ANTH 556</td>
<td>Historical and Cultural Landscapes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 692</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 693</td>
<td>Internship in Environmental Studies</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Environmental policy and administration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVS/PADM 628</td>
<td>Environmental Policy and Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 660</td>
<td>Virginia Environmental Law</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PADM 601</td>
<td>Principles of Public Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 650</td>
<td>Natural Resources and Environmental Planning</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URSP 652</td>
<td>Environmental Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 510</td>
<td>Conservation Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Environmental technology**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Name</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVS/URSP 521</td>
<td>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 602</td>
<td>Environmental Technology</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS/URSP 654</td>
<td>Environmental Remote Sensing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 691</td>
<td>Topics in Environmental Studies (environmental applications of GIS)</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total number of graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33**

**Graduate program director**

Stephen P. McIninch, Ph.D.
Professor, Center for Environmental Studies
spmcinin@vcu.edu
(804) 828-7202

**Program website:** vcu.edu/cesweb (http://vcu.edu/cesweb)

**Environmental Studies, Master of (M.Envs.), accelerated Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies (B.S.) to master’s**

**Program goal**

The goal of the Master of Environmental Studies (M.Envs.) degree program is to provide an interdisciplinary master’s degree program in environmental studies that emphasizes the critical links between environmental life sciences and public policy. This goal necessitates training that crosses disciplinary boundaries. Through a program of study combining environmental science, environmental technology and environmental policy, the successful graduate will gain a range of skills designed to facilitate a science-based understanding of the natural world and human interactions with it. The M.Envs. is specifically designed to provide students with professional training to prepare them for careers involving leadership in environmental science and policy.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Graduates will be able to use emerging environmental technologies and apply them under real-world conditions.
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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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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<th>Degree:</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Fall</td>
<td>TOEFL required for international students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The accelerated Bachelor of Science and Master of Environmental Studies is restricted to students who have demonstrated strong interest and success in environmental studies. The minimum qualification for admittance to the program is the completion of 90 undergraduate credit hours with an overall GPA of 3.0 and a GPA of 3.3 in the environmental studies major concentration. Students also are required to provide a letter of recommendation from at least one of their major professors attesting to their interest and competence in environmental studies.

Students may apply to the accelerated program after completing a total of 70 credit hours, either by transfer or VCU completion. Students begin accelerated graduate classes after completing a total of 90 undergraduate credits, either by transfer or VCU completion.

Special admission requirements

Students failing to meet the minimum standards for admission to the accelerated program due to exceptional circumstances will be allowed to appeal to the environmental studies graduate admissions committee for special admission. However, under no circumstances will students who fail to meet the graduate student standards of performance outlined in the Graduate Bulletin be admitted to the accelerated program.

The environmental studies undergraduate and graduate studies program directors jointly will provide guidance for students who are accepted into the accelerated program. This guidance will include a review of all of the program degree requirements, both graduate and undergraduate, and the development of an appropriate plan of study.

Degree requirements

The requirements for the B.S. in Environmental Studies and the Master of Environmental Studies are not reduced by the accelerated program. However, 12 credit hours of graduate course work may be applied toward both degrees for qualified students in the program.

Refer to the VCU Undergraduate Bulletin for a complete listing of requirements for the B.S. in Environmental Studies (http://bulletin.vcu.edu/undergraduate/vcu-life-sciences/center-environmental-studies/environmental-studies-bs/#degreerequirementstext) degree program. The following table outlines the undergraduate requirements that would be fulfilled by the corresponding graduate courses. Where special circumstances exist (e.g., student has already completed a fulfilled course prior to applying to the accelerated program), another undergraduate requirement may be fulfilled by the listed graduate course with the approval of both the graduate and undergraduate program directors.

Shared credits

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Shared graduate class</th>
<th>Undergraduate requirements fulfilled</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 550 or ENVS 670</td>
<td>ENVS 330</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 601</td>
<td>SOCY 320/POLI 320</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ENVS elective ENVS elective 3
(approved graduate electives; see table below)
STAT 543 STAT 314 3

Total number of shared graduate credit hours 12

Approved graduate electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVS/URSP 521</td>
<td>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 591 or ENVS 691</td>
<td>Topics in Environmental Studies</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 602</td>
<td>Environmental Technology</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS/URSP 628</td>
<td>Environmental Policy and Administration</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Following the completion of the undergraduate requirements, the student may complete the master's degree within one year. The recommended approach would be to complete the hands-on component of the degree (internship or independent study) during the summer following completion of the undergraduate requirements. All additional requirements could then be completed in two nine-hour semesters. However, students may also opt to postpone the hands-on component of the degree until the summer following the completion of all graduate course work.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must:

1. Complete a minimum of 33 graduate credit hours, approved by the program director, with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0 on all graduate course work attempted after acceptance into the program (At least one-half of required course work must be at the 600 level or higher.)
2. Complete three required core courses (9 credit hours)
3. Complete an additional 21 credit hours of approved graduate electives
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Curriculum requirements

Core requirements

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 601</td>
<td>Survey in Environmental Studies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 603</td>
<td>Environmental Research Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 543</td>
<td>Statistical Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Practical experience

Select three credit hours from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 692</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 693</td>
<td>Internship in Environmental Studies</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours 33

1 Students may not apply more than a total of three credits of ENVS 692 and/or ENVS 693 to the degree without prior approval of the major adviser and program director.

Electives

Environmental studies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 550</td>
<td>Ecological Risk Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>Environmental Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 510</td>
<td>Conservation Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 514</td>
<td>Stream Ecology</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 532</td>
<td>Water Pollution Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 591</td>
<td>Special Topics in Biology (applied and environmental microbiology)</td>
<td>1-4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 650</td>
<td>Pesticides, Health and the Environment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 655</td>
<td>Hydrogeology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 670</td>
<td>Pollution Physiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS/URSP 521</td>
<td>Introduction to Geographic Information Systems</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 602</td>
<td>Environmental Technology</td>
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<td>ENVS 691</td>
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<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Total number of graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33

Graduate program director

Stephen P. McIninch, Ph.D.
Professor, Center for Environmental Studies
spmcinin@vcu.edu
(804) 828-7202

Program website: vcu.edu/cesweb (http://vcu.edu/cesweb)

Environmental Studies, Master of Science (M.S.)

Program goal

The goal of the M.S. in Environmental Studies is to provide an interdisciplinary master's degree program in environmental studies that emphasizes the critical links between environmental life sciences and public policy. This goal necessitates training that crosses disciplinary boundaries. Through a program of study combining environmental
science, environmental technology and environmental policy, the successful graduate will gain a range of skills designed to facilitate a science-based understanding of the natural world and human interactions with it. The M.S. is specifically designed to prepare students for careers involving science and policy research through the completion of a culminating thesis project.

Student learning outcomes
1. Graduates will be able to use emerging environmental technologies and apply them under real-world conditions.
2. Graduates will be able to conduct objective research and/or interpret research findings, and apply scientific concepts and information to the decision-making process for environmental regulations and policies.
3. Graduates will be able to effectively bridge the realms of policy and science on critical environmental issues and be able to make significant contributions in an interdisciplinary professional and academic environment.
4. Graduates will possess a sophisticated and practical understanding of methods for collection, analysis, presentation and critical interpretation of environmental data using appropriate statistical and quantitative tools.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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Special requirements

- For students seeking fall admission, preference is given to applications received before March 15. Students wishing to be considered for funding must apply by April 1. See program website (http://www.vcu.edu/cesweb).

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants must have successfully completed undergraduate training and hold a bachelor’s degree from an accredited institution reflecting ability to perform at the graduate level.

While qualified students from any baccalaureate program will be considered for admission to the Master of Science in Environmental Studies (M.S.) program, due to the program goal of linking science and policy, students with narrow training in one field or the other may be required to complete some basic education in the alternate field prior to full admission. Moreover, admission to the M.S. program requires a sponsoring faculty adviser, who will function as a thesis adviser for the admitted student. Students without such sponsorship will be considered for admission to the Master of Environmental Studies (M.Envs.) degree program. If an appropriate adviser is identified following admission, the student’s program may be changed to the M.S. program.

Students admitted to the program are generally drawn from applicants with a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale or equivalent) and satisfactory scores on a current standardized graduate admissions test (normally the GRE). Applicants holding an undergraduate degree from recognized foreign institutions should display an acceptable level of English proficiency by achieving a minimum score of 600 on the TOEFL paper-based examination or 100 on the Internet-based examination.
Degree requirements
In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must:

1. Complete a minimum of 33 graduate credit hours, approved by the program director, with an overall minimum GPA of 3.0 on all graduate course work attempted after acceptance into the program (At least one-half of required course work must be at the 600 level or higher).
2. Complete three required core courses (9 credit hours)
3. Complete an additional 18 credit hours of approved graduate electives
4. Develop a research proposal approved by a committee of three faculty members
5. Qualify for degree candidacy based upon satisfactory completion of the above requirements
6. Complete the proposed research culminating in a publication-quality thesis (6 research credit hours)
7. Successfully defend the research thesis

Curriculum requirements
Core requirements
ENVS 601 Survey in Environmental Studies 3
ENVS 603 Environmental Research Methods 3
STAT 543 Statistical Methods I (or equivalent) 3

Thesis
Select a maximum of six credit hours from the following (M.S. degree only):
ENVS 697 Research 3
ENVS 698 Thesis 3

Electives
Select from electives below 1
18

Total Hours 33

1 Courses must represent at least two of the disciplines below. Listed courses are options and are not comprehensive of all electives. Other electives may be allowed with prior permission of major adviser and program director.

Electives
Environmental studies
ENVS 550 Ecological Risk Assessment 3
ENVS/ANTH 556 Historical and Cultural Landscapes 3
ENVS 692 Independent Study 1 1-3
ENVS 693 Internship in Environmental Studies 1 1-3

Environmental policy and administration
ENVS/PADM 628 Environmental Policy and Administration 3
ENVS/GVPA 640 River Policy 3
ENVS 660 Virginia Environmental Law 3
PADM 601 Principles of Public Administration 3
URSP 650 Natural Resources and Environmental Planning 3
URSP 652 Environmental Analysis 3

Environmental science/health
BIOL 510 Conservation Biology 3

BIOL 514 Stream Ecology 4
BIOL 532 Water Pollution Biology 3
BIOL 591 Special Topics in Biology (applied and environmental microbiology) 1-4
ENVS 650 Pesticides, Health and the Environment 3
ENVS 655 Hydrogeology 3
ENVS 670 Pollution Physiology 3

Environmental technology
ENVS/URSP 521 Introduction to Geographic Information Systems 3
ENVS 602 Environmental Technology 1-3
ENVS/URSP 654 Environmental Remote Sensing 3
ENVS 691 Topics in Environmental Studies 1-3 (environmental applications of GIS)

1 Students may not apply more than three credit hours (total) of ENVS 692 and/or ENVS 693 to the degree without prior approval of the major adviser and program director.

Total number of graduate credit hours required (minimum) 33

Graduate program director
Stephen P. McIninch, Ph.D.
Professor, Center for Environmental Studies
spmcinin@vcu.edu
(804) 828-7202

Program website: vcu.edu/cesweb (http://vcu.edu/cesweb)

Center for the Study of Biological Complexity
Gregory A. Buck, Ph.D.
Director
csbc.vcu.edu (http://csbc.vcu.edu)

The Center for the Study of Biological Complexity is a multidisciplinary focus of research and scholarly activity within VCU Life Sciences. The mission of the center is to apply the principles of complexity to contemporary biological problems in all aspects of research and scholarly activity, supporting research in integrative molecular, cellular and developmental biology.

• Bioinformatics, Master of Science (M.S.) (p. 855)
• Bioinformatics, Master of Science (M.S.), accelerated Bachelor of Science in Bioinformatics (B.S.) to master’s (p. 858)

Bioinformatics, Master of Science (M.S.)
Program goals
The VCU Center for the Study of Biological Complexity created and administers the Master of Science in Bioinformatics degree program to provide interested students with two options:

1. A traditional “thesis master’s,” including the development, implementation, writing and presentation of a coherent research project under the supervision of a graduate faculty member. This degree is most appropriate for students committed to initiating
research careers in a variety of settings, including students considering pursuing later work toward a Ph.D.

2. A "professional science master's" option, with project-oriented research, including completion of a 10- to 12-week full-time externship in an industrial, government or academic site, usually during the summer between the first and second years of the bioinformatics program. This degree is most appropriate for students who wish to work in industrial/commercial settings.

Students enter the program from a variety of academic backgrounds (biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics/statistics, etc.) assisted by flexible "bridge curricula" designed to help them meet program prerequisites. Students will have an effective exposure to the biotech industry and other career options and to real-life applications of their learning.

The Master of Science in Bioinformatics degree program will prepare students to:

1. Synthesize and apply interdisciplinary subject matter: The M.S. in Bioinformatics degree program seeks to provide students with the skills and knowledge required to advance into Ph.D. training programs and research positions in universities, government labs or industry. The program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the interdisciplinary subject matter pertinent to bioinformatics and an ability to synthesize this information and apply it to key areas of investigation and experimentation in bioinformatics.

2. Design, implement and interpret experimental approaches: The program relates the above framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches.

3. Develop communication skills: In addition, the program will develop skills in oral and written communication of interdisciplinary science concepts, experimental design, results and interpretation.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. Oral communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.

2. Written communication skills: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information, including the use of figures, tables and citations, as measured by rubric.

3. Experimental design competency: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify, and/or create and implement bioinformatics experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments, as measured by rubric.

4. Problem-solving skills: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of ability to analyze scientific problems including pertinent datasets and design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems, as measured by rubric.

5. Integrated knowledge of bioinformatics: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of fundamentals of molecular biology, computational science, statistics and a more detailed understanding of an individual area of internship research, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature, as measured by rubric.

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

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856 Bioinformatics, Master of Science (M.S.)
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Special requirements

- International students requiring temporary U.S. visas should apply by April 1 for fall admission, Oct. 1 for spring admission or Feb. 1 for summer admission.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants are encouraged to include in their personal statements, and request that their referees also discuss, one or more examples of creative and analytical contributions they have made to a recent research project (preferred) or to a challenging course assignment.

Because of the interdisciplinary nature of bioinformatics, applications are welcomed from students with various academic backgrounds, such as biology, biotechnology, molecular biology, computer science, mathematics or statistics. Our program provides “bridge curricula” to strengthen students’ preparation for graduate study in bioinformatics.

Degree requirements

Prerequisites and bridge curricula for master’s programs

While an ideal preparation for the bioinformatics master’s programs would include substantial work in molecular biology, computer science, mathematics and statistics, the program has been designed to provide “bridge curricula” to accommodate academically strong students with majors in any one of these or related disciplines. These students would develop with the assistance of their advisers a “bridge curriculum” of largely undergraduate courses to meet the prerequisites for the program and prepare them for graduate-level work.

Program prerequisites are listed below. In general, students will not need to address the set corresponding to their undergraduate majors, but will usually need to address the other two sets. It is expected that all bridge course work will be completed during the first year. While bridge courses may be completed prior to initiating the graduate program, this is not required, and most students are able, through advising, to complete bridge courses alongside graduate course work during the first year of the program.

1. **Biology/genomic prerequisites**: an introductory knowledge of biochemistry and molecular biology, one semester of organic chemistry (e.g. CHEM 301), cell biology (e.g. BIOL 300) and an undergraduate course in molecular biology

2. **Computational science prerequisites**: an introductory knowledge of discrete mathematics (e.g. MATH 211) and an introductory knowledge of computer science, including at least one general computer programming language, met by taking structured programming (e.g. CMSC 255) and data structures and advanced programming (e.g. CMSC 256)

3. **Quantitative/statistical prerequisites**: an introductory knowledge of mathematics/statistics, met by taking calculus I (e.g. MATH 200) and at least one undergraduate course in statistics

Thesis research

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the M.S. program must perform a credible original investigation under the supervision of their major advisers and the Graduate Advisory Committee. Students must develop and write short proposals in consultation with their major advisers and GAC. The project must be approved by the student’s GAC, based on a short (10-page) paper submitted by the student. This paper will include background on the project, including a review of the literature, the purpose, specific aims and rationale of the project, a statement about the specific hypothesis to be investigated, and proposed methods and statistical analyses.

Research projects will be based on ongoing research in the laboratories of faculty in the CSBC and across both campuses of VCU and the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park. Students in the program may perform research on the broad range of subjects, from molecules to ecosystems, studied by CSBC faculty.

Students shall prepare a written thesis describing the completed research performed during their tenure in the M.S. in Bioinformatics program following the format of the Graduate School Thesis and Dissertation Manual (http://graduate.vcu.edu/media/graduate-school/docs/pdf/ThesisandDissertationManualUPDATED5-18-16.pdf). An oral defense, consisting of a public presentation of the thesis and a committee meeting to discuss the thesis, under the direction of the GAC but open to all faculty members, shall be scheduled to examine the student’s research, thesis and underlying fundamental knowledge of the discipline encompassed by the student’s research. Announcement of the oral defense, including the candidate’s name, thesis title and the day, place and time of the defense, shall be made at least 10 working days in advance of the defense.

Non-thesis (professional science master’s) externship

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students enrolled in the non-thesis, professional science master’s option complete a 10- to 12-week full-time externship at an industrial, government or academic site, usually during the summer between the first and second years of the bioinformatics program. In preparation for this externship, students will enroll in BNFO 620 and BNFO 621 in the semester preceding their externships. Upon initiating the externship, each student must develop and write a short proposal or prepare a PowerPoint presentation outlining the plans for the externship for review by the student’s GAC. Research projects will be based on ongoing research in the laboratories of the participating external advisers. Students in the program may perform computational research on a broad range of subjects, from molecules to ecosystems, encompassing the field of bioinformatics.

In the semester following the externship experience, non-thesis students shall prepare written papers (~10 pages) describing the completed research performed during their externships following the format of the Graduate School’s Thesis and Dissertation Manual (http://graduate.vcu.edu/media/graduate-school/docs/pdf/ThesisandDissertationManualUPDATED5-18-16.pdf). The paper should include background on the project, including a review of the literature, the purpose, specific aims and rationale of the project, the specific hypotheses investigated, description of the methods and statistical analyses implemented, results, discussion/conclusions, and a bibliography. An oral defense, consisting of a public presentation of the paper and a committee meeting to discuss the results, under the direction of the GAC but open to all faculty members and the adviser of the externship, shall be scheduled to examine the student’s underlying
fundamental knowledge of the disciplines encompassed by the student’s externship. Announcement of the oral defense, including the candidate’s name, project title, and the day, place and time of the defense, shall be made at least 10 working days in advance of the defense.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Thesis option**

**Core**

- BIOL/BNFO 540: Fundamentals of Molecular Genetics 3
- BNFO 501: Introduction to Physical Implementation of Databases 1
- BNFO 508: Introduction to Bioinformatics Research 2
- BNFO 600: Basic Scripting Languages 2
- BNFO/BIOI 601: Integrated Bioinformatics 3
- BNFO 690: Seminars in Bioinformatics 1
- BNFO 697: Directed Research in Bioinformatics (six credits minimum) 6
- CMSC 508: Database Theory 3
- OVPR 601: Scientific Integrity 1

**Electives**

Select courses from recommended electives below 12

**Total Hours** 34

**Recommended electives**

- BIOL/BNFO 541: Laboratory in Molecular Genetics
- BIOS 567: Statistical Methods for High-throughput Genomics Data I
- BNFO 591: Special Topics in Bioinformatics
- BNFO 592: Independent Study
- BNFO 637: Networks Biology
- BNFO 691: Special Topics in Bioinformatics (genomics and phylogenetics)
- BNFO 692: Independent Study
- CLSE 562: Advanced Systems Biology Engineering
- CMSC 501: Advanced Algorithms
- MICR/BNFO 653: Advanced Molecular Genetics: Bioinformatics
- PHYS 591: Topics in Physics (modeling, computing and biocomplexity)

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 34**

**Graduate program director**

Gregory A. Buck, Ph.D.
Director, Center for the Study of Biological Complexity
gabuck@vcu.edu
(804) 827-0026

**Additional contact**

Allison A. Johnson, Ph.D.
Assistant director, Center for the Study of Biological Complexity
aajohnson@vcu.edu
(804) 828-6782

**Program website:** csbc.vcu.edu/bioinformatics-programs (http://csbc.vcu.edu/bioinformatics-programs)

**Bioinformatics, Master of Science (M.S.), accelerated Bachelor of Science in Bioinformatics (B.S.) to master’s**

**Program goals**

The VCU Center for the Study of Biological Complexity created and administers the Master of Science in Bioinformatics degree program to provide interested students with two options:

1. A traditional "thesis master’s," including the development, implementation, writing and presentation of a coherent research
Students enter the program from a variety of academic backgrounds (biology, chemistry, computer science, mathematics/statistics, etc.) assisted by flexible “bridge curricula” designed to help them meet program prerequisites. Students will have an effective exposure to the biotech industry and other career options and to real-life applications of their learning.

The Master of Science in Bioinformatics degree program will prepare students to:

1. **Synthesize and apply interdisciplinary subject matter**: The M.S. in Bioinformatics degree program seeks to provide students with the skills and knowledge required to advance into Ph.D. training programs and research positions in universities, government labs or industry. The program provides a framework for the progressive development of a mastery of the interdisciplinary subject matter pertinent to bioinformatics and an ability to synthesize this information and apply it to key areas of investigation and experimentation in bioinformatics.

2. **Design, implement and interpret experimental approaches**: The program relates the above framework to the development of the ability to design, implement and interpret experimental approaches.

3. **Develop communication skills**: In addition, the program will develop skills in oral and written communication of interdisciplinary science concepts, experimental design, results and interpretation.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. **Oral communication skills**: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.

2. **Written communication skills**: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information, including the use of figures, tables and citations, as measured by rubric.

3. **Experimental design competency**: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify, and/or create and implement bioinformatics experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments, as measured by rubric.

4. **Problem-solving skills**: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of ability to analyze scientific problems including pertinent datasets and design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems, as measured by rubric.

5. **Integrated knowledge of bioinformatics**: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of fundamentals of molecular biology, computational science, statistics and a more detailed understanding of an individual area of internship research, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature, as measured by rubric.

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Special requirements

- Applicants must have junior or senior status in VCU’s Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Bioinformatics program and should discuss their interests with the bioinformatics coordinator during the junior year in order to plan the graduate courses to be taken during the senior year and shared between the two degrees.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants are encouraged to include in their personal statements, and to request that their referees also discuss, one or more examples of creative and analytical contributions they have made to a recent research project (preferred) or to a challenging course assignment.

The accelerated bachelor’s to master’s program in bioinformatics permits selected students majoring in bioinformatics to earn the bachelor’s and master’s degrees in a minimum of five years by taking certain graduate-level courses during the senior year of the undergraduate program. The program is restricted to students with strong credentials and a clear interest in a career in the field of bioinformatics.

In order to be admitted into the program, a student must be a VCU bioinformatics major, must have completed 90 undergraduate credit hours with an overall GPA of 3.0, including a substantial amount of collateral and core course work within the major and evidence of strong academic achievement. An application must be submitted to Graduate Admissions (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu). Students also are required to provide at least two letters of recommendation from their major professors attesting to their interest and competence in bioinformatics. Most students will be able to initiate the application process during the second semester of the junior year.

Following acceptance into the accelerated program, students must continue to meet the requirements stated above throughout the senior year, as well as the graduate student standards of performance specified in this bulletin, in order to be awarded formal acceptance into the graduate program, which typically takes place just prior to the fall semester of the fifth year.

Degree requirements

Accelerating students take as many as 12 graduate credits during the senior year. These credits may be applied to both the B.S. and M.S. degrees. These courses must be chosen in consultation with their undergraduate academic advisers. A sample set of shared credits is provided below.

1. **BNFO 508 Introduction to Bioinformatics**
   - Research may replace BNFO 420 Applications in Bioinformatics.

2. Course work taken to meet master’s requirements replaces undergraduate program electives or helps student meet general degree requirements for the B.S. degree (e.g. upper-level credits, total credits).

3. **Biol 540/BNFO 540 Fundamentals of Molecular Genetics and**
   - **Biol 541/BNFO 541 Laboratory in Molecular Genetics**
   - May be counted toward both degrees.

| Total shared graduate credit hours | 12 |

Prerequisites and bridge curricula for master’s programs

Program prerequisites are listed below. In general, bioinformatics undergraduate students will meet most prerequisite requirements while completing the undergraduate major. It is expected that any remaining bridge course work will be completed during the first year of the graduate program.

1. **Biology/genomic prerequisites:** an introductory knowledge of biochemistry and molecular biology, one semester of organic chemistry (e.g. CHEM 301), cell biology (e.g. BIOL 300) and Essentials of Molecular Biology in Bioinformatics (two-credit module: BNFO 507)

2. **Computational science prerequisites:** an introductory knowledge of discrete mathematics (e.g. MATH 211) and an introductory knowledge of computer science, including at least one general computer programming language, met by taking structured programming (e.g. CMSC 255) and data structures and advanced programming (e.g. CMSC 256)

3. **Quantitative/statistical prerequisites:** an introductory knowledge of mathematics/statistics, met by taking calculus with analytic geometry I (e.g. MATH 201) and Introduction to Statistical Computing (STAT 321) or Applied Statistics for Engineers and Scientists (STAT 441)

Thesis research

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students in the M.S. program must perform a credible original investigation under the supervision of their major advisers and the Graduate Advisory Committee. Students must develop and write short proposals in consultation with their major advisers and GAC. The project must be approved by the student’s GAC, based on a short (10-page) paper submitted by the student. This paper will include background on the project, including a review of the literature, the purpose, specific aims and rationale of the project, a statement about the specific hypothesis to be investigated, and proposed methods and statistical analyses.

Research projects will be based on ongoing research in the laboratories of faculty in the CSBC and across both campuses of VCU and the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park. Students in the program may perform
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Students shall prepare a written thesis describing the completed research performed during their tenure in the M.S. in Bioinformatics program following the format of the Graduate School Thesis and Dissertation Manual (http://graduate.vcu.edu/media/graduate-school/docs/pdf/ThesisandDissertationManualUPDATED5-18-16.pdf). An oral defense, consisting of a public presentation of the thesis and a committee meeting to discuss the thesis, under the direction of the GAC but open to all faculty members, shall be scheduled to examine the student’s research, thesis and underlying fundamental knowledge of the discipline encompassed by the student’s research. Announcement of the oral defense, including the candidate's name, thesis title and the day, place and time of the defense, shall be made at least 10 working days in advance of the defense.

**Non-thesis externship**

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students enrolled in the non-thesis option complete a 10- to 12-week full-time externship at an industrial, government or academic site, usually during the summer between the first and second years of the bioinformatics program. In preparation for this externship, students will enroll in BNFO 620 in the semester preceding their externships. Under the supervision of their major advisers and graduate advisory committee, the external supervisor, and the coordinator of the bioinformatics practicum course, each student must develop and write a short proposal outlining the plans for the externship. The project must be approved by the student’s GAC, based on a short (10-page) paper submitted by the student. This paper will include background on the project, including a review of the literature, the purpose, specific aims and rationale of the project, a statement about the specific hypothesis to be investigated, and proposed methods and statistical analyses. Research projects will be based on ongoing research in the laboratories of the participating external advisers. Students in the program may perform research on a broad range of subjects, from molecules to ecosystems, encompassing the field of bioinformatics.

In the semester following the externship experience, non-thesis students shall prepare written papers describing the completed research performed during their externships following the format of the Graduate School's Thesis and Dissertation Manual (http://graduate.vcu.edu/media/graduate-school/docs/pdf/ThesisandDissertationManualUPDATED5-18-16.pdf). An oral defense, consisting of a public presentation of the paper and a committee meeting to discuss the results, under the direction of the GAC but open to all faculty members and the adviser of the externship, shall be scheduled to examine the student’s underlying fundamental knowledge of the disciplines encompassed by the student’s research. Announcement of the oral defense, including the candidate’s name, project title, and the day, place and time of the defense, shall be made at least 10 working days in advance of the defense.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Thesis option**

**Core**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
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<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 501</td>
<td>Introduction to Physical Implementation of Databases</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 508</td>
<td>Introduction to Bioinformatics Research</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO/BIOL 540</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Molecular Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>BNFO 600</td>
<td>Basic Scripting Languages</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO/BIOL 601</td>
<td>Integrated Bioinformatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 690</td>
<td>Seminars in Bioinformatics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Bioinformatics (six credits minimum)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 508</td>
<td>Database Theory</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

Select courses from recommended electives below 12  
Total Hours 34

**Recommended electives**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<td>Statistical Methods for High-throughput Genomics Data I</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
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<td>Laboratory in Molecular Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
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<td>BNFO 591</td>
<td>Special Topics in Bioinformatics</td>
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<td>BNFO 592</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 620</td>
<td>Bioinformatics Practicum</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 621</td>
<td>Business and Entrepreneurship Essentials for Life Scientists</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 637</td>
<td>Networks Biology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO/MICR 653</td>
<td>Advanced Molecular Genetics: Bioinformatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Bioinformatics (genomics and phylogenetics)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BNFO 692</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLSE 562</td>
<td>Advanced Systems Biology Engineering</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 501</td>
<td>Advanced Algorithms</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PHYS 591</td>
<td>Topics in Physics (modeling, computing and biocomplexity)</td>
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**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 34**

**Non-thesis option**

**Core**

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Program goals

1. **Interdisciplinary knowledge and skills:** The core curriculum of the ILS program will effectively assist students in gaining understanding of modern systems biology along with training in the interdisciplinary skills and knowledge increasingly required for doing effective research in the life sciences. It will also foster progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the research in students’ areas of interest as they seek to identify key focus areas for their integrative research.

2. **Research skills:** The mentored research component of the program, building on the core curriculum and interdisciplinary elective course work, will foster development of an ability to synthesize this learning and identify key focus areas for integrative research. It will support students as they learn how to design, implement and interpret interdisciplinary experimental approaches that will best address their research questions.

3. **Communication skills:** Students in the program will develop skills in both written and oral communication of life science knowledge, experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

**Student learning outcomes**

1. **Oral communication skills:** The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.

2. **Written communication skills:** The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations, as measured by rubric.

3. **Experimental design:** The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify, and/or create and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments, as measured by rubric.

4. **Problem-solving skills:** The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems, as measured by rubric.

5. **Integrated knowledge:** The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the life sciences and a more detailed understanding of the disciplines most pertinent to their own interdisciplinary research areas, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications, as measured by rubric.

**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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.
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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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<td>International students require TOEFL</td>
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</table>

Note: All application components must be received by Jan. 10 to be competitive.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the Ph.D. in Integrative Life Sciences program requires graduation from an accredited college or university or its equivalent with a degree that is preparative for graduate-level study in the life sciences. Applicants should have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and scores on the Graduate Record Examination should exceed the 50th percentile in each category. For international applicants, satisfactory scores from a standardized test, such as the TOEFL (above 100), must be submitted along with external evaluation of undergraduate transcripts from nondomestic educational institutions (see Graduate Admissions website (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu/apply) for further details).

Letters of recommendation from three present or former professors, advisers or mentors qualified to evaluate the applicant’s ability to engage in graduate study in the life sciences are required, as is a written statement describing the applicant’s research interests, motivation, research experience, education and goals for pursuing graduate study in this particular program, and preferred research adviser(s), official transcripts from all past postsecondary educational institutions, official GRE scores, and current curriculum vita or resume. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact potential research advisers prior to submitting application materials and to identify potential research advisers in their personal statements.

Students accepted into the program with a 3.4 and higher undergraduate GPA and/or experience of success in graduate course work will be provided with a stipend and tuition and fees for the first year of matriculation. Following satisfactory progress during the first year and the availability of funds, a second year of funding (stipend, tuition and fees) is available. Preference is given to applicants with preidentified research advisers.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research. All work toward the degree must be completed within eight years of the first enrollment.

1. Credit-hour requirements: Students in the program are required to earn a minimum of 64 graduate-level credit hours. At least one-half of the graduate credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher.

2. Grade requirement: Degree applicants must achieve an overall GPA of 3.0 (B) with a grade of C in no more than two courses. The GPA for graduation is based on all graduate courses attempted after acceptance into the program.

3. Transfer credit: Graduate-level VCU course work taken as a nondegree-seeking student or in a previous graduate matriculation for which a degree was never awarded may be evaluated to determine whether it can be used to fulfill degree requirements of this program in accordance with the VCU Graduate School transfer policy (p. 37). A maximum of six credit hours earned at another institution can be accepted for transfer into the program if not previously applied toward another degree. A minimum grade of B is required for credit hours transferred.

4. Research adviser and committee: Students should select a research adviser prior to matriculation, but no later than the end of the first semester. The research adviser may be chosen from among the many graduate faculty members associated with this program from either VCU campus.

Students are required to form a research advisory committee that is headed by the research adviser and that consists of a minimum of five members of the VCU graduate faculty. Individuals who are not graduate faculty members (i.e., individuals from another institution or industry) must apply to the dean of the Graduate School for temporary affiliate graduate faculty appointment. The significant areas of the student’s research focus should be represented by the members of the research advisory committee. At least two members of the committee shall have primary appointments in departments other than that of the research adviser, with one of those members being integrally associated with the student’s research to foster the interdisciplinary intent of this degree program. Students should form their committees no later than the end of the second semester of study.

5. Written and oral examinations: Before admission to degree candidacy for the Ph.D. degree, students must successfully complete a comprehensive written examination and an oral examination. The student’s research advisory committee will administer both exams. Students should take the written exam upon completion of all
required didactic course work, usually no later than the end of the second year of study. It will focus on material covered in core and selected elective courses as well as fundamental knowledge relevant to the student’s research field. Upon successful completion of the written examination and submission and acceptance of a research proposal, students will take an oral examination that includes a defense of the proposed research project and other subject areas deemed appropriate by the committee. Students may retake the written and oral examinations only once. Written evaluations of the written examination, written dissertation proposal and oral dissertation proposal defense will be completed by research advisory committee members and provided to the chair of the research advisory committee to discuss with the student and to the program director for program assessment.

6. **Dissertation research:** The dissertation research project should represent a significant contribution to the body of knowledge in its field and should be deemed suitable for publication in refereed journals. The emphasis of the research conducted by students in this program should be on interdisciplinary research, incorporating two or more disciplines and with a systems approach. Research projects may take advantage of the many research opportunities across the life sciences on both campuses. Projects may encompass multiple scales of study from molecular to ecosystem levels. Students shall prepare a written dissertation describing the completed research using the format approved by the Graduate School. An oral defense of the dissertation, under the direction of the research advisory committee and open to all faculty members, also is required. Written evaluations of the dissertation and the oral defense of the dissertation will be completed by research advisory committee members and provided to the chair of the research advisory committee to discuss with the student and to the program director for program assessment. Upon successful completion of all degree requirements, students will graduate with the Ph.D. in Integrative Life Sciences.

**Curriculum requirements**

A minimum total of 64 graduate credit hours is required and is distributed as follows:

**Core courses**
- LFSC 510/BIOL 545 Biological Complexity 3
- LFSC 630 Integrative Life Sciences Research 2

Complete four semesters
- LFSC 690 Research Seminar in Integrative Life Sciences (one credit hour) 4

**Scientific integrity**
Select one of the following: 1
- OVPR 601 Scientific Integrity
- OVPR 602 Responsible Scientific Conduct
- OVPR 603 Responsible Conduct of Research

Technologies course (recommended options; choice depends on student’s specialty)
Select one of the following: 2
- ANAT 615 Techniques in Neuroscience and Cell Biology
- BNFO/BIOL 541 Laboratory in Molecular Genetics
- BNFO 650 Sequence Analysis in Biological Systems

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ENVS 602</td>
<td>Environmental Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 607</td>
<td>Techniques in Molecular Biology and Genetics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR/BNFO 653</td>
<td>Advanced Molecular Genetics: Bioinformatics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Advanced statistics, advanced mathematics or experimental design course**
Select one of the following: 3
- BIOL 606 Quantitative Ecology
- BIOS 524 Biostatistical Computing
- BIOS 572 Analysis of Biomedical Data I
- BNFO/BIOL 601 Integrated Bioinformatics
- ENV 603 Environmental Research Methods
- LFSC 610 Analytical Methods in Biocomplexity Analysis
- MATH 591 Topics in Mathematics (mathematical biology)
- STAT 544 or BIOS 544 Statistical Methods II
- STAT 623 Discrete Multivariate Analysis
- STAT 643 Applied Linear Regression

**Elective courses**
Select nine credit hours of the following: 4,5
- 500-level or higher courses in ANAT, ANTH, BIOL, BIOS, BNFO, CHEM, CLSE, CMSC, EDUS, EGRB, EPIP, FRSC, HGON, MATH, MEDC, MEDP, MICR, NANO, NEUS, OPER, PATH, PCEU, PHAR, PHIS, PHTX, PSCI, PSYC or STAT

**Directed research**
- LFSC 697 Directed Research in Integrative Life Sciences 40

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 64

1 Does not count toward three credit-hour restriction for Preparing Future Faculty courses
2 Depending on the student’s area of research
3 Students are expected to enter the program proficient in statistics at the introductory level, as exemplified by STAT 543 or BIOS 543. Students not at this level, as evidenced by prior coursework, will be required to take STAT 543 or BIOS 543 or an equivalent course.
4 Based on research interest and approved by research advisory committee
5 Only three credits of Preparing Future Faculty (GRAD) courses will be accepted toward the nine credit hours of electives (exclusive of OVPR Responsible Conduct of Research).

**Graduate program director**
Brian C. Verrelli, Ph.D.
bverrelli@vcu.edu (bverrelli@vcu.edu)
(804) 828-6920

**Additional contact**
Regina Jefferson
Executive administrative assistant
lrjeffer@vcu.edu
Integrative Life Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in bioinformatics and genome sciences

Program mission
The Ph.D. in Integrative Life Sciences is designed for students who want to conduct research that is integrative across multiple disciplines and that takes a systems approach to emerging research questions across the many fields that comprise the life sciences. Students may opt to work with faculty members from any department, center or institute across VCU campuses. The program provides the opportunity to conduct interdisciplinary research at multiple scales of study from the molecular to ecosystem levels with an emphasis on the concepts of systems biology and biological complexity.

Program goals
1. **Interdisciplinary knowledge and skills**: The core curriculum of the ILS program will effectively assist students in gaining understanding of modern systems biology along with training in the interdisciplinary skills and knowledge increasingly required for doing effective research in the life sciences. It will also foster progressive development of a mastery of the current state of the research in students’ areas of interest as they seek to identify key focus areas for their integrative research.
2. **Research skills**: The mentored research component of the program, building on the core curriculum and interdisciplinary elective course work, will foster development of an ability to synthesize this learning and identify key focus areas for integrative research. It will support students as they learn how to design, implement and interpret interdisciplinary experimental approaches that will best address their research questions.
3. **Communication skills**: Students in the program will develop skills in both written and oral communication of life science knowledge, experimental design, results and interpretation to a variety of potential audiences.

Student learning outcomes
1. **Oral communication skills**: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of oral communication skills with respect to the content, organization, logical flow, presentation and appropriate use of language incorporating the use of visual aids, as measured by rubric.
2. **Written communication skills**: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of written communication skill with respect to grammar, syntax, spelling and use of vocabulary to effectively present information including the use of figures, tables and citations, as measured by rubric.
3. **Experimental design**: The candidate will demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to appraise, modify, and/or create and implement experimental protocols and to design and develop experiments, as measured by rubric.
4. **Problem-solving skills**: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of skill in the identification and selection of meaningful problems to be addressed in bioscience research, including the ability to defend said identifications and to design and develop appropriate methods to solve said problems, as measured by rubric.
5. **Integrated knowledge**: The candidate will demonstrate an appropriate level of knowledge of the life sciences and a more detailed understanding of the disciplines most pertinent to their own interdisciplinary research areas, including an appropriate familiarity with the research literature and the ability to evaluate and critique publications, as measured by rubric.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

Typical plan of study
Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, nature of research being conducted by a study or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to their program websites and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)
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.

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Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

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Note: All application components must be received by Jan. 10 to be competitive.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the Ph.D. in Integrative Life Sciences program requires graduation from an accredited college or university or its equivalent with a degree that is preparative for graduate-level study in the life sciences. Applicants should have a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, and scores on the Graduate Record Examination should exceed the 50th percentile in each category. For international applicants, satisfactory scores from a standardized test, such as the TOEFL (above 100), must be submitted along with external evaluation of undergraduate transcripts from nondomestic educational institutions (see Graduate Admissions website (http://graduate.admissions.vcu.edu/apply) for further details).

The ideal applicant with a Bachelor of Science degree will have performed well in biology courses through cell and molecular biology and genetics; mathematics, including linear algebra and statistics; chemistry, including analytical and organic; physics; and computer science with significant programming skills, basic scripting languages (PERL, PYTHON) and an understanding of databases and database structures. A successful applicant with all of the above skills will be required to complete a core curriculum of 23 credits of didactic courses, 12 credits of appropriate electives and 30 credits of directed research (see B.S. to Ph.D. curriculum below).

Students with a previous master's degree in bioinformatics, an appropriate science or computational subject will be expected to have all of the prerequisite skills described above for the B.S. to Ph.D. option, plus a graduate-level understanding of basic molecular biology and metabolism, the major concepts in bioinformatics and a comprehensive understanding of the algorithms underlying major bioinformatics tools. A successful applicant with these skills will be required to complete a core curriculum of 14 credits in didactic courses, six credits of appropriate electives and 30 credits of directed research (see M.S. to Ph.D. curriculum below).

Letters of recommendation from three present or former professors, advisers or mentors qualified to evaluate the applicant's ability to engage in graduate study in the life sciences are required, as is a written statement describing the applicant's research interests, motivation, research experience, education and goals for pursuing graduate study in this particular program, and preferred research adviser(s), official transcripts from all past postsecondary educational institutions, official GRE scores, and current curriculum vita or resume. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact potential research advisers prior to submitting application materials and to identify potential research advisers in their personal statements.

Students accepted into the program with a 3.4 and higher undergraduate GPA and/or experience of success in graduate course work will be provided with a stipend and tuition and fees for the first year of matriculation. Following satisfactory progress during the first year and the availability of funds, a second year of funding (stipend, tuition and fees) is available. Preference is given to applicants with preidentified research advisers.

Degree requirements

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research. All work toward the degree must be completed within eight years of the first enrollment.

1. Credit-hour requirements: Students pursuing the concentration in bioinformatics and genome sciences are required to earn a minimum of 50 (for M.S. to Ph.D.) or 65 (for B.S. to Ph.D.) graduate-level credit hours. At least one-half of the graduate credit hours presented for graduation must be at the 600 level or higher. No elective courses may be used for both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees.

2. Grade requirement: Degree applicants must achieve an overall GPA of 3.0 (B) with a grade of C in no more than two courses. The GPA for graduation is based on all graduate courses attempted after acceptance into the program.

3. Transfer credit: Graduate-level VCU course work taken as a nondegree-seeking student or in a previous graduate matriculation for which a degree was never awarded may be evaluated to determine whether it can be used to fulfill degree requirements of this program in accordance with the VCU Graduate School transfer policy (p. 37). A maximum of six credit hours earned at another institution can be accepted for transfer into the program if not previously applied toward another degree. A minimum grade of B is required for credit hours transferred.

4. Research adviser and committee: Students should select a research adviser prior to matriculation, but no later than the end of the first semester. The research adviser may be chosen from among the many graduate faculty members associated with this program from either VCU campus.

Students are required to form a research advisory committee that is headed by the research adviser and that consists of a minimum of five members of the VCU graduate faculty. Individuals who are not graduate faculty members (i.e., individuals from another institution or industry) must apply to the dean of the Graduate School for temporary affiliate graduate faculty appointment. The significant areas of the student's research focus should be represented by the members of the research advisory committee. At least two members of the committee shall have primary appointments in departments other than that of the research adviser, with one of those members being integrally associated with the student's research to foster the interdisciplinary intent of this degree program. Students should form their committees no later than the end of the second semester of study.
5. Written and oral examinations: Before admission to degree candidacy for the Ph.D. degree, students must successfully complete a comprehensive written examination and an oral examination. The student’s research advisory committee will administer both exams. Students should take the written exam upon completion of all required didactic course work, usually no later than the end of the second year of study. It will focus on material covered in core and selected elective courses as well as fundamental knowledge relevant to the student’s research field. Upon successful completion of the written examination and submission and acceptance of a research proposal, students will take an oral examination that includes a defense of the proposed research project and other subject areas deemed appropriate by the committee. Students may retake the written and oral examinations only once. Written evaluations of the written examination, written dissertation proposal and oral dissertation proposal defense will be completed by research advisory committee members and provided to the chair of the research advisory committee to discuss with the student and to the program director for program assessment.

6. Dissertation research: The dissertation research project should represent a significant contribution to the body of knowledge in its field and should be deemed suitable for publication in refereed journals. The emphasis of the research conducted by students in this program should be on interdisciplinary research, incorporating two or more disciplines and with a systems approach. Research projects may take advantage of the many research opportunities across the life sciences on both campuses. Projects may encompass multiple scales of study from molecular to ecosystem levels. Students shall prepare a written dissertation describing the completed research using the format approved by the Graduate School. An oral defense of the dissertation, under the direction of the research advisory committee and open to all faculty members, also is required. Written evaluations of the dissertation and the oral defense of the dissertation will be completed by research advisory committee members and provided to the chair of the research advisory committee to discuss with the student and to the program director for program assessment. Upon successful completion of all degree requirements, students will graduate with the Ph.D. in Integrative Life Sciences.

Curriculum requirements

B.S. to Ph.D. curriculum

Core courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LFSC 510/BIOL 545</td>
<td>Biological Complexity</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LFSC 630</td>
<td>Integrative Life Sciences Research</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LFSC 690</td>
<td>Research Seminar in Integrative Life Sciences</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scientific integrity

Select one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Advanced statistics, advanced mathematics or experimental design course

Select three credit hours from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS/STAT 513</td>
<td>Mathematical Statistics I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STAT 641</td>
<td>Applied Data Analysis</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Bioinformatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional required concentration courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 530</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 1: Protein Structure and Function</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 531</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 2: Basic Metabolism</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 532</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 3: Central Dogma of Molecular Biology</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 601</td>
<td>Integrated Bioinformatics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recommended elective courses (based on research interest and approved by research advisory committee)

Select a minimum of 12 hours from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 504</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 533</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 4: Lipids/Membranes and Bioenergetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 516</td>
<td>Population Genetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 550</td>
<td>Ecological Genetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 591</td>
<td>Special Topics in Bioinformatics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 606</td>
<td>Quantitative Ecology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 650</td>
<td>Conservation Genetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOL 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS/STAT 514</td>
<td>Mathematical Statistics II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 524</td>
<td>Biostatistical Computing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 591</td>
<td>Special Topics in Bioinformatics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 592</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 601</td>
<td>Integrated Bioinformatics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 620</td>
<td>Bioinformatics Practicum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 621</td>
<td>Business and Entrepreneurship Essentials for Life Scientists</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 637</td>
<td>Networks Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO/MICR 653</td>
<td>Advanced Molecular Genetics: Bioinformatics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 691</td>
<td>Special Topics in Bioinformatics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 692</td>
<td>Independent Study</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 501</td>
<td>Advanced Algorithms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMSC 502</td>
<td>Parallel Algorithms</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CLSE 562</td>
<td>Advanced Systems Biology Engineering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 501/BIOL 530</td>
<td>Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 614</td>
<td>Pathogenesis of Human Genetic Disease</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 541</td>
<td>Survey of Molecular Modeling Methods</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 670</td>
<td>Advanced Molecular Modeling Theory and Practice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 505</td>
<td>Immunobiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MICR 605</td>
<td>Prokaryotic Molecular Genetics</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### M.S. to Ph.D. curriculum

#### Core courses
- **LFSC 510/BIOL 545** Biological Complexity 3
- **LFSC 630** Integrative Life Sciences Research 2
- **LFSC 690** Research Seminar in Integrative Life Sciences (one credit for two semesters) 2

#### Scientific integrity
Select one of the following:
- **OVPR 601** Scientific Integrity 1
- **OVPR 602** Responsible Scientific Conduct
- **OVPR 603** Responsible Conduct of Research

#### Advanced statistics, advanced mathematics or experimental design course
Select three credit hours from the following:
- **BIOS/STAT 513** Mathematical Statistics I 3
- **STAT 641** Applied Data Analysis

#### Technologies course (recommended options; choice depends on student's specialty)
- **BNFO 691** Special Topics in Bioinformatics (biological sequence analysis: methods and applications) 3

#### Recommended elective courses (based on research interest and approved by research advisory committee)
Select a minimum of six hours from the following:
- **BIOC 504** Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology 6
- **BIOC 533** Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 4: Lipids/Membranes and Bioenergetics
- **BIOL 516** Population Genetics
- **BIOL 550** Ecological Genetics
- **BIOL 591** Special Topics in Biology
- **BIOL 606** Quantitative Ecology
- **BIOL 650** Conservation Genetics
- **BIOL 691** Special Topics in Biology
- **BIOS/STAT 514** Mathematical Statistics II
- **BIOS 524** Biostatistical Computing
- **BNFO 591** Special Topics in Bioinformatics
- **BNFO 592** Independent Study
- **BNFO 601** Integrated Bioinformatics

#### Directed research
- **LFSC 697** Directed Research in Integrative Life Sciences 30

#### Total Hours 65

---

### Total number of graduate credit hours required (minimum) 65

### Core courses
- **MICR 616** Mechanisms of Viral and Parasite Pathogenesis
- **MICR 618** Molecular Mechanisms of Bacterial Pathogenesis
- **STAT 643** Applied Linear Regression

#### Directed research
- **(minimum 30 credit hours) 30**
- **LFSC 697** Directed Research in Integrative Life Sciences

#### Total Hours 65

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### Total number of graduate credit hours required (minimum) 50

### Directed research
- **(minimum 30 credit hours) 30**
- **LFSC 697** Directed Research in Integrative Life Sciences

#### Total Hours 50

---

**Graduate program director**
Brian C. Verrelli, Ph.D.
bverrelli@vcu.edu (bverrelli@vcu.edu)
(804) 828-6920

**Additional contact**
Regina Jefferson
Executive administrative assistant
lrjeffer@vcu.edu
(804) 827-1865

**Program website**:
lifesciences.vcu.edu/academic-programs/phd-in-integrative-life-sciences (http://lifesciences.vcu.edu/academic-programs/phd-in-integrative-life-sciences)
DA VINCI CENTER FOR INNOVATION

807 South Cathedral Place
Richmond, Virginia 23284
Phone: (804) 827-3764
davincicenter.vcu.edu (http://www.davincicenter.vcu.edu)

Garret Westlake
Executive director

A collaboration of VCU's schools of the Arts, Business, Engineering and College of Humanities and Sciences, the VCU da Vinci Center is a unique collegiate model that advances innovation and entrepreneurship through cross-disciplinary collaboration.

The academic and other program offerings of the da Vinci Center aim to create T-shaped individuals: individuals who are anchored in a discipline and have the capacity and openness to span across disciplines.

Students participating in the da Vinci Center view innovation and entrepreneurship from multiple disciplinary perspectives and, thus, are prepared for the 21st-century workforce by more robustly approaching the innovation/entrepreneurship endeavor.

- Product Innovation, Master of (M.P.I.) (p. 869)

Product Innovation, Master of (M.P.I.)

Program mission and objectives

Integrating arts, business and engineering principles, students in the Master of Product Innovation learn advanced product innovation topics pertaining to conceptualization, development and commercialization of new products/services. Through unique instruction and experiential learning that culminates with a yearlong master's project, students have a real product innovation experience. The program emphasizes product innovation and teamwork skills so that graduates can take on key leadership roles that stimulate the creation, development and management of new products and services.

Student learning outcomes

The M.P.I. program hones competency in the area of product innovation. Students will:

1. Demonstrate successful collaboration skills
2. Demonstrate the ability to conceive and develop product concepts and related business plans
3. Demonstrate the ability to think across multiple disciplines
4. Demonstrate the ability to create and deliver effective presentations and other communication media such as reports and portfolios

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.P.I.</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Apr 15</td>
<td>See special requirements below</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Special requirements

- At the time of application, an applicant declares an area of specialization: arts, business or engineering. The arts specialization requires the submission of a portfolio comprising 20 to 30 examples of representative work; the business specialization requires either the GMAT or GRE; and the engineering specialization requires the GRE. A personal interview may be requested.
In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), the following requirements represent the minimum acceptable standards for admission:

1. A bachelor’s degree or equivalent from an accredited college or university
2. Except in very unusual cases approved by the graduate dean, a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale for at least the last two years of undergraduate work
3. For applicants whose native language is not English, satisfactory scores from a standardized test commonly used and deemed appropriate for evaluation of English language proficiency, such as the TOEFL
4. Three letters of recommendation
5. Applicant’s written statement of intent for pursuing graduate study in the product innovation discipline

Degree requirements
The Master of Product Innovation requires a minimum of 30 graduate credit hours for completion. In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students must:

1. Complete the boot camp experience prior to the first semester of study in the program
2. Complete the required core curriculum courses (12 or 15 credit hours of specified course work depending on undergraduate degree)
3. Complete two elective courses (six credit hours) with one of these courses at the 600 level
4. Complete the master’s project courses (12 credit hours) (The master’s project is mandatory for all students.)

The program can be taken either on a full-time or part-time basis.

Curriculum requirements
Core requirements
Select two or three of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INNO 501</td>
<td>Arts Principles for Product Innovation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNO 502</td>
<td>Business Principles for Product Innovation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNO 503</td>
<td>Technology Principles for Product Innovation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNO 590</td>
<td>da Vinci Project</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNO 600</td>
<td>Integrative Design Studio</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Technical electives
Select two of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INNO 691</td>
<td>Topics in Product Innovation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNO 697</td>
<td>Guided Study in Product Innovation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Master’s project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>INNO 651</td>
<td>Master’s Project in Product Innovation I</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNO 652</td>
<td>Master’s Project in Product Innovation II</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 30-33

1 Select depending on which courses do not correspond to the undergraduate degree. If the student does not have an undergraduate degree in an arts, business or engineering discipline, all three courses must be taken. Note: Students are strongly encouraged to take all three courses regardless of undergraduate degree.

2 All technical electives must be at the graduate level, with at least three credit hours at the 600 level.

3 Specific courses will be determined by the student with approval by the M.P.I. faculty committee.

Total number of graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30

Sample full-time enrollment plan of study

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year one</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer semester</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNO 600 Integrative Design Studio</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNO 691 Topics in Product Innovation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNO 501 Arts Principles for Product Innovation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNO 502 Business Principles for Product Innovation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNO 503 Technology Principles for Product Innovation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNO 590 da Vinci Project</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>9-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNO 651 Master’s Project in Product Innovation I</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNO 691 Topics in Product Innovation (or other 500-600 level technical elective approved by MPI faculty committee)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Year two

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Summer semester</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INNO 652 Master’s Project in Product Innovation II</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Term Hours:</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Hours: 30-33

1 Select depending on which courses do not correspond to the undergraduate degree. If the student does not have an undergraduate degree in an arts, business or engineering discipline, all three courses must be taken. Note: Students are strongly encouraged to take all three courses regardless of undergraduate degree.

Graduate program director
Garret Westlake
Executive director, da Vinci Center for Innovation
Email: gmwestlake@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-3477

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800 East Leigh Street
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Richmond, Virginia 23298-0568
Phone: (804) 827-2262
Fax: (804) 828-2051
research.vcu.edu (http://www.research.vcu.edu)

Francis L. Macrina, Ph.D.
Vice president for research and innovation

The mission of the Virginia Commonwealth University Office of Research and Innovation is to create an environment that enables university investigators to: 1) effectively compete for research funding, 2) responsibly conduct research in compliance with mandated policies and 3) broadly disseminate knowledge gained and discoveries made.

Research universities provide the nexus of discovery, education and service. The research process evolves into scholarly publication, enlightening histories, interpretative arts, lifesaving drugs and remarkable innovations ranging from nanotechnology to macroeconomics. Each day VCU researchers make progress toward improving quality of life and understanding of the world around us.

Research at VCU provides an incubator for training new scholars and a new generation of students who understand where and how knowledge is formed. No matter their chosen career, all researchers benefit from the curiosity instilled and the recognition that learning is a lifelong process.

The research enterprise at VCU has made substantial forward steps in recent years, doubling the sponsored award base, renovating laboratories, rebuilding the research subjects' protection program and investing in state-of-the-art animal care equipment and facilities.

The VCU Office of Research ad Innovation seeks to partner with faculty in all schools and departments as they seek funding, plan studies, establish collaborations, calculate budgets, submit grant applications, negotiate industry contracts and secure patents and licensing agreements. Skilled staff within each of the major divisions — sponsored programs administration, research subjects protection, animal research, technology transfer, industry partnerships, and education and oversight — look forward to helping VCU faculty in all realms of the research process.

Affiliated research institutes include the Center for Clinical and Translational Research (and its Research Incubator), the Institute for Drug and Alcohol Studies, the Philips Institute for Oral Health Research, the Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics, the Institute for Structural Biology and Drug Discovery and the Institute for Women’s Health.

Center for Clinical and Translational Research

1200 East Clay Street
P.O. Box 980261
Richmond, Virginia 23298-0261
Phone: (804) 827-1531
Fax: (804) 827-1510
cctr.vcu.edu (http://www.cctr.vcu.edu)

F. Gerard Moeller, M.D.
Director

The Center for Clinical and Translational Research at Virginia Commonwealth University provides the necessary longitudinal and cross-disciplinary network, culture and infrastructure for identifying promising discoveries made in the laboratory, testing them in animals and developing trials and studies for humans.

Joint participation of researchers from across the university is critical to this mission. Partnerships with foundations and industry — particularly the support of the Virginia BioTechnology Research Park — is also crucial for moving these discoveries to the clinic. At the same time, mutually beneficial partnerships with community practitioners, community organizations and patients enhance the adoption of evidence-based best practices in general clinical practice and thus deliver improved medical care to the region.

The center offers a corridor in which participants in the translational research continuum can meet, interact and advance each others’ missions. Bench and computer scientists will learn from animal models and clinician observations. Clinical researchers will recognize the need for communication with basic scientists to direct experimental design. Community practitioners will better understand their role in informing the clinical research process and participating in pragmatic clinical trials. Patients will develop a higher comfort level with “medical research.”

The center also serves as the administrative unit for the interdisciplinary graduate degrees in clinical and translational sciences.

Research Incubator

The Clinical and Translational Research Incubator is designed to serve as a hub for resources and networking opportunities for established researchers and junior clinical investigators who are working on novel, interdisciplinary and collaborative clinical research at VCU. The RI will support its investigators by coordinating and optimizing current resources and by developing innovative new resources to facilitate the research process. It is anticipated that faculty researchers from the schools of Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Education, Engineering, Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Social Work, as well as the College of Humanities and Sciences, will access services at the RI.

- Clinical and Translational Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in cancer and molecular medicine (p. 871)
- Clinical and Translational Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in psychiatric, behavioral and statistical genetics (p. 875)
- Clinical and Translational Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.) (p. 880)

Clinical and Translational Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in cancer and molecular medicine

Program goal

The doctoral program in clinical and translational sciences offers a general curriculum, an interdisciplinary concentration in psychiatric,
behavioral and statistical genetics and a concentration in cancer and molecular medicine.

Students who pursue the doctoral program in clinical and translational sciences will be grounded in a relative substantive area and be prepared to integrate data from multiple disciplines, have strong communication and computational skills and be sufficiently flexible to easily move among different projects and research venues.

Student learning outcomes
Students who complete the program should achieve the following core competencies:

1. Understand, integrate and apply relevant biomedical biobehavioral concepts and theoretical frameworks to research
2. Comprehend, select and apply the appropriate study design to address specific health issues
3. Critically review the scientific literature by applying sound research knowledge and principles to the review
4. Apply data collection processes and information technology to create, maintain and secure databases and other information
5. Apply ethical principles to study design, data collection and dissemination
6. Devise an analysis plan (statistical methodology) and analyze data using methods appropriate for the study design and type of data to be obtained
7. Identify, interpret and implement relevant laws, regulations and policies related to specific studies and/or programs
8. Plan, incorporate and use appropriate methods for the dissemination and adoption of clinical research findings
9. Manage as a clinical translational research team leader the fiscal, personnel, facilities, regulatory assets and scientific integrity of a funded clinical research program
10. Use knowledge and skills related to leadership, team-building, negotiation, conflict resolution, group process and principles of ethical decision-making to manage a research team and build transdisciplinary collaboration
11. Identify and coordinate institutional resources needed to carry out theoretically based and scientifically sound high-quality funded research
12. Effectively communicate specialist-to-specialist
13. Effectively communicate specialist knowledge to nonspecialists and laypersons

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

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<td>Fall (preferred); rolling admissions</td>
<td>Applications received by Jan 10 receive priority</td>
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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18) all applicants must provide the following:

1. A statement of purpose for application to the program. The document should be 1.5 or double-spaced with one-inch margins, in a font height no smaller than 11 points. The statement of purpose should cover the following issues in two to five pages:
   a. Why the applicant wishes to pursue a Ph.D. in the Clinical and Translational Sciences with a concentration in cancer and molecular medicine
   b. Background experience relevant to pursuing a Ph.D. in the concentration in cancer and molecular medicine
   c. Research interests and potential faculty mentors with whom the individual would want to work
Degree requirements

All students are expected to be actively engaged in research throughout the duration of the Ph.D. program. Students are generally admitted under a mentorship model, meaning that they will begin research under the supervision of faculty advisers to whom their research interests most closely align. Other didactic experiences include the weekly seminar series (both at the VIPBG and in external departments) as well as participation in workshops and scientific meetings of relevance to the student’s research area.

The curriculum provides a strong grounding in fundamental concepts while emphasizing aspects of research design and technology that are broadly applicable across disciplines in industrial, government and academic settings. A series of elective courses will then provide an advanced base of knowledge focused on a student’s areas of interest.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to meet the following:

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research. In order to earn the Ph.D., students must complete a minimum of 54 credit hours: 32 core and elective courses as well as 22 in directed and dissertation research that provide a sound foundation in clinical and translational research principles. Students will also participate in seminar and workshop experiences that place them in the midst of the research process from theoretically based hypothesis generation through grant writing, study conduction, and, ultimately, data analysis and manuscript preparation. This program also includes a rigorous interdisciplinary research component comprising directed research and dissertation hours.

2. Transfer and M.S. credit hours: Graduate-level course work completed prior to matriculation into the program, including course work taken in another program at VCU or at another institution, shall be evaluated to determine whether it can be used to fulfill degree requirements of this program. Transfer of credit hours will be limited to those allowed by the university. A minimum grade of B is required for credit hours to transfer.

3. Grade requirements: Degree applicants must achieve an overall GPA of 3.0 (B) with a grade of C in no more than two courses per the VCU Graduate Bulletin. The GPA for graduation shall be based on all graduate courses attempted after acceptance into the program. Students who receive a grade lower than a B in any of the required core courses will be subject to remedial action as determined by their advisory committee in conjunction with the program director to ensure that there is adequate mastery of the material. All remedial action must be undertaken and completed to the committee’s satisfaction before the student is eligible to begin their qualifying exams.

4. Research advisers and committee: The director of the CCTR education program or the director’s designee will assist the student with initial course selection and provide advice concerning the program. All students should select their master’s or doctoral co-advisers and finalize the composition of their research advisory committee prior to the end of the second semester of study.

5. The student’s co-advisers shall provide each student enrolled in the master’s or doctoral program with individualized recommendations regarding course work selection, workshop experiences and the direction of their research. It is essential that each student be comprehensively assessed in the area of their methodological and research background. Particularly in the case of those pursuing the Ph.D., recommendations will be made to ensure that each student has acquired the needed substantive research background necessary for doctoral-level work. Thus, the total credit hours required for graduation will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the individual student’s research advisory committee.

6. The committee will consist of a minimum of five members, all of whom must be members of the VCU graduate faculty. Note: Individuals who are not already graduate faculty members must apply to the dean of the Graduate School for temporary affiliate membership. The composition of the research advisory committee shall be such that the significant areas of the student’s research focus are represented. To foster the interdisciplinary intent of this degree program, at least one member of the committee shall be from a school other than those of the student’s co-advisers. Final approval of each student’s advisory committee membership shall rest with the CCTR Education Program committee.

7. Admission to candidacy for the Ph.D. Before admission to candidacy for the Ph.D., students must have:
   a. Completed all required course work (as noted above, through a comprehensive screening process students will have been evaluated to assure that they have grounding in a relevant substantive content area and have taken the needed course work in statistics, methodology and research so that they are able to pursue doctoral-level research)
   b. Successfully completed an oral examination

8. Oral examination: Upon successful completion of all required didactic course work, not including seminars and workshops and submission and acceptance of a research proposal, students shall take an oral examination administered by the student’s research advisory committee. The exam shall be based on a defense of the student’s proposed dissertation research project, which shall be constructed in the format of an NIH grant submission and all other subject areas deemed appropriate by the committee. All advisory committee members must vote on the student’s performance as either Pass or Fail. A student may pass the exam with no more than one negative vote. Upon successful completion of the oral examination, the student is officially entered into candidacy and permitted to refine their proposed dissertation research and submit it for final committee approval before initiating the project (see below). An unsuccessful oral examination shall require re-examination within a time period determined by the committee. Only one oral re-examination is permitted.

9. Dissertation research/proposal: Students must propose and conduct a substantial original clinical and/or translational investigation under the supervision of the research advisers and advisory committee. The student can refine the research proposal which served as the foundation of their oral examination in consultation with the research advisers and advisory committee or propose a new novel research proposal. The proposal, which shall be constructed in the format of an NIH grant submission, should include information on the general purpose of the research, background information on the research topic (including a review of the relevant literature), a rationale for the
project, a statement of the hypotheses to be investigated or research questions to be answered, and proposed methods and statistical analyses. Once the student has received the committee’s approval, they can initiate their dissertation research.

10. Dissertation research project: The research project should represent a significant contribution to the body of knowledge in its field and should be deemed publishable in refereed journals. The emphasis of the research conducted by students in this program shall be on clinical and translational interdisciplinary research, incorporating two or more disciplines as well as a systems approach. This emphasis will be fostered by the requirement of having at least one faculty member on the research advisory committee from a school or college different from that of the research advisers, thereby exposing students to different perspectives on the same problem and assisting students in developing multidisciplinary approaches to their research.

11. Dissertation defense: Students shall prepare a written dissertation describing the completed research using a format approved by the VCU Graduate School. An oral defense of the dissertation, under the direction of the research advisory committee and open to all faculty members, shall be scheduled to examine the student’s research, dissertation documentation and underlying fundamental knowledge across the disciplines encompassed by the student’s research. An announcement of the oral defense, including the candidate’s name, dissertation title and the day, place and time of the defense, shall be made at least 10 working days in advance of the defense. Following the defense, all committee members shall vote on the acceptability of the dissertation. A student may pass the oral defense, signifying that the research advisory committee has accepted the dissertation, with no more than one negative vote. Upon successful completion of the defense and dissertation, the student may apply for graduation from Virginia Commonwealth University with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical and Translational Sciences.

Research advisers and committee

Each student in the program will have both a research and a clinical mentor (these could be the same or different faculty members). This team-based mentoring approach will facilitate the translational aspects of the Ph.D. students’ projects and may actually serve to stimulate new translational projects and collaborations at VCU. The research mentors in the program will be chosen based on demonstrated research expertise in the area of cancer or molecular medicine, excellent mentoring skills, and research funding to support the Ph.D. student. Clinical mentors will be chosen based on clinical expertise and mentoring excellence. Through the clinical mentor, the trainee will have opportunities to be exposed to clinical practice, including clinics and surgeries, clinical laboratories, the complexities of clinical trials, and other clinical activities. The clinical activities are expected to consist of approximately one hour/week on average for Ph.D. students, but would be more intensive for M.D./Ph.D. students, in keeping with the existing requirements for that program. Both the research and clinical mentor would be on the thesis committee, which would comprise a total of five faculty members, at least three of whom are CMM faculty members. For M.D./Ph.D. students, their clinical mentors will be the same faculty member serving as their Foundations of Clinical Medicine preceptors. The students’ mentors and thesis committee will advise the students as they prepare career development plans in the second year in the program. The career development plan will be required because translational science is by definition an interdisciplinary and novel career path for students.

Qualifying examination

Students in good academic standing who have completed all of their required academic core course work will spend the summer after the second year preparing for the qualifying exam. The qualifying exam will consist of writing a review paper of no more than 30 double-spaced pages, excluding references. In keeping with the interdisciplinary nature of the program, the review paper must demonstrate mastery across the core areas represented in CCM. The topic of the review paper should be developed by students in consultation with their advisers. The title of the review paper, along with a short abstract (no longer than one single-spaced page) describing the proposed content should be submitted to the concentration program director by June 15 for review by the qualifying exam committee. The QEC will review the proposal to ensure that the topic of the review paper is appropriate in that it allows the student to demonstrate command of the literature and interdisciplinary breadth. The committee will make decisions about adequacy of the review paper and, if necessary, work with the student to make revisions within approximately 14 days. Once the topic has been approved by the QEC, the student may begin writing. The review paper must be the student’s own work. Drafts may not be reviewed by the student’s adviser or other faculty, fellows or students. The final review paper must be submitted to the advisory committee by Aug. 1.

An oral examination of the paper administered by the student’s advisory committee and the QEC must be scheduled to take place approximately two weeks after submission to evaluate the student’s command of the material and to give the committee opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. A pass/fail decision will be made at that time. Unsuccessful completion of the qualifying exam will require re-examination within a period of time determined by the committee and the program director. The content of the re-examination will also be determined by the committee and program director on an individual basis. In some cases this could involve a revision of the review paper or particular sections; in other cases, it may involve a repeat of the entire process including selection of a new topic and submission of a new review paper. Only one reattempt to pass qualifying exams is permitted. Students who do not pass their qualifying exams upon their second attempt will be dismissed from the program. Upon successful completion of the oral examination, the student is then officially entered into candidacy for the Ph.D. and permitted to refine their proposed dissertation research and submit it for final committee approval before initiating the project (see below).

Admission to Ph.D. candidacy

Students will have written and oral qualifying examinations, based on writing a grant proposal describing their proposed thesis research and orally defending the proposal with their thesis committee. Before admission to candidacy for the Ph.D., students must have (1) completed all required course work as described above and (2) successfully completed a qualifying exam.

Dissertation proposal defense

Students who have completed the qualifying exam and the second year project are eligible to propose and defend their dissertation. The proposal should be constructed in the format of an NIH grant submission. The proposal must consist of an original research idea generated by the student in consultation with their adviser. The dissertation proposal defense should generally be completed during the fall semester of the third year. Students shall prepare a written dissertation describing the completed research using a format approved by the VCU Graduate School. An oral defense of the dissertation, under the direction of
the research advisory committee and open to all faculty members, shall be scheduled to examine the student’s research, dissertation documentation and underlying fundamental knowledge across the disciplines encompassed by the student’s research. An announcement of the oral defense, including the candidate’s name, dissertation title, and the day, place and time of the defense, shall be made at least 10 working days in advance of the defense.

Following the defense, all committee members shall vote on the acceptability of the dissertation. A student may pass the oral defense, signifying that the research advisory committee has accepted the dissertation, with no more than one negative vote. Upon successful completion of the defense and dissertation, the student may apply for graduation from Virginia Commonwealth University with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical and Translational Sciences with a concentration in cancer and molecular medicine.

**Time limit**

All requirements for the Ph.D. must be completed within eight years from the date of admission to the degree program.

**Concentration in cancer and molecular medicine**

The concentration in cancer and molecular medicine is a translational and interdisciplinary Ph.D. curriculum in the Center for Clinical and Translational Research. The goal of the program is to train students to perform translational research in cancer and molecular medicine. This requires a background and the necessary vocabulary to communicate with both scientists and clinicians and the research skills to be able to bridge bench science and clinical science. The marriage of cancer and molecular medicine blends established cancer biology with an emerging field, molecular medicine. The CMM concentration serves as an educational program for Ph.D. as well as M.D./Ph.D. students encompassing the research objectives of the VCU Massey Cancer Center, the VCU Institute of Molecular Medicine and the CCTR.

In addition to the core courses, elective courses will be recommended to Ph.D. students based on their research. Students will develop an individualized curriculum with the guidance of the program director, based on their research interests and career goals. By the end of the first semester, each student will develop a complete curriculum plan, to be approved by the program director. This will be reviewed by the student’s thesis committee in the second fall semester.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Required courses**

- BIOS 543 Graduate Research Methods I 3
- or STAT 543 Statistical Methods I 3
- BIOS 571 Clinical Trials 3
- CCTR 520 Fundamentals of Research Regulation 2
- CCTR 690 Research Seminar in Clinical and Translational Sciences 8
- CCTR 692 Special Topics in Translational Research 3
- CCTR 801 Clinical Practicum 1
- CCTR 802 Research Practicum I 1
- IBMS 680 Proposal Preparation 1
- OVPR 601 Scientific Integrity 1
- or OVPR 602 Responsible Scientific Conduct 1
- or OVPR 603 Responsible Conduct of Research 1

**Electives**

Select 12 credit hours of the following (chosen with approval of research advisory committee):

- BIOC 605 Molecular Biology 3
- BIOC 503 Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology 3
- BIOC 504 Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology 3
- EPID 620 Cancer Epidemiology 3
- EPID 650 Epidemiologic Methods for Research 3
- EPID 651 Intermediate Epidemiologic Methods for Research 3
- EPID 652 Advanced Epidemiologic Methods and Data Analysis 3
- HGEN 614 Pathogenesis of Human Genetic Disease 3
- MICR 684 Molecular Biology of Cancer 3
- PHTX 625 Cell Signaling and Growth Control 3

**Total Hours**

- **24**

**Research**

- CCTR 697 Directed Research in Clinical and Translational Sciences 1-15
- CCTR 898 Dissertation Research in Clinical and Translational Sciences 1-10

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 54**

**Graduate program director**

Teraya Donaldson, Ph.D.
Assistant director of education
Center for Clinical and Translational Research
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**Additional contact**

T’Keyah Johnson
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(804) 628-5414

**Program website:** cctr.vcu.edu/education

**Clinical and Translational Sciences, Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) with a concentration in psychiatric, behavioral and statistical genetics**

**Note:** Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

**Program goal**

The doctoral program in clinical and translational sciences offers a general curriculum, an interdisciplinary concentration in psychiatric, behavioral and statistical genetics and a concentration in cancer and molecular medicine.
Students who pursue the doctoral program in clinical and translational sciences will be grounded in a relative substantive area and be prepared to integrate data from multiple disciplines, have strong communication and computational skills and be sufficiently flexible to easily move among different projects and research venues.

**Student learning outcomes**

Students who complete the program should achieve the following core competencies:

1. Understand, integrate and apply relevant biomedical biobehavioral concepts and theoretical frameworks to research
2. Comprehend, select and apply the appropriate study design to address specific health issues
3. Critically review the scientific literature by applying sound research knowledge and principles to the review
4. Apply data collection processes and information technology to create, maintain and secure databases and other information
5. Apply ethical principles to study design, data collection and dissemination
6. Devise an analysis plan (statistical methodology) and analyze data using methods appropriate for the study design and type of data to be obtained
7. Identify, interpret and implement relevant laws, regulations and policies related to specific studies and/or programs
8. Plan, incorporate and use appropriate methods for the dissemination and adoption of clinical research findings
9. Manage as a clinical translational research team leader the fiscal, personnel, facilities, regulatory assets and scientific integrity of a funded research program
10. Use knowledge and skills related to leadership, team-building, negotiation, conflict resolution, group process and principles of ethical decision-making to manage a research team and build transdisciplinary collaboration
11. Identify and coordinate institutional resources needed to carry out theoretically based and scientifically sound high-quality funded research
12. Effectively communicate specialist-to-specialist
13. Effectively communicate specialist knowledge to nonspecialists and laypersons

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)**

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)**

**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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)**

**Note:** Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

**Admission requirements**

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<td>Applications received by Jan 10</td>
<td>GRE, TOEFL if relevant</td>
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In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18) all applicants must provide the following:

1. A statement of purpose for application to the program. The document should be 1.5 or double-spaced with one-inch margins, in a font size no smaller than 11 points. The statement of purpose should cover the below issues in two to five pages:
   a. Why the applicant wishes to pursue a Ph.D. in the CTS-PBSG concentration
   b. Background experience relevant to pursuing a Ph.D. in the CTS-PBSG concentration
   c. Research interests and potential faculty mentors with whom the individual would want to work
   d. Description of the applicant's career goals
2. Scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE). Applicants must score at the 75th percentile or above in all sections of the GRE.
3. International applicants must also provide, to the VCU Global Education Office, scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language or International English Language Testing System.

**Note:** Admission to this program is temporarily suspended.

**Degree requirements**

All students are expected to be actively engaged in research throughout the duration of the Ph.D. program. Students are generally admitted under a mentorship model, meaning that they will begin research under the supervision of faculty advisers to whom their research interests most closely align. Other didactic experiences include the weekly seminar series (both at the VIPBG and in external departments) as well as participation in workshops and scientific meetings of relevance to the student’s research area.

The curriculum provides a strong grounding in fundamental concepts while emphasizing aspects of research design and technology that are broadly applicable across disciplines in industrial, government and academic settings. A series of elective courses will then provide an advanced base of knowledge focused on a student’s areas of interest.

In addition to general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students are required to meet the following:

1. **Credit hour requirements:** Students are required to complete course work in core and elective courses and to conduct significant research. In order to earn the Ph.D., students must complete a minimum of 54 credit hours: 32 core and elective courses as well as 22 in directed and dissertation research that provide a sound foundation in clinical and translational research principles. Students will also participate in seminar and workshop experiences that place them in the midst of the research process from theoretically based hypothesis generation through grant writing, study conduction, and, ultimately, data analysis and manuscript preparation. This program also includes a rigorous interdisciplinary research component comprising directed research and dissertation hours.

2. **Transfer and M.S. credit hours:** Graduate-level course work completed prior to matriculation into the program, including course work taken in another program at VCU or at another institution, shall be evaluated to determine whether it can be used to fulfill degree requirements of this program. Transfer of credit hours will be limited to those allowed by the university. A minimum grade of B is required for credit hours to transfer.

3. **Grade requirements:** Degree applicants must achieve an overall GPA of 3.0 (B) with a grade of C in no more than two courses per the VCU Graduate Bulletin. The GPA for graduation shall be based on all graduate courses attempted after acceptance into the program. Students who receive a grade lower than a B in any of the required PBKG core courses will be subject to remedial action as determined by their advisory committee in conjunction with the PBKG program director to ensure that there is adequate mastery of the material. All remedial action must be undertaken and completed to the committee’s satisfaction before the student is eligible to begin their qualifying exams.

4. **Research advisers and committee:** The director of the CCTR education program or the director’s assigned designee will assist the student with initial course selection and provide advice concerning the program. All students should select their master’s or doctoral co-advisers and finalize the composition of their research advisory committee prior to the end of the second semester of study.

5. The student’s co-advisers shall provide each student enrolled in the master’s or doctoral program with individualized recommendations regarding course work selection, workshop experiences and the direction of their research. It is essential that each student be comprehensively assessed in the area of their methodological and research background. Particularly in the case of those pursuing the Ph.D., recommendations will be made to ensure that each student has acquired the needed substantive research background necessary for doctoral-level work. Thus, the total credit hours required for graduation will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the individual student’s research advisory committee.

6. The committee will consist of a minimum of five members, all of whom must be members of the VCU graduate faculty. Note: Individuals who are not already graduate faculty members must apply to the dean of the Graduate School for temporary affiliate membership. The composition of the research advisory committee shall be such that the significant areas of the student’s research focus are represented. To foster the interdisciplinary intent of this degree program, at least one member of the committee shall be from a school other than those of the student’s co-advisers. Final approval of each student’s advisory committee membership shall rest with the CCTR Education Program committee.

7. **Admission to candidacy for the Ph.D.** Before admission to candidacy for the Ph.D., students must have:
   a. Completed all required course work (as noted above, through a comprehensive screening process students will have been evaluated to assure that they have grounding in a relevant substantive content area and have taken the needed course work in statistics, methodology and research so that they are able to pursue doctoral-level research)
   b. Successfully completed an oral examination

8. **Oral examination:** Upon successful completion of all required didactic course work, not including seminars and workshops and submission and acceptance of a research proposal, students shall take an oral examination administered by the student’s research advisory committee. The exam shall be based on a defense of the student’s proposed dissertation research project, which shall be constructed in the format of an NIH grant submission and all other subject areas deemed appropriate by the committee. All advisory committee members must vote on the student’s performance as either Pass or Fail. A student may pass the exam with no more than one negative vote. Upon successful completion of the oral examination, the student is officially entered into candidacy and permitted to refine their proposed dissertation research and submit it for final committee approval before initiating the project (see below). An unsuccessful oral examination shall require re-examination within a time period determined by the committee. Only one oral re-examination is permitted.

9. **Dissertation research/proposal:** Students must propose and conduct a substantial original clinical and/or translational investigation under the supervision of the research advisers and advisory committee. The student can refine the research proposal which served as the foundation of their oral examination in consultation with the research advisers and advisory committee or propose a new novel research proposal. The proposal, which shall be constructed in the format of an NIH grant submission, should include information on the general purpose of the research, background information on the research topic (including a review of the relevant literature), a rationale for the project, a statement of the hypotheses to be investigated or research questions to be answered, and proposed methods and statistical
analyses. Once the student has received the committee’s approval, they can initiate their dissertation research.

10. Dissertation research project: The research project should represent a significant contribution to the body of knowledge in its field and should be deemed publishable in refereed journals. The emphasis of the research conducted by students in this program shall be on clinical and translational interdisciplinary research, incorporating two or more disciplines as well as a systems approach. This emphasis will be fostered by the requirement of having at least one faculty member on the research advisory committee from a school or college different from that of the research advisers, thereby exposing students to different perspectives on the same problem and assisting students in developing multidisciplinary approaches to their research.

11. Dissertation defense: Students shall prepare a written dissertation describing the completed research using a format approved by the VCU Graduate School. An oral defense of the dissertation, under the direction of the research advisory committee and open to all faculty members, shall be scheduled to examine the student’s research, dissertation documentation and underlying fundamental knowledge across the disciplines encompassed by the student’s research. An announcement of the oral defense, including the candidate’s name, dissertation title and the day, place and time of the defense, shall be made at least 10 working days in advance of the defense. Following the defense, all committee members shall vote on the acceptability of the dissertation. A student may pass the oral defense, signifying that the research advisory committee has accepted the dissertation, with no more than one negative vote. Upon successful completion of the defense and dissertation, the student may apply for graduation from Virginia Commonwealth University with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical and Translational Sciences with a concentration in psychiatric, behavioral and statistical genetics.

Research advisers and committee

Each student in the program will have both a research and a clinical mentor (these could be the same or different faculty members). This team-based mentoring approach will facilitate the translational aspects of the Ph.D. students’ projects and may actually serve to stimulate new translational projects and collaborations at VCU. The research mentors in the program will be chosen based on demonstrated research expertise in the area of cancer or molecular medicine, excellent mentoring skills, and research funding to support the Ph.D. student. Clinical mentors will be chosen based on clinical expertise and mentoring excellence. Through the clinical mentor, the trainee will have opportunities to be exposed to clinical practice, including clinics and surgeries, clinical laboratories, the complexities of clinical trials, and other clinical activities. The clinical activities are expected to consist of approximately one hour/week on average for Ph.D. students, but would be more intensive for M.D./Ph.D. students, in keeping with the existing requirements for that program. Both the research and clinical mentor would be on the thesis committee, which would comprise a total of five faculty members, at least three of whom are CMM faculty members. For M.D./Ph.D. students, their clinical mentors will be the same faculty member serving as their Foundations of Clinical Medicine preceptors. The students’ mentors and thesis committee will advise the students as they prepare career development plans in the second year in the program. The career development plan will be required because translational science is by definition an interdisciplinary and novel career path for students.

Qualifying exam

Students in good academic standing who have completed all of their required academic core course work will spend the summer after the second year preparing for the qualifying exam. The qualifying exam will consist of writing a review paper of no more than 30 double-spaced pages, excluding references. In keeping with the interdisciplinary nature of the program, the review paper must demonstrate mastery across the core areas represented in PBSG (genetics, phenotyping, methods). The topic of the review paper should be developed by the students in consultation with their advisers. The title of the review paper, along with a short abstract (no longer than one single-spaced page) describing the proposed content should be submitted to the PBSG program director by June 15 for review by the qualifying exam committee. The QEC will review the proposal to ensure that the topic of the review paper is appropriate in that it allows the student to demonstrate command of the literature and interdisciplinary breadth. The committee will make decisions about adequacy of the review paper and, if necessary, work with the student to make revisions within approximately 14 days. Once the topic has been approved by the QEC, the student may begin writing. The review paper must be the student’s own work. Drafts may not be reviewed by the student’s adviser or other faculty, fellows or students. The final review paper must be submitted to the advisory committee by Aug. 1.

An oral examination of the paper administered by the student’s advisory committee and the QEC must be scheduled to take place approximately two weeks after submission to evaluate the student’s command of the material and to give the committee opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback. A pass/fail decision will be made at that time. Unsuccessful completion of the qualifying exam will require re-examination within a period of time determined by the committee and PBSG program director. The content of the re-examination will also be determined by the committee and PBSG program director on an individual basis. In some cases this could involve a revision of the review paper or particular sections; in other cases, it may involve a repeat of the entire process including selection of a new topic and submission of a new review paper and/or repeat of the oral defense. Only one reattempt to pass qualifying exams is permitted. Students who do not pass their qualifying exams upon their second attempt will be dismissed from the program. Upon successful completion of the oral examination, the student is then officially entered into candidacy for the Ph.D. and permitted to refine their proposed dissertation research and submit it for final committee approval before initiating the project (see below).

Admission to Ph.D. candidacy

Students will have written and oral qualifying examinations, based on writing a grant proposal describing their proposed thesis research and orally defending the proposal with their thesis committee. Before admission to candidacy for the Ph.D., students must have (1) completed all required course work as described above and (2) successfully completed a qualifying exam.

Dissertation proposal defense

Students who have completed the qualifying exam and the second year project are eligible to propose and defend their dissertation. The proposal should be constructed in the format of an NIH grant submission. The proposal must consist of an original research idea generated by the student in consultation with their adviser. The dissertation proposal defense should generally be completed during the fall semester of the third year. Students shall prepare a written dissertation describing the completed research using a format approved by the VCU Graduate School. An oral defense of the dissertation, under the direction of
the research advisory committee and open to all faculty members, shall be scheduled to examine the student’s research, dissertation documentation and underlying fundamental knowledge across the disciplines encompassed by the student’s research. An announcement of the oral defense, including the candidate’s name, dissertation title, and the day, place and time of the defense, shall be made at least 10 working days in advance of the defense.

Following the defense, all committee members shall vote on the acceptability of the dissertation. A student may pass the oral defense, signifying that the research advisory committee has accepted the dissertation, with no more than one negative vote. Upon successful completion of the defense and dissertation, the student may apply for graduation from Virginia Commonwealth University with the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Clinical and Translational Sciences with a concentration in psychiatric, behavioral and statistical genetics.

Time limit
All requirements for the Ph.D. must be completed within eight years from the date of admission to the degree program.

Concentration in psychiatric, behavioral and statistical genetics
The concentration in psychiatric, behavioral and statistical genetics was designed by faculty at the Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics. This interdisciplinary institute brings together faculty with a wide range of scientific backgrounds ranging from statistical and molecular genetics to epidemiology, psychology and psychiatry, all with the joint focus of understanding how genetic and environmental factors impact the development of psychiatric and substance use disorders and related behavioral outcomes.

Faculty members work across twin and family studies, gene identification projects and genetically informative longitudinal, community-based samples. Faculties also are involved in statistical methods development for these projects. Students in the PBSG concentration obtain interdisciplinary training with course work in human genetics, psychology/psychiatry, biostatistics and epidemiology. Students can tailor their training and research experience to their particular career goals by selecting electives in their focused area of interest.

First-year project
All students are required to conduct a first-year research project. The nature of the first-year project will vary according to the area of the student's research. This project must be written up by the student and submitted to the PBSG program director and it must follow a scientific paper format and include an abstract, introduction, methods, results and discussion sections. The depth of the individual sections of the project will vary according to the nature of the project. Although the write-up of the first-year project is not required to be of publication quality, it should demonstrate a basic command of the research process and an ability to integrate relevant literature and nascent data into testable hypotheses. The adviser and PBSG program director will review, consult and make a decision about the adequacy of the submitted first-year project write-up. Feedback will generally be given within 14 days of receipt of the write-up. Students cannot move on to the second-year project until the first-year project has been signed off on by the adviser and PB SG program director. Students must give a presentation as part of the VIPBG seminar series on their first-year projects at some point during the spring semester of the first year. Students should aim to submit their written first-year projects prior to the start of the fall semester of the second year of graduate study.

Second-year project
The second-year research project can be a continuation/extension of the first-year project or consist of a new research question. The second-year project should be developed in collaboration with the student’s advisory committee. This should happen soon after the first-year project has been signed off on (if not before). Students must give a presentation on their second-year projects at some point during the spring semester of the second year. Second-year projects are expected to be of publication quality and should follow a scientific paper format, which includes an abstract, introduction, methods, results and discussion sections. The advisory committee and PB SG program director will review, consult and make a decision about the adequacy of the second-year project, generally within 14 days of its receipt. Students cannot progress to the oral defense of the dissertation proposal until the second-year project has been signed off on by the advisory committee and PB SG program director. Students should aim to have their second-year projects completed early in the fall semester of their third year of graduate study.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required courses (29-32 credit hours)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 543 Graduate Research Methods I</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 543 Statistical Methods I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 544 Graduate Research Methods II</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or STAT 544 Statistical Methods II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCTR 690 Research Seminar in Clinical and Translational Sciences</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 571 Principles of Epidemiology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 501/BIOL 530 Introduction to Human Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 502 Advanced Human Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 603 Mathematical and Statistical Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HGEN 620 Principles of Human Behavioral Genetics</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601 Scientific Integrity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or OVPR 602 Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or OVPR 603 Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 616 Psychopathology</td>
<td>1,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 691 Special Topics</td>
<td>1-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSYC 700 Grant Writing</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Electives (variable)
A minimum of three elective courses must be taken and can be selected from the range of classes available across VCU departments, including the departments of Psychology, Human and Molecular Genetics, Biostatistics and/or any other relevant course that fits with the student’s primary focus and interests, in consultation with the student’s research advisory committee.

Research (variable)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Required courses (29-32 credit hours)</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCTR 697 Directed Research in Clinical and Translational Sciences</td>
<td>1-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCTR 898 Dissertation Research in Clinical and Translational Sciences</td>
<td>1-10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 54
Graduate program director
Clinical and Translational Sciences, Master of Science (M.S.)

Program goal
The Master of Science in Clinical and Translational Sciences program provides training and mentoring for a new generation of investigators who, regardless of primary areas of interest, will be able to understand the methods and techniques used along the pathway from the bench to the bedside, to the community and beyond. The program emphasizes the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to research.

Student learning outcomes
1. Understand, integrate and apply relevant biomedical biobehavioral concepts and theoretical frameworks to research
2. Comprehend, select and apply the appropriate study design to address specific health issues
3. Critically review the scientific literature by applying sound research knowledge and principles to the review
4. Apply data collection processes and information technology to create, maintain and secure databases and other information
5. Apply ethical principles to study design, data collection and dissemination
6. Devise an analysis plan (statistical methodology) and analyze data using methods appropriate for the study design and type of data to be obtained
7. Identify, interpret and implement relevant laws, regulations and policies related to specific studies and/or programs
8. Plan, incorporate and use appropriate methods for the dissemination and adoption of clinical research findings
9. Manage as a clinical translational research team leader, including the fiscal, personnel, facilities, regulatory assets and scientific integrity of a funded clinical research program
10. Effectively communicate specialist-to-specialist
11. Effectively communicate specialist knowledge to nonspecialists and laypersons

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.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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree:</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry:</th>
<th>Deadline dates:</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M.S.</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>June 15</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), please note the following:

1. Enrollment is open to VCU junior faculty only.
2. Applicants should be early stage investigators with terminal degrees (e.g. M.D., Ph.D., D.D.S., Sc.D., D.V.M., Ed.D, Pharm.D.).
3. Applicants should have a targeted research interest that is explained in a personal statement accompanying the graduate application.
4. A letter of support from the applicant’s department chair is mandatory.
5. A letter of commitment from an academic adviser is mandatory.

**Degree requirements**

In addition to the VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), the master’s degree can be earned upon completion of 30 credit hours that combine didactic course work and directed research, including a master’s capstone project in the form of a peer-reviewed journal article or a grant proposal.

The program provides a sound foundation in clinical and translational research principles and thereby prepares the student to engage in many components of investigative processes. Students are expected to attend the research seminar course each semester they are in the program (and register for the course a minimum of three times) in order to stay abreast of current health and human services research and to develop their communication skills. Additionally, students must complete a course on responsible conduct of research and scientific integrity, which will ensure that students understand the broad ethical implications of biobehavioral and biomedical research, understand what constitutes scientific fraud and misconduct and are aware of their responsibilities as scientists.

When students have reached 27 credit hours of didactic and research course work, they must register for CCTR 700, which may be in one of two forms: an NIH-style grant proposal or a peer-reviewed journal article ready for submission.

This project will be overseen and reviewed by the student’s research advisory committee. Students are expected to present their final projects to the committee for acceptance.

**Curriculum requirements**

**Required courses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CCTR 520</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Research Regulation</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCTR 690</td>
<td>Research Seminar in Clinical and Translational Sciences (one credit, taken for three semesters)</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCTR 697</td>
<td>Directed Research in Clinical and Translational Sciences</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCTR 700</td>
<td>Master’s Capstone Project</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVPR 601</td>
<td>Scientific Integrity</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or OVPR 602</td>
<td>Responsible Scientific Conduct</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or OVPR 603</td>
<td>Responsible Conduct of Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Hours** 18

**Electives**

Examples of potential electives include but are not limited to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 615</td>
<td>Techniques in Neuroscience and Cell Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANAT 620</td>
<td>Scientific Writing and Grantsmanship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 530</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 1: Protein Structure and Function</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOC 532</td>
<td>Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 3: Central Dogma of Molecular Biology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BIOS 668</td>
<td>Statistical Methods for High-throughput Genomic Data II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BNFO 621</td>
<td>Business and Entrepreneurship Essentials for Life Scientists</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CCTR 801</td>
<td>Clinical Practicum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; CCTR 802</td>
<td>and Research Practicum I</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&amp; CCTR 803</td>
<td>and Research Practicum II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EPID 620</td>
<td>Cancer Epidemiology</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEDC 530</td>
<td>Bioinformatics and Genomics in Drug Research</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NURS 773</td>
<td>Perspectives on Research Design</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

At least three credit hours of elective course work must be in biostatistics (e.g. BIOS 543, BIOS 571, CCTR 702, CCTR 703, DENS 580).

**Total Hours** 12

**Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 30**

**Graduate program director**

Teraya Donaldson, Ph.D.
Assistant director of education
Center for Clinical and Translational Research
cctred@vcu.edu
(804) 828-6671

**Additional contact**

T’Keyah Johnson
Education coordinator
Center for Clinical and Translational Research
johnsontc3@vcu.edu
(804) 628-5414

**Program website:** cctr.vcu.edu/education (http://www.cctr.vcu.edu/education)
VCU HEALTH SCIENCES

1012 East Marshall Street
P.O. Box 980549
Richmond, Virginia 23298-0549
healthsciences.vcu.edu (http://healthsciences.vcu.edu)

Marsha Rappley, M.D.
Vice president for health sciences

The mission of the Office of the Vice President for Health Sciences is to provide leadership, resource management counsel and programmatic oversight to the VCU health sciences schools and Massey Cancer Center.

The core values of the office are evidence-based decision-making; novelty; collaboration; diversity, as a facilitator of a culturally competent workforce; and responsible and transparent business practices.

Located on VCU’s MCV Campus in Richmond, and in partnership with the VCU Health System, the vice president for health sciences oversees the five health sciences schools (Allied Health Professions, Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy) as well as the VCU Massey Cancer Center. Areas of responsibility include academic affairs, academic and research space management, financial and administrative affairs, and interprofessional education and collaborative care.

More than 4,200 students each year participate in more than 50 degree programs offered at the undergraduate, graduate and first-professional levels as well post-baccalaureate and post-master’s certificate programs. As a growing academic health sciences center, VCU Health Sciences maintains an aggressive research portfolio. Total research awards amounted to approximately $151.5 million in fiscal year 2015, which represented approximately 56 percent of the university’s total research awards.

VCU Health Sciences is committed to educational programs directed toward providing graduates capable of meeting the commonwealth’s health care needs. Programs are dedicated to maintaining and updating the competency of health professionals in addition to preparing graduates to enter health professions. The educational programs are supported by an institutional commitment to effective teaching and by the 865-bed teaching hospital. The office is committed to providing the very best in education, research and practice for the expansion of science and health care for Virginians and the growing global community.

Care Coordination, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)

Program mission
The mission of the VCU Center for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care is to improve health through collaboration by:

1. Implementing interprofessional models of care that advance patient and population health
2. Promoting research-driven innovations in interprofessional education and practice
3. Educating students and practitioners to lead in an evolving interprofessional health care environment

The center’s vision is to become a national model for transforming communities and health care through innovations in education, scholarship and practice focused on increasing interprofessional care.

Program goals
Students in the care coordination certificate program will integrate concepts of care coordination in an interprofessional context along the full continuum of health care to meet the needs of patients and their families as they transition between health care settings and seek to maintain optimum health. Graduates will be equipped to help patients of any age who are at high risk for excess use of health care services and who have the potential for adverse health outcomes.

Student learning outcomes
Graduates will be able to:

1. Explain ways the health care team can empower the patient and/or family with decision-making skills about the patient’s health care needs by keeping patients and families central in the care planning process
2. Apply ethical principles to the care of patients of all ages and their families
3. Compare and contrast methods of effective care coordination in a variety of clinical settings to minimize cost and enhance health outcomes
4. Develop and demonstrate skills for effective communication and collaboration within the interprofessional team and across settings
5. Describe approaches to link complex patients with community resources that promote social justice and health
6. Develop and demonstrate skills to effectively facilitate and utilize timely, complete, effective and safe handoffs during care transitions for complex patients
7. Demonstrate how to maximize the utility of information systems to enhance care
8. Explain the overall infrastructure and regulation of U.S. health care and its effect on care coordination
9. Compare and contrast health care payment models as they relate to utilization review, compliance and reimbursement.

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 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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements.

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 VCU Graduate Bulletin for a complete list of instructions and a graduation checklist.

Visit the Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements.

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree: Certificate</th>
<th>Semester(s) of entry: Fall</th>
<th>Deadline dates: May 15</th>
<th>Test requirements:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (http://www.pubapps.vcu.edu/Bulletins/prog_search/?uid=10045&iid=30072), a candidate for the Certificate in Care Coordination must be recommended by the faculty and must:

1. Meet academic requirements of the Graduate School
2. Complete all courses in this certificate program, achieving at minimum 15 total credit hours, within five academic years of the first registration work to be credited toward the degree
3. Earn a minimum grade of B or pass grade in all courses
4. Earn a minimum cumulative grade-point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all work presented for graduation
5. Conform to university policies in respect to pass/fail grading for course work
6. Complete capstone project and present findings at completion of the program

The degree will be granted only after all requirements have been fulfilled and all fees to the university have been paid. Degrees are not granted in absentia unless written request is made to the assistant vice president of health sciences for interprofessional education and collaborative care and permission is granted.

Curriculum requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IPEC 510</td>
<td>Interprofessional Communication and the Care Coordinator I</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPEC 511</td>
<td>U.S. Health Care and Care Coordination</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPEC 512</td>
<td>Health Care Payment Models and Care Coordination</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPEC 513</td>
<td>Ethical and Legal Considerations in Care Coordination</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPEC 514</td>
<td>Hospital-based Care Coordination</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPEC 515</td>
<td>Interprofessional Communication and the Care Coordinator II</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IPEC 516</td>
<td>Community-based Care Coordination</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total Hours</strong></td>
<td><strong>15</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total graduate credit hours required (minimum) 15

Typical plan of study
Many students often end up taking more than the minimum number of hours required for a degree program. The total number of hours may vary depending upon the program, the nature of research being conducted by a student, or in the enrollment or funding status of the student. Students should refer to the program website and talk with their graduate program directors or advisers for information about typical plans of study and registration requirements.

Graduate program director
Kimberly Davis, R.N.
Clinical instructor, Department of Family and Community Health Nursing
Email: daviskd5@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 628-2953

Additional contact
Alan Dow, M.D.
Professor and assistant vice president of health sciences for interprofessional education and collaborative care
Care Coordination, Certificate in (Post-baccalaureate graduate certificate)

Email: awdow@vcu.edu
Phone: (804) 828-2898

Program website: ipe.vcu.edu (http://ipe.vcu.edu)
GRADUATE SCHOOL

Graduate programs are administered by the individual departments, schools and centers with assistance from the Graduate School. Major coordination of the various degree programs is performed by the University Graduate Council, which is chaired by the dean of the Graduate School. The University Graduate Council comprises two elected faculty members from each school and one elected faculty member from VCU Life Sciences.

The Graduate School section of the VCU Bulletins documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education at the university. The University Graduate Council determines these policies.

Bulletins and course descriptions for the current and past years are now archived in the VCU Scholars Compass (http://scholarscompass.vcu.edu/vcubulletins) hosted by the VCU Libraries.

Graduate programs

In-depth descriptions of all graduate programs at VCU are provided in the individual school and program sections of this bulletin. The Graduate School website (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu) provides links and contact information for all graduate programs offered at VCU. The website also provides updates that occur throughout the academic year, as well as the Application to Graduate Study and complete instructions for applying to all graduate programs.

Refer to the program index for a complete listing of all graduate programs, as well as application deadline dates, and special admission requirements and contact information. Applicants are encouraged to contact the school/department sponsoring the intended program of study at the telephone numbers and/or email addresses provided. Other important contact information is provided on the Graduate School (http://www.vcu.edu/graduate) website as well.

Interdisciplinary Studies, Master of (M.I.S.), individual program of study

The Master of Interdisciplinary Studies (M.I.S.) degree program provides an opportunity for the highly motivated student to pursue a unique course of study that combines graduate course work in a learner-centered approach to graduate education. The student is an active participant in proposing a curriculum that supports an individualized and scholastically rigorous academic goal in a clearly defined, multidisciplinary program. To expand the program’s range of options and interdisciplinary perspectives, the program allows for cooperative ventures with other approved colleges and universities.

Program goals

1. To provide the highly motivated graduate student with the opportunity to develop and complete an individualized and learner-centered course of study that combines graduate course work in multiple academic disciplines in order to meet a unique scholarly goal
2. To provide skills required for a wide range of positions or for further advanced study
3. To provide for the student’s mastery and synthesis of course content in the academic focus areas, culminating in the design, implementation, interpretation and communication of the results of a capstone research project related to the scholarly goal of the student’s interdisciplinary course of study

Student learning outcomes

1. Students must demonstrate general knowledge and synthesis of two or more academic focus areas combined in an approved interdisciplinary course of study with relevant electives, research methodology and independent study through mastery of individual course work and the synthesis of that course work into a final research project.
2. Students must demonstrate oral and written communication skills to convey effectively the assimilated, synthesized knowledge gained from their interdisciplinary study.
3. Students must demonstrate the ability to design and conduct an independent research project or study that exhibits skills of synthesis, analysis and critical thinking, that is directly related to the purpose of the unique scholarly goal identified as part of the admissions process and that is reflected in the academic focus areas in the approved course of study.
4. Students must demonstrate the achievement of an appropriate level of competence in the ability to design and develop the research protocol and to evaluate and present the outcomes.

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 Graduate study section for additional information on academic regulations for graduate students. (p. 31)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on degree candidacy requirements. (p. 37)

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 Graduate study section for additional information on graduation requirements. (p. 40)

Apply online at graduate.admissions.vcu.edu (http://www.graduate.admissions.vcu.edu).

Admission requirements

Degree: Semester(s) of entry: Deadline dates: Test requirements:
M.I.S. Fall Apr 1 GRE

Special requirements

• Applicants must schedule a preliminary advising interview with the director of the M.I.S. program and complete a preliminary curriculum proposal.

In addition to the general admission requirements of the VCU Graduate School (p. 18), applicants who are proposing an individualized course of study must:

1. Schedule a preliminary advising interview with the director of the M.I.S. program to discuss academic goals and curricular proposals.
2. Submit satisfactory scores on the Graduate Record Examination from a current test (fewer than five years old). Substitutions of other standardized test scores may be made on a case-by-case basis, depending upon the focus areas identified in the curriculum proposal and the approval of all members of the admission committee.
3. Articulate in the written statement of intent, including:
   a. The applicant’s academic goal
   b. How the M.I.S. degree program will facilitate the achievement of that goal
   c. How a more traditional program does not meet those goals
4. Complete a preliminary curriculum proposal form identifying the specific course work that will support the academic goal articulated in the written statement of intent. This form is available from the Graduate School by sending an email request to: gradschool@vcu.edu.
5. Students who are interested in working toward a degree are encouraged to apply to the program as early as possible, since a maximum of six credit hours taken as a nondegree-seeking student may be counted toward the degree.

Members of the admission committee include the directors of graduate study of the two focus areas identified in the curriculum proposal and the director of the M.I.S. program.

Degree requirements
In addition to the general VCU Graduate School graduation requirements (p. 40), students who are admitted to the M.I.S. individual program of study concentration must:

1. Obtain approval for all transfer and elective course work as part of the formal advising process for developing and/or changing the approved curriculum plan
2. Identify two focus areas and complete nine to 15 graduate credit hours in each
3. Complete a minimum of three graduate credits in a research methods course relevant to the final research project before beginning the final research project
4. Be approved for degree candidacy before beginning the final research project
5. Complete three to six graduate credits as part of the final research project in the form of an approved directed research, independent study, special project or thesis
   a. A student who chooses the thesis option must identify a thesis adviser and committee before beginning formal work on the thesis. The student will follow the thesis guidelines of the school/program of the thesis adviser, as well as the general guidelines for completion of theses/dissertations (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/student/thesis.html) as prescribed by the VCU Graduate School, the University Graduate Council and VCU Libraries.
   b. A student who chooses the directed research option must obtain formal approval for the final research project. Before beginning formal work on the final directed research project, the student must submit to the director of the M.I.S. program a copy of the proposed project, along with a signed copy of the Final Project Proposal Approval form (available from the M.I.S program director).

Curriculum requirements
All course work and any substitutions must be approved by the M.I.S. graduate program director.

| Focus area I | 9-15 |
| Focus area II | 9-15 |
| Electives (additional related course work) | 0-12 |
| Research methods (relevant to final research project) | 3 |
| Final research project | 3-6 |

| GRAD 697 | Directed Research |

Total graduate credit hours (minimum) 36

Graduate program director
Mark J. Schaefermeyer, Ph.D.
Associate dean, Graduate School
mjshaefermeyer@vcu.edu
(804) 828-4696
Graduate School Mentorship Program

The Graduate School Mentorship Program matches undergraduate and graduate students in mentoring relationships. The goals of the program are twofold: first, to expose undergraduate students to the graduate experience as they consider options and make decisions about post-baccalaureate study and as they transition from undergraduate to graduate student status, and secondly, to provide graduate students with the opportunity to develop mentoring skills as they share their own personal experiences with the undergraduate participants in the program. Complete information about the program is available on the Graduate School website at graduate.vcu.edu/development/mentorship.html (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/development/mentorship.html).

Leaders and Entrepreneurs Academy for Professional Development

In 2011, VCU finalized its six-year strategic plan, Quest for Distinction (http://www.future.vcu.edu/plan). Explicit within the first theme, to “become a leader among national research universities in providing all students with high-quality learning/living experiences focused on inquiry, discovery and innovation in a global environment,” are several goals related to preparing students appropriately for careers in the 21st century. The Leaders and Entrepreneurs Academy for Professional Development is a new initiative sponsored by the VCU Graduate School. A companion to the Preparing Future Faculty Program, LEAPD will offer a series of short courses and experiences to assist graduate students seeking careers in industry, nonprofit organizations, health care, public service and government. Areas of study will include: how to start your own business, career search and networking skill-building, what does it mean (and take) to be a leader, enhancing communication skills, resume writing, negotiation skills, and opportunities for discovering alternative career paths for your chosen program of study. LEAPD is open to all graduate students. For more information contact the VCU Graduate School at (804) 828-2233 or visit graduate.vcu.edu/development/leaders.html (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/development/leaders.html).

Preparing Future Faculty Program

The Graduate School at VCU is committed to providing graduate students with ongoing opportunities for academic and professional development. Working with graduate faculty and academic graduate program directors, and with academic and administrative support from across the university, the Graduate School strives to identify, support and sponsor initiatives that will prepare the next generation of the professoriate.

In conjunction with the Center for Teaching Excellence, the Graduate School sponsors the Preparing Future Faculty Program for graduate students interested in pursuing teaching careers in academe. Complete information about the program is available on the Graduate School website at graduate.vcu.edu/development/faculty.html (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/development/faculty.html).

VCU Broadening Experiences for Scientific Training

Kathleen (Katybeth) Lee
Associate director, Health Sciences Career and Professional Development
VCU Career Services
P.O. Box 842007
Richmond, Virginia 23284-2007
Phone: (804) 828-1645
k (swupong@vcu.edu) elee@vcu.edu (kelee@vcu.edu)

VCU BEST seeks to transform the culture of biomedical scientist training at VCU by developing AEGDS, a training platform that broadens student awareness of potential careers, provides opportunities to experience career paths, provides guidance for career path(s) selection, allows students to develop the skill sets necessary to be successful and encourages students to share their experiences, thereby broadening exposure of others in the community.

Objectives

1. Create an innovative student/postdoctoral professional and personal development program that puts student on an optimized, individualized career path that incorporates their strengths and personal goals
2. Build a sustainable program that builds on existing/volunteer faculty and resources and unique training opportunities already in place at VCU (Each participating unit will be counseled in mechanisms to sustain and continue the program after the funding period in collaboration with a campus steering committee.)
3. Develop mechanisms to engage the entire VCU community, as well as alumni, and community partners — alumni engagement/participation, providing and encouraging interdisciplinary participation throughout schools/programs and with partner organizations, seminars for campus community
4. Empower students to engage and take responsibility for their future, improve self-knowledge and self-management, and to mentor others to do the same
5. Perform ongoing evaluation to optimize the program and ensure that it continues to meet the needs of trainees and mentors

Requirements

Required courses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRAD 611</td>
<td>Professional and Personal Development</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAD 615</td>
<td>Biomedical Science Careers Seminar Series</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAD 617</td>
<td>Biomedical Sciences Projects in the Community</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Career or skills electives

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GRAD 610</td>
<td>Career Planning for Graduate Students</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAD 612</td>
<td>Oral Presentation Skill-building for Career Professionals</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAD 614</td>
<td>Introduction to Grant Writing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GRAD 616</td>
<td>Becoming an Entrepreneur</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition, each student seeking the certificate of achievement will participate in vocational counseling and a monthly meeting with their mentor or peer group.
DIVISION OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

901 West Franklin Street
P.O. Box 843062
Richmond, Virginia 23284-3062
Phone: (804) 828-8848
Fax: (804) 828-2756
community.vcu.edu (http://www.community.vcu.edu)

Catherine W. Howard, Ph.D.
Vice provost, Division of Community Engagement

The Division of Community Engagement mobilizes university-community partnerships that generate innovative solutions to societal challenges and prepares the engaged citizens of tomorrow. In advancing VCU’s mission and strategic plan, Quest for Distinction, the office:

• Facilitates and coordinates innovative academic programs, on and off campus, to enhance the community’s access to VCU
• Supports the involvement of faculty and students throughout the university in community partnerships
• Creates opportunities for interdisciplinary, community-based collaborations that integrate research, teaching and service

The Division of Community Engagement resides within the Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and serves as the university’s central home for community engagement. Community-engaged teaching, including programs such as ASPIRE and service-learning, connects students and faculty with activities that address community-identified needs through mutually beneficial partnerships that deepen students’ academics and civic learning. Community-engaged outreach actively enlists students, faculty and community members in efforts to identify social issues and provide innovative solutions. The Mary and Frances Youth Center and the VCU AmeriCorps and America Reads programs serve as models of developing and sustaining high-impact community-university partnerships. Community-engaged research is a collaborative process between the researcher and community partner that creates and disseminates knowledge and creative expression with the goal of contributing to the discipline and strengthening the well-being of the community.

Service-learning

Service-learning integrates community service with traditional academic courses in order to enhance academic learning, facilitate the development of students into responsible citizens and meet community-identified needs. Each student participates in organized service activities that directly relate to the subject matter of the course and which meet community-identified needs. The students then participate in reflection activities, which are designed to increase their understanding and application of course content and enhance their sense of civic responsibility. The community organization defines the service need and the students learn and grow from their service through reflection on their experience. A listing of service-learning courses is provided in the Schedule of Classes (http://www.pubapps.vcu.edu/scheduleofclasses) each semester. For more information, call (804) 827-8215 or visit servicelearning.vcu.edu (http://www.servicelearning.vcu.edu).

VCU America Reads

The America Reads initiative began as a challenge put forth by former President Bill Clinton to “ensure that every child can read independently by third grade.” Citizens from across the nation and all walks of life have answered the call to improve the literacy skills of struggling readers. VCU has responded to the challenge by setting aside college work-study funds for eligible students who want to make a difference in the life of a child.

The VCU America Reads program is a sister program to the VCU AmeriCorps program that places college work-study students in local elementary schools to provide comprehensive reading support to students who are below grade level in reading.

Applicants can apply through the VCU work-study jobs portal on the Financial Aid website at finaid.vcu.edu/federalworkstudy (http://finaid.vcu.edu/federalworkstudy). Applicants may also apply directly to the VCU America Reads Program at community.vcu.edu/outreach/america-reads/eligibility-requirements-and-application (http://community.vcu.edu/outreach/america-reads/eligibility-requirements-and-application).

VCU AmeriCorps

AmeriCorps (http://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps) is a national service corps of more than 75,000 members that provides adults of all ages a chance to make a difference in local communities across the United States through one year of service. Members work together to address a community-identified need in critical areas like education, homelessness, disaster relief and organizational capacity.

VCU AmeriCorps is the largest and longest-running AmeriCorps program in Virginia. Established in 1995, the VCU AmeriCorps program has an educational focus with the goal of helping improve the literacy skills of children in grades K-3 attending Richmond Public Schools.

Applications are available beginning in March at community.vcu.edu/outreach/americorps/eligibility-and-application (http://community.vcu.edu/outreach/americorps/eligibility-and-application).

For additional information on the division’s programs, visit community.vcu.edu (http://www.community.vcu.edu).
DIVISION OF STRATEGIC ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

901 West Franklin Street, Third Floor
Richmond, Virginia 23284-3065
Phone: (804) 827-8737
Email: sem@vcu.edu
sem.vcu.edu (http://www.sem.vcu.edu)

Sybil Halloran, Ph.D.
Interim vice provost, Division of Strategic Enrollment Management

The Division of Strategic Enrollment Management (http://www.sem.vcu.edu) provides primary oversight for the recruitment, retention and graduation of students at all levels. The purpose of the division is to ensure academic quality and student success, which is dependent upon the recruitment, retention and timely graduation of a talented and diverse student body. The division’s goals and aspirations are clearly articulated in the university’s strategic plan, and a primary component of that vision is to ensure that the university attracts and retains students who will graduate at a higher rate and who will contribute to a highly skilled 21st-century workforce.

Within the division there are several operational areas: Admissions, the Campus Learning Center, Financial Aid, Intersession, Military Student Services, New Student and Family Programs, Records and Registration, Student Accounting, the Student Services Center, Student-Athlete Support Services, Summer Studies, the Transfer Center, Trio Student Support Services, University Academic Advising and the Writing Center.

For more information, please visit the Division of Strategic Enrollment Management (http://www.sem.vcu.edu) website.
DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

901 Floyd Avenue
P.O. Box 843017
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Phone: (804) 828-1244
Fax: (804) 828-2180
students.vcu.edu (http://www.students.vcu.edu)

Charles Klink, Ph.D.
Vice provost for student affairs

The Division of Student Affairs comprises departments promoting the intellectual, cultural, personal, social, moral, financial, physical and psychological development of Virginia Commonwealth University students. The division provides administrative support for key policies of the university, including the VCU Honor System and the University Rules and Procedures. Visit the Division of Student Affairs online for updated information throughout the year at students.vcu.edu (http://www.students.vcu.edu).

Departments and offices

Disability Support Services
This department welcomes and serves VCU students with documented disabilities who are registered for classes on the Monroe Park Campus. Visit their website for more information at students.vcu.edu/dss (http://www.students.vcu.edu/dss).

Office of Multicultural Student Affairs
The OMSA features cultural programs, discussion groups, student organizations, scholarship opportunities and much more in an effort to strengthen the university’s sense of community through cultural appreciation. Visit omsa.vcu.edu (http://www.omsa.vcu.edu) for additional information.

Office of Student Conduct and Academic Integrity
This office supports the educational mission of the university by educating students about appropriate behavior and fostering a community supporting academic success. Visit their website for more information at students.vcu.edu/studentconduct (http://www.students.vcu.edu/studentconduct).

Recreational Sports
Recreational Sports offers a range of programmed and informal recreational, fitness and sports activities for VCU students and faculty/staff/alumni/plus one members. Visit recsports.vcu.edu (http://www.recsports.vcu.edu) for more information.

Residential Life and Housing
This unit provides safe, inclusive and well-maintained facilities where intentional communities are built to empower residents in their academic excellence, citizenship and personal growth. Visit their website for more information at housing.vcu.edu (http://www.housing.vcu.edu).

Student Media Center
The Student Media Center is dedicated to the support and encouragement of responsible, independent student media to connect, explore and enrich the lives of the university’s many constituencies. Visit studentmedia.vcu.edu (http://www.studentmedia.vcu.edu) for more information.

Technology Support Services
Technology Support Services provide technical support and services to the Division of Student Affairs staff through the DSA help desk and VCU students through the Resnet help desk. Visit their website for more information at servicedesk.vcu.edu (https://servicedesk.vcu.edu).

University Counseling Services
UCS creates an environment that fosters student growth, development and psychological well-being through direct clinical service, education and prevention. Visit students.vcu.edu/counseling (http://www.students.vcu.edu/counseling) for more information.

University Student Health Services
USHS provides quality outpatient medical care and public health services, which also includes health education programming that empowers students to become full participants in their health care. Visit their website for more information at students.vcu.edu/health (http://www.students.vcu.edu/health).

University Student Commons and Activities
The facilities, services and programs of USCA bring together all members of the VCU community and contributes to intellectual, emotional and social growth through informal interaction. Visit usca.vcu.edu (http://www.usca.vcu.edu) for more information.

The Wellness Resource Center
The Well maximizes student success by fostering a healthy campus environment and is the public health outreach branch of University Student Health Services. Visit their website for more information at thewell.vcu.edu (http://www.thewell.vcu.edu).

VCU Career Services
Career Services is committed to providing support to VCU students and recent alumni (one year or less) in the lifelong career development process. Visit their website for more information at careers.vcu.edu (http://www.careers.vcu.edu).

VCU LEAD
VCU LEAD is a living-learning program for undergraduate students of sophomore status or above, focused on developing graduates who can successfully lead professional and civic organizations within their respective fields. Visit students.vcu.edu/vculead (http://www.students.vcu.edu/vculead) for additional information.

Student government associations
The Monroe Park Campus Student Government Association is an elected body of students from the Monroe Park Campus who are organized into three branches — executive, legislative and judicial — with various committees. Nonelected, at-large members are encouraged to join most of these committees. All meetings of the senate are open to the public. Visit vcusga.org (http://www.vcusga.org) for more information.

MCV Campus Student Government Association officers are elected from each of the health science schools. MCV Campus SGA meetings are held monthly from September through April and are open to all students. The MCV Campus SGA sponsors several social functions including the MCV
Campus Winter Ball and study breaks. More information can be found at mcvcampussga.com/home (http://mcvcampussga.com/home).

The **Joint Student Government Council** is the union of the two student governments on the Monroe Park and MCV campuses. A student-led governing body for VCU the JSGC works to represent the voice of all students. The council is especially concerned with joint matters, which consist of the desires, concerns and ideas that affect students on both of VCU’s campuses. JSGC’s body consists of delegates from the Monroe Park Campus SGA, the MCV Campus SGA, the Graduate Student Association and the student representatives to the Board of Visitors. More information can be found at students.vcu.edu/dos/jsgc (http://www.students.vcu.edu/dos/jsgc).

The **Graduate Student Association** serves as an advocate for graduate students at VCU. It sponsors events such as meet-and-greets, monthly socials and the annual Graduate Research Symposium (http://graduate.vcu.edu/research/symposium.html) that are designed to enhance academic skills, provide professional development opportunities and facilitate an active social environment. The GSA and the Graduate School work together to assist students with travel costs for academic conferences. The GSA places students on campuswide committees to ensure concerns of graduate students are heard. Visit graduate.vcu.edu/life/association.html (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/life/association.html) for more information.

**University policies and procedures**

A number of policies and regulations at VCU affect students, and many of these are printed in the general information chapters of this bulletin. Three policy documents are of particular interest to students.

- **VCU Rules and Procedures**: outlines the rights, responsibilities and privileges of each member of the university community and describes cases when disciplinary action, including separation from the university, may be taken against a member of this community as a result of prohibited behavior as outlined in this document
- **VCU Honor System**: defines academic dishonesty and provides a procedure for judging alleged violators of academic integrity
- **Grade Review Procedure**: outlines the process whereby students may appeal grades that they feel have been assigned unfairly

Each student is responsible for being familiar with the provisions of all university policies and regulations. The three policy documents described above are available in the VCU Policy Library, which is made available online at policy.vcu.edu (http://www.policy.vcu.edu).
GLOBAL EDUCATION OFFICE

912 West Grace Street
P.O. Box 843043
Richmond, Virginia 23284-3043
Phone: (804) 828-8471
Fax: (804) 828-2552
global.vcu.edu (http://www.global.vcu.edu)

R. McKenna Brown, Ph.D.
Executive director

The Virginia Commonwealth University Global Education Office advances the university’s three global priorities:

- Improve the recruitment and retention of international students and scholars
- Increase the global engagement of VCU students and faculty
- Expand VCU’s global footprint through research, teaching and service — especially as they impact global health

The Global Education Office is home to five units and programs that advance the internationalization of the university.

Units and programs

Education Abroad

GEO’s study abroad office offers student advising and placement in a full range of programs abroad, as well as academic unit support in developing, operating and evaluating study abroad programs.

English Language Program

The fully accredited intensive English program offers beginner to advanced levels of academic preparation. This large and growing program concentrates on academic preparation and study skills that equip students for success in their educational and career pursuits.

Global Outreach

The global outreach team supports the university’s academic units in identifying and pursuing global priorities within the context of Quest for Distinction by facilitating international institutional agreements, coordinating the universitywide Global Advisory Network, supporting international faculty development and providing funding opportunities for global initiatives.

International Student and Scholar Programs

This program offers students, scholars and visitors a full suite of services that include academic and immigration advising, student engagement activities and campus and community orientation. The program equips faculty and staff with expertise and tools to support international students and scholars through workshops, faculty academies and individualized pedagogical consulting.

VCU Globe: A global education living-learning community

One of only 25 Peace Corps Prep programs in the nation and recognized by the 2015 Senator Paul Simon Award for Innovation in International Education, VCU Globe prepares undergraduates in all majors to live and work in a 21st-century global environment. In addition to completing in a rigorous, globally focused curriculum, students live together in the West Grace North residence hall and participate in community-engagement and leadership-building activities.

Education Abroad

Stephanie Tignor
Director
global.vcu.edu/abroad (http://global.vcu.edu/abroad)

VCU encourages students from every academic discipline to pursue part of their university education in an international setting by studying abroad. Education abroad benefits students academically, professionally and personally; students become more engaged in their academic field of study and often show stronger performance upon returning to campus from their study abroad experiences. Skills gained through education abroad help increase employment marketability upon graduation.

Students are encouraged to study in a foreign country for any length of time including summer, winter session, spring break, a semester or a full academic year as part of their degree program. The VCU Education Abroad office assists students in accomplishing these goals by providing information, advising and administering study abroad and exchange programs.

Participants must be in good standing with the university prior to participation. Please note that individual program requirements may vary.

Program offerings

VCU short-term study abroad

Each year VCU offers a variety of short-term program options during winter break, spring break or summer. Both faculty-led and direct-enroll options are available. Participants earn VCU or transfer credit and study subjects ranging from science, business and foreign language to arts, health care, economic development and beyond. New programs are created every year in countries as diverse as Barbados, Spain, Guatemala, Peru, Italy, Germany, Mexico, France and China.

International Student Exchange Program

International Student Exchange Program is a network of more than 300 colleges and universities in 50 countries that provides exchange opportunities for a summer, semester or academic year. ISEP is well-suited for mature, independent students who wish to be fully immersed into the host culture. Students usually enroll directly into their host university and take classes in the host language. A wide variety of options to study in English is also available. ISEP offers an affordable option to study abroad — charges are based on the cost of VCU in-state tuition, fees, and room and board in many of its locations.

Departmental and partnership exchanges

VCU has negotiated a number of direct student exchange agreements arising out of specific interest in the university community. Students pay their tuition and fees at VCU and enroll directly in the chosen host university. Options include a variety of destinations including Curtin University in Perth, Australia, University of Guadalajara, Mexico, University of the West of England in Bristol, UK, and the University of Córdoba, Spain.

Affiliate and alternative programs

Students seeking alternatives to VCU short-term programs, ISEP and exchanges may consider affiliate or alternative programs. Students may elect to participate in a program offered by another university or
organization. VCU Education Abroad will assist students in identifying and applying to the program, maintaining their VCU status while away, and securing financial aid where appropriate. All programs must be pre-approved by VCU.

Except for specific VCU short-term programs offered for VCU credit, all credit received through study abroad will appear on the students’ transcripts as transfer credit. Students must earn the equivalent of a C, at minimum, for credit to be awarded. Grades are not calculated into the GPA, unless a student is attempting to graduate with honors.

**English Language Program**

*Amber Bennett Hill, Ph.D.*

Director

global.vcu.edu/elp (http://global.vcu.edu/elp)

The English Language Program offers an intensive university-preparation language program for nonnative speakers of English and serves international students, U.S. citizens, permanent residents and refugees. Core courses are offered at three levels of instruction — beginning through advanced — in multiple sessions each year. Core courses include reading and writing and speaking and listening.

Students may apply directly to the English Language Program. Admission to the ELP may also be recommended by VCU Undergraduate Admissions and International Admissions at the time of the application review. Placement in the ELP is based on the results of an English Language Placement Exam, taken upon arrival in Richmond.

**More information**

For more information, students may contact the English Language Program office at 912 W. Grace St., by phone at (804) 828-2551, by fax at (804) 828-2552 or by email at geo@vcu.edu.

**Global Outreach**

*Emily Ferlis, Ph.D.*

Director

global.vcu.edu/outreach (http://global.vcu.edu/outreach)

The global outreach team supports the university’s academic units in identifying and pursuing global priorities within the context of Quest for Distinction by facilitating international institutional agreements, coordinating the universitywide Global Advisory Network, supporting international faculty development and providing funding opportunities for global initiatives.

**International Student and Scholar Programs**

*Amber Bennett Hill, Ph.D.*

Director

global.vcu.edu/students (http://www.global.vcu.edu/students)

International students face many challenges when entering a new country. GEO’s International Student and Scholar Programs offers assistance and guidance as students adjust to a different culture and pursue their educational goals.
OFFICE OF CONTINUING AND PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

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Michael Huffman, Ph.D.
Director

The Office of Continuing and Professional Education (http://ocpe.vcu.edu) offers a wide range of services to VCU and to the community at large. The office, which is home to the Virginia Center for Consensus Building (http://ocpe.vcu.edu/who/vccb.html), combined the functions of two previous entities — the School of Education’s Center for Professional Growth and the Division of Community Engagement’s Office of Continuing Studies — to create a single, comprehensive hub for delivering and supporting quality learning experiences to individuals and organizations through continuing education and professional development.

Mission

OCPE, in partnership with the college and schools at VCU, provides and supports quality continuing and professional education, skills training and public policy mediation services for individual, local, regional and national impact. OCPE aligns its priorities to the appropriate themes of the Quest for Distinction.

Goals

OCPE provides:

- Comprehensive logistical support for continuing education and professional development activities for the college and schools at VCU and VCU Health
- Educational opportunities that further personal, professional and organizational growth
- Customized solutions and mediation services to partners in the marketplace
- Lifelong learning opportunities for VCU alumni

Whether individuals want to enhance their career or find a new one, fulfill CEU requirements, develop customized training solutions for a company, arrange logistical support for an event, or find opportunities for personal enrichment, OCPE offers courses and services to achieve these goals.

For more information, visit the Office of Continuing and Professional Education website (http://ocpe.vcu.edu) or explore the course directory (http://ocpe.vcu.edu/courses).
GRADUATE COURSES

College of Humanities and Sciences

Anthropology (ANTH)

ANTH 551. Anthropology for the Museologist. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A discussion and investigation of contemporary anthropological themes and questions and identification of how they can be depicted with museum materials. Students are expected to develop a research design for an exhibit.

ANTH 556. Historical and Cultural Landscapes. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Open only to seniors who have completed ANTH 302 or 303 and graduate students with permission of instructor. Students will study historical and contemporary landscapes as the products of the producers of human culture, with particular attention to riverine landscapes. Focus will be on the ways in which humans shape and respond to their ecosystems. Students will participate in an active field research program, including the archaeological recovery and analysis of historical landscapes. Crosslisted as: ENVS 556.

Biology (BIOL)

BIOL 502. Microbial Biotechnology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MICR/ BIOC 503 or BIOC 530, 531, 532 and 533 or equivalent, and MICR/ BIOC 504 or equivalent. Open to qualified seniors and graduate students only. Discussion of the application of basic principles to the solution of commercial problems. The course will cover the historical principles in biotransformations as related to primary and secondary metabolism, as well as recombinant DNA technology and monoclonal antibodies and products resulting from the application of recombinant DNA technology.

BIOL 503. Fish Biology. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 3 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: BIOL 317 or equivalent. Open to qualified seniors and graduate students only. Classification, behavior, physiology and ecology of fishes. Laboratories will emphasize field collection of fish and identification of specimens.

BIOL 507. Aquatic Microbiology. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 303 and 307 or equivalents. Open to qualified seniors and graduate students only. This course will involve a practical approach to the methods used to culture, identify and enumerate specific microorganisms that affect the cycling of elements in aquatic systems and those that affect or indicate water quality.

BIOL 508. Barrier Island Ecology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOL 317 or equivalent, or permission of instructor. A study of the physical factors affecting the formation of barrier islands, adaptations of plants and animals for colonization and persistence in these harsh environments, and how coastal ecological processes conform to general ecological theory. Examples and problems pertaining to Virginia and the southeastern United States are emphasized.

BIOL 509. Microbial Ecology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOL 317 or equivalent with a grade of C or better. Open only to qualified seniors and graduate students. Explores the interactions of microorganisms and their environment, including discussion of microbial diversity, nutrient cycling, symbiosis and selected aspects of applied microbiology.

BIOL 510. Conservation Biology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Open to qualified seniors and graduate students only. Explores the accelerated loss of species due to increasing human population pressure and the biological, social and legal processes involved in conserving biodiversity.

BIOL 512. Plant Diversity and Evolution. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 300 and 310 or equivalents, or permission of instructor. Taxonomy, diversity and evolutionary history of vascular plants (including ferns, gymnosperms and flowering plants). Lecture emphasis on evolutionary relationships; laboratory emphasis on plant recognition and identification, especially of the Virginia flora, including some field trips to areas of local botanical interest.

BIOL 514. Stream Ecology. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 3 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: BIOL 317. Open to qualified seniors and graduate students only. A study of the ecology of streams and rivers. Laboratory emphasis is on the structure and functioning of aquatic communities in mountain to coastal streams.

BIOL 516. Population Genetics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: STAT/BIOS 543. Theoretical and empirical analyses of how demographic and evolutionary processes influence neutral and adaptive genetic variation within populations. Crosslisted as: HGEN 516.

BIOL 518. Plant Ecology. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. One three-day field trip is required. 4 credits. Prerequisite: BIOL 317. Open to qualified seniors and graduate students only. A lecture, field and laboratory course concerned with the development, succession and dynamics of plant communities and their interrelations with climate, soil, biotic and historic factors.

BIOL 520. Population Ecology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 310 and BIOL 317 or permission of instructor. Open to qualified seniors and graduate students only. Theoretical and empirical analysis of processes that occur within natural populations, including population genetics, population growth and fluctuation, demography, evolution of life history strategies and interspecific interactions. Quantitative models will be used extensively to explore ecological concepts.

BIOL 521. Community Ecology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 317 or equivalent. Open to qualified seniors and graduate students only. Theoretical and empirical analysis of the structure and function of natural communities, ecosystems and landscapes.

BIOL 522. Evolution and Speciation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOL 310 or equivalent. Open to qualified seniors and graduate students only. Evolutionary principles, with emphasis on genetic and environmental factors leading to changes in large and small populations of plants and animals, and the mechanisms responsible for speciation.

BIOL 524. Endocrinology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 300 and CHEM 301-302 and CHEZ 301L, 302L or equivalent. Open to qualified seniors and graduate students only. Hormonal control systems at the organ, tissue and cellular level. Although the major emphasis will be on vertebrate endocrine systems, some discussion of invertebrate and plant control systems will be covered.
BIOL 530. Introduction to Human Genetics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to qualified seniors and graduate students. Basic knowledge of genetics is recommended. Provides a comprehensive examination of the fundamentals of human genetics. Explores topics including Mendelian and non-Mendelian inheritance, pedigree analysis, cytogenetics, aneuploid syndromes, cancer, gene structure and function, epigenetics, gene expression, biochemical genetics, and inborn errors of metabolism. Crosslisted as: HGEN 501.

BIOL 532. Water Pollution Biology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 317 or equivalent and one year of general chemistry. A study of various forms of pollution in aquatic environments, including the basic principles and effects of water pollution on aquatic organisms and ecosystems, ecotoxicology, waterborne pathogens, invasive species, water pollution monitoring and environmental laws.

BIOL 535. Wetlands Ecology. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 3 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: BIOL 317 or equivalent or permission of instructor. A study of the ecology of freshwater and coastal wetlands, including the physical and biological aspects of these systems, wetland functions at local, landscape and global scales, and wetland regulations and restoration. Students will acquire skills with analytical techniques used in laboratory settings and in field-based applications for purposes of identifying and delineating wetland ecosystems.

BIOL 540. Fundamentals of Molecular Genetics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOL 310 or equivalent or permission of instructor. The basic principles and methodologies of molecular biology and genetics are applied to genome organization, replication, expression, regulation, mutation and reorganization. Emphasis will be placed on a broad introduction to and integration of important topics in prokaryotic and eukaryotic systems. Crosslisted as: BNFO 540.

BIOL 541. Laboratory in Molecular Genetics. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Pre- or corequisite: BIOL 540 or equivalent. Experiments are designed to apply advanced techniques and concepts of molecular biology and genetics using prokaryotic and eukaryotic systems. Emphasis will be placed on experimental design, integrating results throughout the semester, making use of relevant published literature, scientific writing and providing hands-on experience with advanced equipment and methodologies. Crosslisted as: BNFO 541.

BIOL 545. Biological Complexity. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: physics and calculus, or permission of instructor. Open only to graduate students and qualified seniors. An introduction to the basis of complexity theory and the principles of emergent properties within the context of integrative life sciences. The dynamic interactions among biological, physical and social components of systems are emphasized, ranging from the molecular to ecosystem level. Modeling and simulation methods for investigating biological complexity are illustrated. Crosslisted as: LFSC 510.

BIOL 548. Bioinformatic Technologies. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: BIOL 545/ LFSC 510 or permission of instructor. Introduction to the hardware and software used in computational biology, proteomics, genomics, ecoinformatics and other areas of data analysis in the life sciences. The course also will introduce students to data mining, the use of databases, meta-data analysis and techniques to access information. Crosslisted as: LFSC 520.

BIOL 550. Ecological Genetics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Open to qualified seniors and graduate students only. Introduces the principles of ecological genetics, especially those with foundations in population and quantitative genetics, and illustrates conceptual difficulties encountered by resource stewards who wish to apply genetic principles. Explores various types of biological technologies employed by conservation geneticists and provides means for students to gain experience in analyzing and interpreting ecological genetic data.

BIOL 560. Conservation Medicine. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces students to key elements of wildlife diseases, zoonoses, emerging infectious diseases associated with wildlife and humans, and both the conservation and health impacts of these topics. Included are discussions of the interactions among environmental quality and wildlife and human diseases and health. Topics include diseases of fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, the effects of environmental contaminants and climate on those diseases, and their interaction with human health.

BIOL 565. Advances in Cell Signaling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOL 300 or equivalent. Topical course focusing on advances in cellular communication by cytokines, hormones and neurotransmitters. Each semester, the course focuses on a different topic. Past topics have included cancer biology, allergy and asthma, and autoimmunity.

BIOL 580. Eukaryotic Biotechnology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 310 and BIOZ 310L, or graduate standing in biology or related fields. Open to qualified seniors and graduate students only. Discussion of principles, concepts, techniques, applications and current advances in cellular and molecular biology aspects of biotechnology for animal and plant cells. The course will cover molecular construction of foreign genes; DNA cloning; technologies for DNA, RNA and protein analyses; nonvector and vector-mediated genetic transformation; gene regulation in transgenic cells; cell and tissue culture; cell fusion; and agricultural, medical and other industrial applications.

BIOL 591. Special Topics in Biology. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 credits. An in-depth study of a selected topic in biology. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester and prerequisites. If several topics are offered, students may elect to take more than one.

BIOL 601. Integrated Bioinformatics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Presents major concepts in bioinformatics through a series of real-life problems to be solved by students. Problems addressed will include but not be limited to issues in genomic analysis, statistical analysis and modeling of complex biological phenomena. Emphasis will be placed on attaining a deep understanding of a few widely used tools of bioinformatics. Crosslisted as: BNFO 601.
BIOL 606. Quantitative Ecology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Principles and applications of mathematical ecology at the community level, including experimental design; sampling techniques, assumptions and limitations; and the use of cluster analysis, gradient analysis and ordination to evaluate, summarize and compare large data sets.

BIOL 610. Conservation Applications. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Covers the implementation of conservation techniques including monitoring, planning, education, habitat management and combining conservation with human development strategies. Focuses on how to make conservation work where biodiversity and human livelihoods must be reconciled. Students will utilize a number of computer programs to analyze and interpret management strategies.

BIOL 618. Ecosystems Ecology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOL 317 or equivalent or permission by instructor. Introduction to the structure and functioning of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. The course complements other offerings in the graduate program by considering ecological processes at higher orders of organization and in the context of abiotic factors. Students will gain discipline-specific knowledge through lectures and readings while building quantitative and critical thinking.

BIOL 626. Physiological Ecology. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: BIOL 317 or equivalent. This course examines the physiological adjustments and adaptations made by organisms in response to their environment.

BIOL 630. Patterns of Mammalian Reproduction. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A comprehensive ecological and evolutionary study of specializations and adaptive radiation in mammalian reproductive anatomy, the reproductive cycle, seasonality of reproduction and factors affecting litter size and developmental stage of neonates. Human reproductive biology is included when pertinent.

BIOL 640. Evolution and Molecular Markers. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Methodologies and applications of molecular biology as they pertain to the study of evolution, with a focus on systematics, speciation and biogeography. The course provides proficiency in the understanding, interpretation and choice of appropriate molecular markers for evolutionary research, with particular attention to current methods and recent literature. Designed to benefit students of both natural history (ecologists, systematics, evolutionary biologists) and molecular biology.

BIOL 650. Conservation Genetics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Covers the application of molecular genetics to biodiversity conservation. Essential topics include molecular measures of genetic diversity, estimating loss of genetic diversity in small populations, detecting inbreeding, resolution of taxonomic uncertainties, genetic management of T&E species, captive breeding and reintroduction. Students will utilize a number of computer programs to analyze and interpret molecular genetic data.

BIOL 654. Environmental Remote Sensing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ENVS 602, or permission of the instructor. This course provides a basic and applied understanding on the use of digital remote sensor data to detect, identify and characterize earth resources. Students are required to demonstrate an understanding of the spectral attributes of soils, vegetation and water resources through various labs involving both image- and non-image-based optical spectral data. Crosslisted as: ENVS 654/URSP 654.

BIOL 660. Developmental Biology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: biochemistry or cell biology or their equivalent. Molecular and cellular principles of developmental biology in model systems, including flies, worms, fish and mammals. Understanding of morphogen gradients, transcription, cell movements and signaling in development. Advanced methods are taught enabling students to interpret and present findings from the primary literature.

BIOL 676. Plant and Animal Cell Biology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: biochemistry or cell biology or permission of instructor. Molecular and cellular principles of cell behavior and function in plant and animal cells. Topics include intracellular transport, cell cycle control, signaling and cell motility. Advanced methods are taught enabling students to interpret and present findings from the primary literature in this field.

BIOL 690. Biology Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 credit. May be repeated for credit. Presentations by faculty and visiting lecturers, and discussions of research and developments in biology and related fields. Graded as S/U/F.

BIOL 691. Special Topics in Biology. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. An advanced study of a selected topic in biology. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester and prerequisites. If several topics are offered, students may elect to take more than one.

BIOL 692. Independent Study. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; hours to be arranged. Credits to be arranged. Determination of the amount of credit and permission of instructor, adviser and department chair must be obtained prior to registration for this course. A course designed to provide an opportunity for independent research in any area of biology outside the graduate student thesis area.

BIOL 693. Current Topics in Biology. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. May be repeated for credit. Designed to develop skills in preparing and delivering oral presentations in conjunction with an in-depth study of a current topic in biology. Students present talks and lead discussions on the selected topic.

BIOL 698. Thesis. 1-16 Hours.
Semester course; hours to be arranged. Credits to be arranged. Independent research by students in areas of systematics, environmental, developmental, behavioral, cellular and molecular biology, and comparative physiology.

CHEM 601. Chemical Biology I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an overview of the structure and function of biological macromolecules from a chemical biology perspective. The course will be divided into three sections -- nucleic acids, proteins and carbohydrates. Each section will initially focus on the thermodynamic properties of these macromolecules including the energetics of folding, thermodynamics of interactions and, for catalytic molecules, the kinetics of catalysis. Citing literature examples, the class will then focus on how small molecules have been used to uncover these properties.
CHEM 511 or CHEM 612). Thermodynamics with elements of statistical mechanics (PHYS 340, dynamics. Hands-on introduction to basic programming and operating and transport properties. Free energy calculations and rare event molecular physics, biophysics and nanoscience. Thermodynamic dynamics and Monte Carlo approaches to problems in chemistry, grained force fields. Principles behind molecular simulations. Molecular methods in a research lab setting. Students will be mentored by a postgraduate student, postdoctoral fellow or technician. At the end of each rotation, the students will give a presentation on the laboratory work done at that time. The lab hours are a minimum of three hours per week to achieve significant experience, but it is expected that students will put in appropriate time to achieve meaningful results in the laboratory setting. Graded as S/U/F.

Chemistry (CHEM)

CHEM 504. Advanced Organic Chemistry I. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An integrated study of certain free radical and ionic reaction mechanisms with emphasis on electronic effects and stereochemical consequences of these reactions.

CHEM 506. Introduction to Spectroscopic Methods in Organic Chemistry. 1.5 Hour. Half-semester course; 3 lecture hours. 1.5 credits. Introduction to mass spectrometry, infrared and 1D 1H and 13C NMR spectroscopy, theory and practice in the elucidation of organic structures.

CHEM 507. Introduction to Natural Products. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of the biosynthetic origins, isolation, structure elucidation and uses of naturally occuring organic compounds. Emphasis is placed upon three major classes of compounds, carboaromatics, terpenes and alkaloids.

CHEM 510. Atomic and Molecular Structure. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MATH 301 and PHYS 208. Survey of the pertinent aspects of quantum mechanics. Line spectra, atomic structure and molecular bonding.

CHEM 511. Chemical Thermodynamics and Kinetics. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The concepts and principles of thermodynamics and their application to chemical problems. The rates and mechanisms of chemical reactions including collision and transition state theories.

CHEM 512. Applied Molecular Modeling. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Atomistic and coarse-grained force fields. Principles behind molecular simulations. Molecular dynamics and Monte Carlo approaches to problems in chemistry, molecular physics, biophysics and nanoscience. Thermodynamic and transport properties. Free energy calculations and rare event dynamics. Hands-on introduction to basic programming and operating systems. Suggested background: physical chemistry (CHEM 303) or thermodynamics with elements of statistical mechanics (PHYS 340, CHEM 511 or CHEM 612).

CHEM 532. Advanced Analytical Chemistry. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Theories and principles of thermodynamics and kinetics relevant to analytical methods, including acid-base, redox, and metal complexation equilibria, nonaqueous systems, kinetics and an introduction to surface chemistry.

CHEM 550. Introduction to Polymer Chemistry. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of macromolecular compounds that includes classifications, methods of preparation, mechanisms, stereochemistry and applications. Physical characterizations, such as structure and property correlations, kinetics, thermodynamics, and molecular weight determinations are emphasized.

CHEM 580. Mechanical Properties of Plastics and Polymers. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course provides a link between the more practical aspects of plastics and the fundamental properties of the polymers from which they are made. Topics covered deal with the structure of polymers with emphasis on relationships with mechanical properties; rubber elasticity; the glass transition and other secondary transitions; time and temperature dependency; yield and fracture; crystallization and morphology; influence of polymer processing on mechanical properties.

CHEM 591. Topics in Chemistry. 1-6 Hours. Semester course; variable hours. 1-6 credits per semester. Maximum total of 9 credits for all topics courses. An in-depth study of a selected topic in chemistry. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester and prerequisites.

CHEM 604. Advanced Organic Chemistry II. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An integrated study of the mechanism and stereochemistry of organic reactions and their application to organic synthesis. Emphasis is placed on addition and condensation reactions, carbanions, carbenes, and other reactive intermediates.

CHEM 605. Physical Organic Chemistry. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The theory and application of physical methods in the study of the behavior of organic compounds. Topics covered include homogeneous kinetics, equilibria, acid-base catalysis, and the quantitative correlation of structure and reactivity as they apply to the understanding of the mechanisms of organic reactions.

CHEM 606. Advanced Spectroscopic Methods in Organic Chemistry. 1.5 Hour. Half-semester course; 3 lecture hours. 1.5 credits. Prerequisite: CHEM 506 or permission of instructor. Advanced spectroscopic techniques including 2-D, multinuclear and solid state NMR; theory and practice in the education of organic structures.

CHEM 610. Applied Quantum Chemistry. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Quantum mechanics applied to chemical problems in UV, IR and NMR spectroscopy and the electronic structures of atoms and molecules; development of the self-consistent field equations. Suggested background: CHEM 510.

CHEM 611. Molecular Spectroscopy. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course teaches the interaction of radiation and molecules; the rotation, vibration and electronic motion of molecules; molecular spectra and recent developments in laser spectroscopy. Suggested background: CHEM 510.
CHEM 612. Modern Statistical Mechanics: Fundamentals and Applications. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Fundamental topics in modern equilibrium and non-equilibrium statistical mechanics, with applications to selected chemical, physical and biological systems. Suggested background: CHEM 510 and 511.

CHEM 615. Chemical Thermodynamics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The study of the laws of thermodynamics and their application to pure phases, solutions and changes in state.

CHEM 616. Chemical Kinetics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of the rates and mechanisms of chemical reactions, reaction rate theory, kinetic theory of gases and theories of catalysis.

CHEM 620. Advanced Inorganic Chemistry I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Application of modern physical techniques for the determination of the symmetry, molecular structure, bonding and reaction mechanisms of inorganic compounds.

CHEM 621. Advanced Inorganic Chemistry II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A coordinated study of synthetic methods, stereochemistry and reaction mechanisms including catalysis of inorganic, organometallic and bioinorganic compounds. Suggested background: CHEM 620.

CHEM 630. Electroanalytical Chemistry. 1.5 Hour.
Modular course; 3 lecture hours. 1.5 credits per module. Presents the theory and application of electroanalytical techniques including cyclic voltammetry, potential step methods and microelectrode voltammetry. Suggested background: CHEM 409 or equivalent experience.

CHEM 631. Separation Science. 1.5 Hour.
Modular course; 3 lecture hours. 1.5 credits per module. Students discuss theories and principles of separation science as applied to chemical problems with emphasis on current techniques, instrumentation and applications. Suggested background: CHEM 409 or equivalent experience.

CHEM 632. Chemometrics. 1.5 Hour.
Modular course; 3 lecture hours. 1.5 credits per module. Computer methods for experimental design and data analysis of spectroscopic, electrochemical and chromatograph data. Topics include sampling theory, detection limits, curve resolution, Fourier transform-based instruments and factor analysis. Suggested background: CHEM 409 or equivalent experience.

CHEM 633. Mass Spectrometry. 1.5 Hour.
Modular course; 3 lecture hours. 1.5 credits per module. Topics include mass spectrometry ionization methods, mass analyzers, theory and applications for ion structure determination. Suggested background: CHEM 409 or equivalent experience.

CHEM 634. Surface Science. 1.5 Hour.
Modular course; 3 lecture hours. 1.5 credits per module. Topics include types of surfaces requiring surface analysis, electron-surface scattering (AES, UPS, XPS, HREELS, LEED, STM, SEM), photon-surface scattering (IR, NMR, EXAFS), molecule/ion-surface scattering (ISS, RMBS), chemisorption techniques and work function measurements. Suggested background: CHEM 409 or equivalent experience.

CHEM 635. Spectrochemical Analysis. 1.5 Hour.
Modular course; 3 lecture hours. 1.5 credits per module. Topics include instrumental components, such as lasers, photomultipliers, array detectors, monochromators, lock-in and boxcar detection, waveguides and optical fibers, atomic spectroscopic methods, fluorescence, Raman and circular dichroism spectroscopies. Suggested background: CHEM 409 or equivalent experience.

CHEM 690. Research Seminar in Chemistry. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 1 credit. May be repeated for credit. In addition to reports presented by students, staff and visiting lecturers, current problems and developments in nanoscience and nanotechnology are discussed. Graded S/U/F.

CHEM 691. Topics in Chemistry. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1.5 credits per semester. Maximum total of 9 credits for all topics courses. An advanced study of selected topic(s) in chemistry. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester and prerequisites.

CHEM 692. Chemistry Seminar Presentation. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 1 credit. May be repeated for credit. In addition to reports presented by students, staff and visiting lecturers, current problems and developments in chemistry are discussed.

CHEM 693. Chemistry Perspectives and Ethics. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. The objectives of this course are to prepare graduate students for a career in the physical sciences and develop graduate student competency in the responsible conduct of research from both ethical and safety standpoints. Graded as S/U/F.

CHEM 694. Directed Research. 1-15 Hours.
Semester course; 1-15 credits. May be repeated for credit. Research leading to the M.S. and Ph.D. degree.

CHEM 695. Investigations in Current Chemistry Literature. 0.5 Hours.
Semester course; 1-15 credits. May be repeated for credit. May not be used toward undergraduate English major if student has taken ENGL 351/TEDU 351. May not be used to fulfill literature requirement for M.A. in English or M.F.A. in Creative Writing, but may be taken as elective credit. Crosslisted as: TEDU 528.
ENGL 532. Applied English Linguistics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisite: ENGL 390. Application of linguistic theories and methods
to selected teaching problems, such as teaching English grammar and
usage, teaching English as a second or foreign language, or teaching
standard English to students who speak different dialects. Crosslisted as: ENED 532.

ENGL 550. Studies in Linguistics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit.
Prerequisite: ENGL 390. A general introduction to one area of linguistic
study, such as pronunciation, grammar, stylistics, dialects, usage
standards, lexicography, onomastics or semantics.

ENGL 552. Teaching English as a Second Language. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides students who plan
to teach English to people whose native language is not English with a
variety of instructional/learning strategies. Presents and explores current
approaches and methodology, as these relate to linguistic features and
pedagogy. Crosslisted as: TEDU 552/LING 552.

ENGL 560. Studies in British Literature and Culture. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Covers important topics
in British literary and cultural studies including major literary periods,
genres, major authors or literary movements. May be repeated for credit
with permission of instructor.

ENGL 570. Special Topics in American Literature and Culture. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Covers important topics in
American literary and cultural studies including major literary periods,
genres, authors and literary movements. May be repeated for credit with
permission of instructor.

ENGL 601. Young Adult Literature. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examination of literature
written for young adults, literature appropriate for young people in middle
schools and high schools. Focuses on the content, characteristics and
teaching of such literature. Crosslisted as: ENED 601.

ENGL 605. Introduction to Scholarship in English Studies. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces the practice
of research and scholarly discourse in English studies. Emphasizes
scholarly resources (printed and electronic) and textual studies.

ENGL 606. Literary Criticism. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A comparative study of
critical approaches to literary texts (reader-oriented, new critical and
formalist, psychoanalytic, archetypal, feminist and gender-oriented,
structuralist, poststructuralist, new historicist and postcolonial). These
approaches will be evaluated in terms of their capacity to address major
components of the literary process (author, text, reader, history, culture);
they will also be tested on selected literary texts. Some attention is given
to the historical development of criticism, but the primary focus is on its
theoretical claims, methodologies and aims.

ENGL 611. Authors. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit.
A study of the relationships among authorship (in material or discursive
form), texts and cultural contexts.

ENGL 614. Cultural Discourses. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit.
A study of contemporary literary and nonliterary texts produced within a
designated period of time.

ENGL 620. Intertextuality. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit.
A study of texts, potentially of disparate genres and contexts, focused
on similar theme, concern or issue. Will examine both foundational,
originating texts and subsequent reactions.

ENGL 624. Texts and Contexts. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit.
A study of the ways in which texts shape, reflect and inform their cultural
contexts.

ENGL 627. Genres. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit. A
sustained and detailed examination of one or more genres.

ENGL 629. Form and Theory of Poetry. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated once for
credit. Will address a number of key issues concerning the structure
and function of poetic discourse and will provide readers
and writers of poetry an opportunity to study and practice a broad range
of poetic forms and techniques, as well as to explore various genre
conventions and their thematic and rhetorical significance. Students may
study poems from various periods, with some focus on the contemporary,
and apply to them the insights offered by major theorists of poetry
and poetics. They also may write imitations, parodies and responses
examining and demonstrating poetic approaches.

ENGL 630. Form and Theory of Fiction. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated once for
credit. Will address a number of key issues concerning the structure,
conventions and function of narrative discourse and will seek to
give readers and writers of fiction an opportunity to study a broad range
of narrative forms, as well as to explore genre conventions and
their thematic and rhetorical significance. Students will read stories
and novels from various historical periods, with some focus on the
contemporary, and apply to them the insights offered by major theorists
of narrative. They also may write imitations, parodies and responses
examining and demonstrating the aesthetics of fiction.

ENGL 631. Form and Theory of Creative Nonfiction. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated once for
credit. Will address a number of key issues concerning the structure,
conventions and function of varied types of creative nonfiction and will
seek to give readers and writers an opportunity to study a broad range
of forms in the genre, which may include magazine articles, research-
based reportage, New Journalism, memoir, biography, autobiography,
the meditative essay, the personal essay, the lyric essay and others, as
well as to explore genre conventions and their thematic and rhetorical
significance. Students will read across this range of forms, with some
focus on contemporary writing, and apply to them insights offered by
major theorists of the genre. They also may write imitations, parodies
and responses examining and demonstrating the aesthetics of creative
nonfiction writing.

ENGL 632. Community Writing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course teaches students
how to use research in rhetoric and composition to design and deliver
a community writing project that is mutually empowering, knowledge
generating and publicly oriented – designed to inspire social change.

ENGL 636. Teaching Writing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines theories and
practices of teaching writing, with emphasis on the connections between
theory and practice. Crosslisted as: ENED 636.
ENGL 637. Theories of Rhetoric and Composition. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ENGL 636. A study of theory and scholarship in rhetoric and writing.

ENGL 638. Responding to Writing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course studies theories and practices for responding to expository and persuasive nonfiction texts, both students’ and professionals’, academic and creative.

ENGL 652. Studies in Writing and Rhetoric. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit. A study of an area or specialized issue in rhetoric and/or writing such as the history of rhetoric, theories of invention, qualitative research methods in writing, or studies in style.

ENGL 661. Themes in Interdisciplinary Studies. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit. A study in depth of a theme, topic, or concept involving two or more disciplines.

ENGL 666. Creative Writing: Fiction. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 workshop hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: graduate standing in M.F.A. program or permission of the Creative Writing Committee. All students seeking to enroll must contact the creative writing M.F.A. director. Study of the art of fiction writing, with the goal of producing professionally acceptable and publishable fiction. Workshop members shall produce a substantial amount of writing, short stories or a portion of a novel, and in addition shall be able to evaluate and articulate the strengths of their own work. Graded as pass/fail.

ENGL 667. Creating Writing: Poetry. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 workshop hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: graduate standing in M.F.A. program or permission of the Creative Writing Committee. All students seeking to enroll must contact the creative writing M.F.A. director. Study of the art of poetry writing, with the goal of producing professionally acceptable and publishable poetry. Workshop members shall produce a substantial amount of poetry and in addition shall be able to evaluate and articulate the strengths of their own work. Graded as pass/fail.

ENGL 668. Creative Writing: Drama. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 workshop hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: graduate standing in M.F.A. program or permission of the Creative Writing Committee. All students seeking to enroll must contact the creative writing M.F.A. director. Study of the art of playwriting with the goal of creating plays that are suitable for production. Workshop members shall produce a substantial volume of writing, one-act plays, or a portion of a longer play, and, in addition, shall be able to evaluate and articulate the strengths of their own work. Graded as pass/fail.

ENGL 670. Literary Editing and Publishing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit. A course in which the student learns to edit fiction, poetry, drama, or nonfiction. Genre covered will vary from semester to semester. Attention will be paid to the ways in which editors work with writers in all the technical aspects of editing, revising and publishing. Ethical responsibilities of editors to authors and their texts will be stressed. Questions considering the publishing world at large will be considered.

ENGL 671. Film and Television Scripts. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Study of the theory and practice of producing shooting scripts for television and motion pictures. Emphasis will be placed on the various kinds of scripts most commonly used by directors and cinematographers (e.g., silent, narrated and dramatized). Attention will also be paid to the ways in which script writers adapt material to audiences, and the ways in which strict time frames are imposed on scripts. Students will write scripts of various kinds and lengths.

ENGL 672. Writing Nonfiction. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Study and practice of writing one or more modes of nonfiction on the professional or preprofessional level, under critical supervision. Emphasis will be placed on such matters as organization, style, revision, and adaptation to particular audiences and publications. Possible kinds of writing could include reports; writing based on statistics; writing textbooks; writing separate chapters of books, and writing reviews, criticism and advocacy materials.

ENGL 673. Teaching Creative Writing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The course is intended for those who teach or plan to teach creative writing. A comparative analysis of different approaches to the teaching of creative writing. Attention will be paid to the different ways in which elements such as dialogue, sound pattern, scene development, line break, meter, voice and distance can be taught.

ENGL 692. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
1-3 hours. Variable credit. Maximum of 6 credits. Prerequisite: permission from department chair. For students in English/English education to pursue, in depth, a particular problem or topic about which an interest or talent has been demonstrated.

ENGL 694. Internship in Writing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 6 practicum hours. 3 credits. Permission of director of M.A. program required. Analyses and practices of professional writing in settings such as business, government and industry.

ENGL 695. Directed Study/Major Project and Presentation. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May not be repeated for credit. Students who choose not to write a thesis will complete a substantial project with a graduate faculty adviser and share the results of his or her research in a public presentation. This project may be an expansion or reworking of a seminar paper or group of seminar papers and must contain a statement of the theoretical, critical or methodological issues important to the project. An abstract of the research will be submitted three to four weeks before the presentation date scheduled for that semester and must be approved by the M.A. committee. The presentation will take place before the adviser, M.A. committee members, and interested faculty and students on the date designated by the M.A. director. Graded PR. Note: Students who present a paper at a national conference or publish in a reputable journal may be exempted from the presentation upon the approval of the M.A. committee.

ENGL 798. Thesis. 1-3 Hours.
Continuous courses; hours to be arranged. Credits to be arranged; 1-3 credits per course. Preparation of a thesis or project based on independent research or study and supervised by a graduate adviser.
ENGL 799. Thesis. 1-3 Hours.
Continuous courses; hours to be arranged. Credits to be arranged; 1-3 credits per course. Preparation of a thesis or project based on independent research or study and supervised by a graduate adviser.

Foreign Languages (FRLG)
FRLG 510. Language Learning and Technology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces the variety of ways technology can be used to enhance language instruction and student learning. Targeted technologies include audio/visual media, language learning software, the Internet and multimedia resources. Attention also will be given to considerations of learning style, curricular integration and enhancement.

FRLG 575. Intercultural Communication. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An experientially oriented seminar for persons preparing for or in careers necessitating intercultural communication among persons of differing cultural and/or national backgrounds. Special attention is given to teachers and other professionals who work with a clientele from Latin America, the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. American cultural patterns broaden understanding of specific groups and engagement in intercultural communication. Crosslisted as: TEDU 575.

FRLG 591. Topics in Foreign Languages. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 lecture hours. 1-4 credits. A detailed study of selected topics in one or more of the foreign language or comparative courses offered by the department.

Forensic Science (FRSC)
FRSC 505. Forensic Entomology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 1 laboratory hour. 3 credits. Enrollment requires permission of instructor. Course focuses on proper collection, preservation and identification of entomological evidence. Students collect entomological evidence from a mock crime scene and utilize these specimens for estimation of minimum postmortem interval. There is a significant laboratory component.

FRSC 510. Developmental Osteology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: FRSC 300; ANTH 307 and ANTZ 307; ANTH 310; graduate standing in forensic science; or permission of instructor. Examines the human musculoskeletal system and its development from an embryonic state to the adult form. Students learn the developmental course of each bone in the human skeleton and those of the associated soft tissue structures. Students are provided with training in the recognition of skeletal elements and bony landmarks, siding skeletal elements (and fragments thereof), knowledge of muscle structure and function and knowledge of nervous and venous structures associated with bony landmarks. Developmental defects and trauma associated with birth and child abuse are discussed. Juvenile age estimation from bones and radiographic images are emphasized.

FRSC 515. Advanced Forensic Anthropology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: FRSC 510; ANTH 307 and ANTZ 307; or permission of instructor. Focuses on estimation of the biological profile, statistical basis of estimations, pathological analysis, diagnosis of antemortem and perimortem trauma, human identification in mass casualty situations, age estimation of living individuals and writing of case reports. Techniques discussed will include macroscopic and microscopic analysis of morphology, histological analysis, radiographs and CT scans. There is a significant laboratory component.

FRSC 520. Forensic Fire Investigation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: FRSC 375 with a minimum grade of C (for undergraduate students), FRSC 670 or equivalent. Examines the specialized field of forensic fire investigation including on-scene investigation, fire theory, accelerant-assisted burn patterns and expert-witness testimony.

FRSC 555. Scientific Crime Scene Investigation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and/or laboratory hours. 3 credits. Presents the theory and techniques of scientific crime scene investigation including: recognition, documentation, collection and enhancement of physical evidence. A comprehensive introduction to the use of physical evidence for crime scene reconstruction is presented.

FRSC 565. Forensic Taphonomy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: FRSC 309 with a minimum grade of C (for undergraduate students), FRSC 565 or equivalent. An advanced study of the methods and techniques of crime scene investigation with an emphasis on crime scene reconstruction by the use of physical evidence. Course will include extensive practical applications with mock crime scenes.

FRSC 566. Advanced Crime Scene Investigation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: FRSC 309 with a minimum grade of C (for undergraduate students), FRSC 565 or equivalent. An advanced study of the methods and techniques of crime scene investigation with an emphasis on crime scene reconstruction by the use of physical evidence. Course will include extensive practical applications with mock crime scenes.

FRSC 567. Forensic Science Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Must be repeated a minimum of three times for three credits. A seminar course featuring presentations by faculty, crime laboratory staff, students and visiting lecturers. Instruction includes discussions of research and developments and current topics in various forensic science disciplines and related fields.

FRSC 570. Forensic Science Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Must be repeated a minimum of three times for three credits. A seminar course featuring presentations by faculty, crime laboratory staff, students and visiting lecturers. Instruction includes discussions of research and developments and current topics in various forensic science disciplines and related fields.

FRSC 575. Topics in Forensic Science. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable lecture hours. 1-3 credits; maximum of 6 credits for all forensic science topics courses may be applied to major. Prerequisite: graduate standing in the forensic science program or permission of instructor required for enrollment. A study in selected topics in forensic science. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester and additional prerequisites.

FRSC 570. Forensic Science Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Must be repeated a minimum of three times for three credits. A seminar course featuring presentations by faculty, crime laboratory staff, students and visiting lecturers. Instruction includes discussions of research and developments and current topics in various forensic science disciplines and related fields.

FRSC 580. Applied Statistics for Forensic Science. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: STAT 210, STAT 212 or equivalent statistics knowledge; or graduate standing in forensic science. The course will focus on the forensic applications of data visualization methods, hypothesis testing, analysis of variance, correlation measures, regression, multivariate analyses and concepts in database "matching" procedures. Techniques discussed will include ANOVA, MANOVA, principal component analysis, non-metric multidimensional scaling, discriminant function analysis and machine learning/neural network analysis.

FRSC 591. Topics in Forensic Science. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable lecture hours. 1-3 credits; maximum of 6 credits for all forensic science topics courses may be applied to major. Prerequisite: graduate standing in the forensic science program or permission of instructor required for enrollment. A study in selected topics in forensic science. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester and additional prerequisites.

FRSC 607. Forensic Taphonomy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on the process and sequence of human decomposition, as well as the burial, water disposal and surface dispersal of human remains. The course covers current issues in taphonomic research and practical application, including both domestic and international examples of mass disasters and mass graves. An understanding of the principles of archaeological stratigraphy is an integral part of the course. There is a significant laboratory component.

FRSC 644. Forensic Toxicology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Lecture and demonstrations in which common poisons and groups of poisons are discussed as to detection, diagnosis and treatment of poisoning. Demonstrations include basic principles of analytical toxicology, forensic science and courtroom testimony. Crosslisted as: PHTX 644.
FRSC 661. Analysis of Pattern Evidence. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: FRSC 673 and FRSZ 673L or equivalents. Covers topics in pattern evidence analysis including analysis of latent prints, impression evidence and bloodstain pattern analysis as applied to forensic casework. The course covers both the theoretical and practical aspects, using lectures and laboratory exercises focusing on the collection, analysis and interpretation of pattern evidence.

FRSC 662. Firearm and Toolmark Identification. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: FRSC 673 and FRSZ 673L or equivalents. Covers topics in firearm and toolmark identification as applied to forensic casework. The course covers both the theoretical and practical aspects, using lectures and laboratory exercises.

FRSC 663. Forensic Medicine. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Covers the fundamentals of forensic medicine including topics such as forensic death investigations, postmortem changes, time-of-death determinations, identification of unknown human remains and the forensic pathology of natural and traumatic deaths in adults and children. The characteristics and diagnosis of various types of trauma as well as the characteristics of common natural diseases that cause sudden death will be presented.

FRSC 670. Forensic Evidence and Criminal Procedure. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Presents the law of criminal procedure and rules of evidence as applied to forensic science. Explores issues of scientific versus legal burdens of proof, legal terminology and trial procedure.

FRSC 671. Instrumentation in Forensic Chemistry. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Theory and applications of chromatography, mass spectrometry and spectroscopy as used in modern crime laboratories. Instruction will focus on instrumental analysis as applied to drug analysis, toxicology, fire debris identification and general trace evidence examination.

FRSC 672. Advanced Drug Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and/or laboratory hours. 3 credits. Isolation and identification of abused drugs emphasizing the analysis of unknowns, problems encountered in analysis and chain of custody issues.

FRSC 673. Forensic Microscopy. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Establishes the foundation for the theory of microscopy. The knowledge acquired in this course can be applied to forensic disciplines such as firearms examinations, forensic biology, controlled substances, questioned documents and trace evidence.

FRSC 675. Forensic Serology and DNA Analysis. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and/or laboratory hours. 2 credits. Presents the theory and methodology used for the examination and identification of body fluid stains and determination of species. Provides students an introduction to the theory and methodology of forensic DNA analysis as well as forensic DNA quality control issues. Instruction will focus on molecular biology techniques as they are applied in a forensic DNA crime laboratory setting.

FRSC 676. Advanced Forensic DNA Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Focuses on the specific principles and modern procedures used for analysis of forensic nuclear and mitochondrial DNA evidence. Other topics include current research and development for forensic DNA instrumentation and applications, statistical interpretation of results and case report writing. Students gain individualized, hands-on experience with DNA procedures and instrumentation in the laboratory exercises. Students will process mock forensic casework.

FRSC 677. Professional Practices and Expert Testimony. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: must have successfully completed a minimum of 18 credit hours in the forensic science master's degree program. Topics related to professional practices in the forensic science field will be covered, including ethics, bias, quality assurance, laboratory management and professional development. Individual and group activities related to these topics will be completed. Additionally, this course will examine forensic expert testimony in the courtroom, communication of scientific findings to a general audience, trial preparation and cross-examination in moot court format.

FRSC 680. Forensic Psychiatry. 3 Hours.

FRSC 681. Analysis of Fire Debris and Explosives. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: FRSC 671, FRSC 673 and FRSZ 673L or equivalents. Presents the collection, analysis and interpretation of fire debris and explosives as they are applied in forensic casework. Covers the theoretical and practical aspects. Laboratory exercises include hands-on instruction with appropriate instrumentation and techniques, including stereomicroscopy, gas chromatography, GC-MS, thin layer chromatography, HPLC and FT-IR.

FRSC 682. Forensic Analysis of Paint and Polymers. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 5 lecture/laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: FRSC 671, FRSC 673 and FRSZ 673L or equivalents. Covers topics in paint and polymer analysis including collection, classification and analysis of paint and fiber evidence as applied to forensic casework. The course covers the theoretical and practical aspects, using lectures and laboratory exercises. Laboratory exercises include hands-on instruction with appropriate instrumentation and techniques, including stereomicroscopy, microchemical testing, fluorescence molecular tomography, fluorescence microscopy, FT-IR and polarizing light microscopy.

FRSC 690. Scientific Writing. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Enrollment restricted to students in the M.S. in Forensic Science program. Focuses on scientific writing techniques, including abstracts, posters, review articles and research proposals. Emphasis will be placed on writing for scientific journals in forensic science and other peer-reviewed journals.
FRSC 692. Forensic Science Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. Maximum credit for all independent study applicable to degree is 6 credits. The amount of credit must be determined, and written permission of instructor and program director must be obtained prior to registration. This course is designed to provide an opportunity for independent laboratory research in an area of forensic science or related scientific discipline. The end products of this experience will include an oral presentation at a campus seminar and a written report.

FRSC 693. Current Topics in Forensic Science. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. May be repeated for credit. A course designed to develop skills in reading journal manuscripts and delivering oral presentations in conjunction with an in-depth study of a current topic in forensic science. Student will conduct library research, present talks and lead discussions on the selected topic. See the Schedule of Classes for specific current topics course to be offered each semester and prerequisites.

FRSC 792. Research Techniques. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 3 laboratory hours. 1 credit. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate standing in forensic sciences and with permission of faculty mentor. Application of basic laboratory methods used in forensic science to the investigation of topics of interest. Emphasis on experimental design, data collection and analysis, communication skills, and critical thinking. Graded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.

FRSC 793. Directed Research in Forensic Science. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable laboratory hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisite: must have successfully completed a minimum of 18 credit hours in the forensic science master's degree program or have permission of the instructor. Students must apply to the program director for this directed research experience one semester in advance of enrollment. A capstone course in which students will conduct independent, original laboratory research in a forensic specialization area of interest, while also gaining practical experience in crime laboratory practices and methods. This laboratory research experience will culminate in a presentation of the project results at a campus seminar and/or professional conference, and a written technical report of publishable quality. A minimum of 300 hours of laboratory research and a minimum of 3 credits are required for graduation.

Forensic Science Lab (FRSZ)
FRSZ 673. Forensic Microscopy Laboratory. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 3 laboratory hours. 1 credit. Establishes the foundation for the application and methodology of microscopy. The knowledge acquired in this course can be applied to forensic disciplines such as firearms examinations, forensic biology, controlled substances, questioned documents and trace evidence. The course consists of laboratory exercises and demonstrations.

FRSZ 675. Forensic Serology and DNA Analysis Laboratory. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 3 laboratory hours. 1 credit. Presents the chemical, immunological and microscopic laboratory techniques commonly used for the examination and identification of body fluid stains and determination of species. Provides working knowledge and hands-on practice with basic forensic DNA procedures, including DNA extractions, quantitation, PCR amplification analysis/genotyping. Instruction focuses on molecular biology techniques as applied in a forensic DNA laboratory.

FRSZ 792. Research Techniques. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 3 laboratory hours. 1 credit. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate standing in forensic science and permission of faculty mentor. Application of basic laboratory methods used in forensic science to the investigation of topics of interest. Emphasis on experimental design, data collection and analysis, communication skills, and critical thinking. Graded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.

French (FREN)
FREN 500. French for Graduate Students. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is designed to prepare graduate students for the reading knowledge examination for higher degrees. Each graduate department will determine the nature and form of certifying examination.

FREN 501. French Communication. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 lecture hours. 1-4 credits. An intensive study of communication in French. Variable credits; primarily oral, written and listening skills.

FREN 511. French Civilization. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 lecture hours. 1-4 credits. Prerequisite: functional fluency in French since the class will be taught in French. A comprehensive study of the civilization and culture of France and its global expressions.

Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies (GSWS)
GSWS 501. Feminist Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This seminar provides an overview of the theories of feminisms.

GSWS 602. Feminist Research Epistemology and Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course explores the implications of feminist theorizing across disciplinary and cultural contexts for both epistemology (theories of knowledge) and methods (theories and approaches in the research process). Students will examine how knowledge and power intersect, how gender theory and feminist politics influence research, how the knower influences knowledge production and how social location shapes inquiry. Students will experiment with feminist methods and approaches to researching issues related to gender, sexuality and women, and ethical considerations as these issues affect vulnerable populations.

GSWS 620. Theorizing Sexuality. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course examines and explores constructions of human sexuality (sexualities) and theorizes how these constructions operate within contemporary culture.

GSWS 622. Women and Public Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This seminar differentiates theories of feminisms and explores the effects of policies, or their absence, for women in the U.S., briefly examining theories of policymaking and the policy process in relation to feminist theories and the feminist project.

GSWS 624. Gender and Cultural Production. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This seminar takes as a starting point an understanding of culture as the expressive practice of meaning making that lies at the intersection of art, imagination, technology, space and politics.
GSWS 691. Topics in Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies. 1-3 Hours. Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Course may be repeated with different topics as approved. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. An in-depth study of a selected topic in gender, sexuality and/or women's studies. See Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

GSWS 692. Independent Study. 1-4 Hours. Semester course; variable hours, variable credit. Maximum 4 credits per semester. Maximum total of 4 credits in all independent study courses. Prerequisites: completion of 6 credits in gender, sexuality and women's studies courses.

German (GRMN)

GRMN 500. German for Graduate Students. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is designed to prepare graduate students for the reading knowledge examination for higher degrees. Each graduate department will determine the nature and form of the certifying examination.

GRMN 502. German Communication. 1-4 Hours. Semester course; 1-4 lecture hours. 1-4 credits. An intensive study of communication in German. The content of this course will emphasize primarily oral, written and listening skills.

GRMN 512. German Civilization. 1-4 Hours. Semester course; 1-4 lecture hours. 1-4 credits. Prerequisite: functional fluency in German since the class will be taught in German. A comprehensive study of the civilization and culture of Germany and its global expressions.

Health and Movement Sciences (HEMS)

HEMS 500. Motor Development of Young Children. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores the development of small children, preschool, kindergarten and first-grade children through physical education. Emphasis will be on the construction of a program of motor development for each of these three groups. The programs will be based on the research findings in such areas as perceptual-motor development, motor learning, educational psychology and others. Those students and teachers in the fields of physical education, special education and elementary education should find this course useful in developing programs of motor development for their students.

HEMS 505. Contemporary Issues in Health. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on contemporary issues related to lifestyle and health behavior. Emphasizes the factors that influence health and the lifestyle changes that promote and maintain optimal health. Issues may include sexuality, nutrition, chronic and communicable diseases, aging, environmental health, policy, and health care systems.

HEMS 507. Teaching Health in Schools. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines health issues, family influences, teenage attitudes and signs of progress in health behavior. School health programs, including remedial, classroom instruction and environmental aspects of school life also are considered.

HEMS 514. Physical Activity for Special Populations. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides fundamental information to students at the graduate level on physical activity programming for children with disabilities. Course content focuses on programming techniques and methods that are most effective in meeting the specific physical activity needs of the individual child. Emphasis is on Public Law 94-142 provisions currently affecting physical education programming for special populations; in particular, the development of specially designed physical education programs, individualized education programs and programming in the least restrictive environment.

HEMS 521. Pathomechanics of Sport Injuries. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Addresses musculoskeletal and sports injury mechanisms from a pathomechanical and pathophysiological perspective. Focuses on acute trauma and repetitive stress injuries to the musculoskeletal system. Emphasizes evaluation and diagnostic procedures and the pathophysiology and evaluation of mild head injuries commonly acquired as part of physical activity.

HEMS 550. Exercise, Nutrition and Weight Management. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an in-depth analysis of the scientific principles associated with weight management strategies. Emphasizes the separate and combined effects of exercise, nutrition and behavioral interventions relative to weight loss, weight gain and weight maintenance. Includes life cycle nutrition, childhood obesity, adult obesity and chronic disease, weight management intervention strategies, eating disordered behavior and the female athlete triad.

HEMS 591. Topical Seminar. 1-3 Hours. Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. A seminar intended for group study by students interested in examining topics, issues or problems related to health, physical education, exercise science, recreation and sport. Crosslisted as: SPTL 591.

HEMS 600. Introduction to Research Design in Health and Movement Sciences. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an understanding of the basic knowledge and methodology of research in health and movement sciences. Develops the ability to critically read and evaluate research, acquire a conceptual understanding of statistics and develop an empirical study related to healthy and diseased populations.

HEMS 601. Movement Physiology. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HPEX 375 or equivalent. Investigates the physiological processes in relation to bodily exercises in everyday life and sports activities. Physiological changes in the human organism due to movement. Investigation and application of research to health and movement sciences. Students must design, conduct and write a pilot study.

HEMS 602. Statistical Applications in Health and Movement Sciences. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Presents theory and techniques involved in the analysis and interpretation of data pertinent to research in health and movement sciences. Includes statistics applied to data encountered in published health and movement sciences research.

HEMS 603. Applied Fitness and Nutrition for Health and Movement Science Professionals. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An in-depth study of applied fitness and nutrition principles and practices. Emphasizes the application of knowledge and fundamental fitness and nutrition principles.
HEMS 604. Nutrition for Health and Physical Activity. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HPEX 350 or equivalent. Provides an in-depth examination of the basic nutrients and their effects on health, fitness and sport performance. Emphasizes an understanding of the biochemistry of metabolism and knowledge of the current research related to nutrition, health and exercise performance.

HEMS 605. Psychology of Physical Activity. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Introductory psychology, personal health or equivalent. Examines psychological issues related to exercise and physical activity. Includes individual and group motivation theory and techniques, leadership effectiveness, mental health, mental skills training, injury rehabilitation, eating disorders, exercise adherence, addiction, over training and use of ergogenic aids. Emphasizes examining current research and applications of psychological principles and knowledge in a physical activity setting.

HEMS 606. Psychosocial Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines social and psychological issues in sport and physical activity, with emphasis on socialization and motivation for sport and physical activity; patterns of participation and opportunities related to race, gender and social class; mental skills training for performance enhancement; aggression and violence in sport and society; and the role of sport and physical activity in the educational system. Emphasizes examining current research and applied methods in addressing these issues.

HEMS 610. Laboratory Techniques in Rehabilitation Science. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HPEX 375 or equivalent. Laboratory-based course examining the various procedures related to measurement and experimentation in human performance. Includes examination of instruments designed to assess cardiovascular, musculoskeletal and pulmonary performance. Emphasis is given to application of instrumentation to physical training in healthy and diseased populations and to treatment and rehabilitation in a clinical setting.

HEMS 611. Biomechanics of Human Motion. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOL 205 or equivalent. Recommended: PHYS 201, or HPEX 374 or 373, or equivalents. Application of the knowledge and methods of mechanics in the study of the structure and function of the human body as applied to sport, physical activity and rehabilitation. Topics include kinematics, kinetics and methods of biomechanical analysis. Crosslisted as: REMS 611.

HEMS 612. Administration and Supervision of Physical Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Gives guidelines for administrative and supervisory policies and problems in physical education and explores observation techniques, standards for judging instruction, the supervisory conference and cooperative supervision. Emphasis is placed upon the common problems met by administrators and supervisors.

HEMS 613. General Motor Ability Evaluation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Investigates the theory of the construction of evaluative instruments in physical education with emphasis on a critical examination of existing measurement devices. Emphasis on the use of measurement as a tool for improving physical education programs.

HEMS 614. Motor Assessment for Special Populations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HEMS 514 or permission of instructor. Provides the student with basic information regarding motor tests and observational instruments that assess and evaluate special populations. Focuses on the analysis of these tests as to their 1) main components and items purporting to measure these components; 2) administration, i.e., time, administrator’s experience, group size, validity and reliability and standardization; and 3) use in establishing and monitoring annual goals and short-term objectives for an individualized education program.

HEMS 615. Orthopaedics and Therapeutics in Sports Medicine. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides in-depth exposure to procedures used in orthopaedics and physical medicine. Includes lectures and presentations by physicians, surgeons and other health care personnel. Focuses on linking diagnostic and surgical techniques used in orthopaedics and physical medicine to the rehabilitative treatment plan. Emphasizes the diagnosis and treatment of neuromuscular diseases and adaptive technologies for disabled populations.

HEMS 620. Motor Learning and Performance. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Analysis of early patterns of behavior and the development of physical skills in childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. Consideration of differences in motor proficiency and factors affecting the acquisition of motor skills and concepts of motor learning with reference to the improvement of instructional practices.

HEMS 621. Sports Medicine. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HEMS 521 or permission of instructor. Designed to give the student knowledge in the advanced principles of prevention and treatment of athletic injuries. The course includes advanced first aid techniques and the more sophisticated means of athletic care and prevention. Students are exposed to such modalities as mechanical therapies, thermal therapy, cryotherapy, hydrotherapy and electrotherapy. One major component of the course deals with therapeutic exercise and its use in the rehabilitation of the injured athlete.

HEMS 637. Advanced Technology in Teaching Health and Physical Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to prepare students to apply knowledge and skills in using technology in the physical education setting. Emphasis is placed on creating lessons using pedometers, downloadable heart-rate monitors, flip cams, computerized observational systems and the pocket PC. Focus is also on the use of local county grade-reporting systems.

HEMS 640. Health Care Organization and Delivery in the U.S. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an overview of the U.S. health care system and its many diverse components. Within the context of the U.S. health system, the course also provides students a perspective on the growing role of health behavior coaches as part of the interdisciplinary health team, the variety of employment opportunities and the business development potential of the field.
HEMS 641. Human Disease Prevention, Prevalence and Lifestyle Risk Factors. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines major categories of diseases, i.e., infectious, noninfectious, acute and chronic, including significant examples in each category. Current modalities for the prevention, treatment and control of diseases will be studied. In addition, the course will provide learning experiences to prepare students to convey information as health behavior coaches to a variety of audiences, including individual patients/clients, groups, specific priority populations and the general public.

HEMS 642. Theoretical Foundations of Health Behavior Change. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Investigates the relationship between health and behavior, with emphasis on both theory and application. The course addresses the theoretical foundations of behavior change, including an overview of leading theories as well as critical evaluation of their utility in promoting health behavior change.

HEMS 643. Fundamentals of Motivational Interviewing. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Restricted to health behavior coaching certificate students only. Introduces students to the fundamentals of motivational interviewing, a state-of-the-art, evidence-based communication and counseling technique. MI is designed to build clients’ and patients’ inner motivation and self-efficacy for positive health behavior change and maintenance. This course will expose students to the theory, principles and skills of MI that can be utilized with individuals or with groups.

HEMS 644. Advanced Motivational Interviewing. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: HEMS 643. Expands the students’ exposure, understanding and practice of motivational interviewing, a state-of-the-art, evidence-based communication and counseling technique. MI is designed to build clients’ and patients’ inner motivation and self-efficacy for positive health behavior change and maintenance. This course will reiterate the importance of the theoretical foundation underlying MI, examine applications of MI and provide opportunities for advancing students’ skills through role-playing specific to health behavior change.

HEMS 645. Application of Motivational Interviewing in Clinical Settings. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisites: HEMS 644, HEMS 647 and HEMS 648. Expands the student’s knowledge, skills and competencies in motivational interviewing by focusing on the utilization of this communication and counseling technique in clinical settings (i.e., health/medical care settings). Students will be exposed to applications of MI that can be employed with individual patients or clients who present with single disease processes or comorbidities.

HEMS 646. Application of Motivational Interviewing in Group and Community Settings. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisites: HEMS 644, HEMS 647, HEMS 649. Expands the student’s knowledge, skills and competencies in motivational interviewing by focusing on the utilization of this communication and counseling technique in group or community settings (e.g., support groups, groups in community organizations, groups in faith-based organizations, etc.). Students will be exposed to applications of MI that can be employed with groups who present with common health challenges or groups who are concerned with health promotion and disease prevention.

HEMS 647. Concepts and Applications in Chronic Disease Self-management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: HEMS 640, HEMS 641, HEMS 642 and HEMS 643. Evidence-based course designed to enhance the student’s knowledge of lifestyle factors such as physical activity, nutrition, weight management, stress management, medication compliance and tobacco cessation, etc., as they relate to the self-management of the most prevalent chronic diseases that affect the U.S. Students will learn hands-on skills to assist patients/clients across the lifespan.

HEMS 648. Health Behavior Change Counseling Techniques for Clinical Interventions. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: HEMS 640, HEMS 641, HEMS 642, HEMS 643. Focuses on the development of knowledge and skills that are essential to effective interpersonal communication and counseling, which will lay the foundation for effective health behavior coaching. Emphasis will be placed on fundamental counseling techniques and motivational interviewing and their applications to individual level health behavior change.

HEMS 649. Planning, Implementing and Evaluating Group/Community Health Behavior Change Interventions. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: HEMS 640, HEMS 641, HEMS 642 and HEMS 643. Addresses the fundamentals of planning, implementing and evaluating health behavior change interventions in a variety of group or community settings, including support groups, worksite health promotion groups, community groups, faith-based groups, etc. Students will operationalize and apply the knowledge and skills essential to the effective practice of certified health behavior coaches.

HEMS 660. Neuromuscular Performance. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: HEMS/REMS 601 and HEMS 611. Examines the interrelationships between the musculoskeletal and neuromuscular systems. Includes examination of normal and abnormal biomechanics of the musculoskeletal system, biomechanical factors related to human performance, as well as acute and chronic adaptations of the neuromuscular system. Emphasizes how these principles can be applied to physical training in healthy and diseased populations and treatment and rehabilitation in the sports medicine setting. Crosslisted as: REMS 660.

HEMS 675. Clinical Exercise Physiology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Examines theoretical and functional techniques of graded exercise testing for functional and/or diagnostic assessment. Topics include pulmonary, cardiovascular, respiratory and myocardial physiology, and the principles and skills of exercise prescription based on metabolic calculations.

HEMS 690. Research Seminar in Health and Movement Sciences. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 3 credits. Provides opportunities for presentation and discussion of current research and topics of interest in health and movement sciences. Presents relevant research for discussion delivered by guest researchers, faculty and students.

HEMS 691. Topics in Health and Movement Sciences. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. May be repeated for 9 credits. Check with division head for specific prerequisites. Examines specialized issues, topics, readings or problems in health and movement sciences.
HIST 591. Special Topics in History. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. An intensive study of a selected topic in history.

HIST 601. Historiography and Methodology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of the development of history as a discipline from ancient times to the present. The course examines the evolution of historical theory and philosophy, great historians, schools of interpretation, and problems of historical methodology. This course is a prerequisite for research seminars.

HIST 611. Readings in American History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Analysis of major studies and interpretative trends in a particular area of American history through readings and class discussions. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

HIST 615. Readings in European History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Analysis of major studies and interpretative trends in a particular area of European history through readings and class discussions. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

HIST 618. Readings in Transatlantic History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Analysis of major studies and interpretative trends in a particular area of transatlantic history through reading and class discussions. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

HIST 619. Readings in Ethnic and Social History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Analysis of major studies and interpretative trends in a particular area of ethnic or social history through readings and class discussions. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

HIST 623. Readings in Virginia and Southern History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Analysis of major studies and interpretative trends in a particular area of Virginia or Southern history through readings and class discussions. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

HIST 627. Readings in African-American History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Analysis of major studies and interpretative trends in a particular area of African-American history through readings and class discussions. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

HIST 631. Research in American History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Analysis of significant problems in a particular field of American history through research, writing, in-class presentations and discussions. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

HIST 635. Research in European History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Analysis of significant problems in a particular field of European history through research, writing, in-class presentations and discussions. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.
HIST 638. Research in Transatlantic History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Analysis of significant problems in a particular field of transatlantic history through research, writing, in-class presentations and discussions. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

HIST 639. Research in Ethnic and Social History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Analysis of significant problems in a particular field of ethnic or social history through research, writing, in-class presentations and discussions. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

HIST 643. Research in Virginia and Southern History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Analysis of significant problems in a particular field of Virginia or Southern history through research, writing, in-class presentations and discussions. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

HIST 647. Research in African-American History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Analysis of significant problems in a particular field of African-American history through research, writing, in-class presentations and discussions. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

HIST 651. Public History: Theory and Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An overview of the field of public history, intended to introduce students to the range of professional historical activities practiced outside the classroom. Explores methods and skills including archival work, documentary editing, historic preservation, museum studies and oral history. The course also involves a sustained consideration of the theoretical issues that arise from public history work, defined as history of, for, by and/or with the public.

HIST 652. Documentary Editing and Scholarly Publishing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An overview of the processes by which historical scholarship is disseminated by publication. Students will practice editing scholarly editions of historic documents and reviewing manuscripts for publication in academic media. Special consideration will be given to the digital humanities and new technology's relation to the traditional publishing trade.

HIST 653. American Material Culture. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Material culture is a term encompassing all things created or modified by people — such as clothing, tools, furniture, works of art, buildings and even landscapes. This course introduces students to the field of material culture studies and challenges them to study the American past through examination of its artifacts and architecture. Students will explore a range of disciplinary approaches and time periods, as well as the role of politics in the preservation and exhibition of material culture.

HIST 654. Oral History: Theory and Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An introduction to the practice and theories of oral history, a method employing interviews or sound recordings of people with personal knowledge of past events. Students will consider the benefits and limitations of the method as well as learn the general legal issues involved. Students will conduct their own interviews and practice the transcription of oral testimony.

HIST 691. Special Topics in History. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. An intensive study of a selected topic in history.

HIST 692. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. Maximum of 6 credits. Prerequisite: permission of department chair. Requires an analysis of a historical problem or topic in depth under faculty supervision.

HIST 693. Internship in History. 2-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 2-4 credits per semester. Maximum of 6 credits. Determination of the amount of credit and permission of departmental internship coordinator must be procured prior to registration for this course. Students receive credit for work on historical projects with approved agencies.

HIST 698. M.A. Thesis. 1-6 Hours.
1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits.

Humanities and Sciences (HUMS)
HUMS 591. Special Topics. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. May be repeated with different content. Specialized topics in the liberal arts and sciences designed to provide an overview of a topic not provided by an existing course or program. May be multidisciplinary.

International Studies (INTL)
INTL 500. Globalization and Transformation: Concepts and Realities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines how globalization significantly affects cultural processes at both local and national levels. Transformations of cultural understandings and practices under such circumstances will be explored. Virtual course components will bring causes, processes and consequences of the transformations of Western, Eastern and developing countries into focus. Crosslisted as: SOCY 515.

INTL 514. International Perspectives on Community Health in Developing Countries. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. This course may be taken for a maximum of 6 credits in two different world areas. Open to undergraduate (junior or senior level) and graduate students. Explores the impact of national and international policy decisions on the health and well-being of individuals and communities (country varies semester to semester). Examines the relationships of cultural beliefs and values on health-seeking behaviors. Allows students to become immersed in a culture different than their own. Evaluates the impact of international conflict and economic development on the health status of the community. See the Schedule of Classes for location. Crosslisted as: NURS 514.

INTL 591. Topics in International Studies. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Open to undergraduate (junior or senior level) and graduate students. A detailed study of selected topics in one or more geographic areas or comparative studies of global phenomena. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

Linguistics (LING)
LING 552. Teaching English as a Second Language. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides students who plan to teach English to people whose native language is not English with a variety of instructional/learning strategies. Presents and explores current approaches and methodology, as these relate to linguistic features and pedagogy. Crosslisted as: ENGL 552/TEDU 552.
LING 650. Second Language Acquisition. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is designed for those who plan to work with English language learners in diverse instructional settings. A major focus of this course is analyzing second language acquisition theories and how they apply in classroom settings. In-depth analysis of readings will enhance the students' understanding of second language acquisition and the research related to this field. Students will observe classroom teaching, analyzing the application of SLA theories utilized in the instructional setting. Crosslisted as: TEDU 650.

Mass Communications (MASC)
MASC 591. Topics in Mass Communications. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable lecture or laboratory hours (depending on topic). 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor and director of graduate studies. An advanced study of a selected topic in mass communications. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topic(s) to be offered.

MASC 602. Advertising Technology for Copywriters, Strategists and Media Planners. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. This course covers a number of computer applications, tailored to the specific needs of copywriters, account managers, account planners and media planners. Students will learn how to create and format documents using Microsoft Word for the Macintosh, including placement of images and manipulation of text from various sources such as the Internet. Students will learn how to create computer presentations with Microsoft PowerPoint for Macintosh. This course will teach the basics of page layout, including formatting documents, placement of images and basic typography. Additionally, students will learn how to use a scanner to capture images into Adobe Photoshop, and basic image modification techniques, such as brightening and sharpening, silhouetting an image and saving the image. Additionally this course covers the appropriate applications designed to capture and edit digital video, and will include discussion of the use of the Brandcenter's digital video cameras, and other accessories such as external microphones and lights. Certain applications specific to the needs of media planners and account planners, such as Simmons, SRDS and MRI also will be covered in this course.

MASC 604. Media Stories. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Students will identify, create and translate stories to the multiple screens of contemporary media with an emphasis on advertising, public relations and journalism. Students study contemporary storytelling cases and create original stories for professional communications.

MASC 605. Technology in the Classroom. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Beginning with a brief treatment of basic desktop publishing skills, students will learn layout and design using newspaper, magazine and yearbook models. They will master the functions of Photoshop, Illustrator, Adobe PageMaker and/or QuarkXpress and create promotional flyers/brochures and advertisements for their journalism programs. They will set templates and a style palette for school publications.

MASC 611. Research Methods in Mass Communications. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Fundamentals of mass communications research techniques (content analysis, survey research, experimental design, historiography), including an overview of computer applications, statistics, theory development and trends in the published literature.

MASC 612. Mass Communications Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. Nature, function and application of mass communications theory; structure, content and effects of media systems; social and technological events accounted for by a generalized theory of mass communications.

MASC 613. Mass Media and Society. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. A study of the mass media of the United States, with special attention to their historical development and their impact on other institutions. Consideration of ethical and legal aspects of the media, and problems such as access, control and accountability.

MASC 614. Media-governmental Relations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. Study of the interaction between the media and the government, and the role of the press in the governmental process as a disseminator, opinion-maker and adversary.

MASC 615. Depth Reporting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: three undergraduate reporting courses or permission of instructor. A thorough examination of one or more issues in the forefront of the news, the environment, education, health care, science and others relevant to today's readers.

MASC 616. Mass Communication Law. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An intensive examination of media rights and restrictions, including libel, privacy, access to information, copyright, free-press fair-trial. Attention will be given to First Amendment theory, research techniques and administrative regulation of broadcasting and advertising.

MASC 617. Advanced Research Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MASC 611. An examination of a mass medium through design and execution of a research project using one of the traditional research techniques of the field. Students will have major and minor projects for systematic study of a medium.

MASC 618. Media Economics and Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 colloquium hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MASC 611 and MASC 617. Advanced work in media management research based on an examination of major contemporary issues and challenges concerning media management and economics. Student interaction with faculty, media managers and each other will lead to the design and implementation of major problem-solving projects.

MASC 619. Media and Public Opinion. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of the role of the mass media in the formation and change of beliefs and attitudes, the involvement of the media with policy makers in shaping public opinion and public policy, and the interaction of media and public opinion polling.

MASC 620. Seminar in Mass Communications History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. An examination of historical methodology and content as related to the investigation and writing of mass communication history in the United States. Special attention is placed on the adaptation and the use of historical method by mass communications historians.

MASC 621. Advanced Public Relations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Students will explore a variety of case studies, decision-making analyses and advanced public relations programming in relation to private and public policy-making at the senior levels of management.
MASC 626. Critical Thinking in Media. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Focuses on the application of critical and creative thinking to solve communication problems. Provides students with opportunities to explore and expand their creative abilities through brainstorming sessions, creative techniques and team-oriented activities dealing with contemporary advertising, public relations and media cases.

MASC 642. Online Journalism I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Exploration and production of various means of journalistic communication using online resources. Various multimedia projects will be reviewed and discussed, as well as the best use and application of media types based on the information being communicated. Students will research news stories and examine the effectiveness of online presentations while exploring how online journalism can work with more traditional forms of communication.

MASC 643. Online Journalism II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MASC 642. Development of online journalism production skills and familiarity with the best uses and practices for publishing material on the web and for administering news websites. Students will learn the skills for posting media and also about the systems for maintaining news organizations' entire websites.

MASC 644. Computer-assisted Reporting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MASC 611 and 642. Provides a practical guide to online research, data analysis and other computer-assisted reporting and research skills. Students will learn how to find authoritative information, including news sources and data, through the Internet and other online resources. Students will also learn how to use spreadsheets, database managers, mapping programs, social networking analysis, statistical packages and other software to sort, summarize, analyze, visualize and present data. Course will cover how to evaluate the reliability of electronic information, how to find trends and integrate them into news reports, and how the First Amendment and journalism ethics apply to digital information.

MASC 645. Visual Journalism. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MASC 611 and 642. A theoretical and hands-on course that immerses students in all aspects of visual journalism, including videography, photography, informational graphics and photojournalism. Examines visual communication theory and applied uses of multimedia, particularly in online journalism. Activities include professional-quality projects for multimedia publication. Addresses legal issues in producing multimedia packages, including copyright law.

MASC 646. Convergence Law and Ethics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MASC 611, 642 and 685. Explores the delicate balance that exists between freedom and control of the mass media (print, broadcast and new media). Focuses on judicial decisions and reasoning, given the impact the courts have on interpreting the First Amendment. Will also focus on new legal and ethical concerns created by the Internet and digital newsgathering and presentation technologies. Students will be immersed in the ethical decision-making process through the case-study approach.

MASC 654. Organizational Communication. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Study of theoretical constructs of the communication process in organizations. Application of communication principles to managerial functions, training, telecommunications and other organizational situations.

MASC 658. Account Leadership. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. Students will learn first-hand general leadership skills crucial to developing successful relationships with agency personnel and clients. Emphasis will be given to exploring ways students can contribute to accounts not only strategically but creatively as well. Students will learn presentation and communication skills as well as effective ways to manage accounts. Students will sharpen previously prepared strategies as well as interviewing skills.

MASC 660. Advertising Account Research and Planning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MASC 650 and MASC 651. Develops student's ability to choose the most effective research methods for determining both the correct target market for a product and specific issues most pertinent to that market, in regards to positioning the product. Research work with consumer groups will demonstrate student's ability to develop thoughtful questions that will deliver valuable insight.

MASC 665. Building Global Brands. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MASC 650 and MASC 651. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. Provides thorough coverage of an approach and framework for designing a comprehensive marketing plan suitable for implementations in an international setting, with particular focus on identifying and analyzing the important cultural and environmental uniqueness of single nations or global regions. We also will look at specific examples of cases that will better inform our planning efforts and will spend time examining various cultures in order to respectfully and appropriately engage them in our marketing plan.

MASC 671. Strategic PR in a Digital Environment. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. An introduction to the thinking and actions required to communicate strategically in today's dynamic socioeconomic environment. Focus is on the skills and information to handle strategic public relations. Introduces cutting-edge technology and using the Internet as a strategic communications tool. Professional responsibilities emphasized.

MASC 672. Strategic PR Research and Evaluation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Introduces the basic theories and practices of strategic public relations research and evaluation. Both qualitative and quantitative techniques are examined.

MASC 675. Strategic PR Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. An interactive exploration of navigating challenges from the perspective of organizational culture. Helps students foster diversity, support organizational change, make leadership more dynamic, operate ethically within the cultural environment and make the organization more effective overall.

MASC 676. Public Relations Ethics and Law. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MASC 675 or permission of instructor. An exploration of ethical and legal dimensions specific to public relations practice. Analysis of critical cases in the field.
MASC 681. Video Applications in Instruction. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: TEDU 556 and 610 or permission of instructor. Emphasizes the design and instructional strategies used with the production of video resources. Differentiates analog and digital video, importing images, video and sound, editing, previewing, transitions, filters, motion settings, superimposing, titles, special effect options, and exporting video. Students will produce and edit a personalized instructional module using digital video hardware and editing software. Crosslisted as: TEDU 620.

MASC 682. Strategic Media Relations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MASC 675 or permission of instructor. Focuses on what makes news, how different media work, how to determine the appropriate vehicle for the message and how to work with the media to control a message.

MASC 683. Strategic PR in the Global Environment. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MASC 671, 672 and permission of instructor. Examines the phenomenon of global strategic communications, including the enabling environmental factors. How to develop an integrated, holistic global communications program and how to manage such a program. Students experience one region of the world with an in-depth study tour.

MASC 684. Multiplatform Storytelling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MASC 643, 645 and 646. Students will develop new ways of storytelling that leverage the power of the print, broadcast and online media, combining two or more of those platforms into a single, multimedia package. Analyzes the origins of multimedia and its current trends. Themes include the history of multimedia journalism, the adaptation process for traditional media, the search for a business model and the new news audience.

MASC 685. The Business of Media. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Will provide students with both a macro and micro understanding of the business operations of small and large newspapers, television and radio stations and online media. Students will examine newsroom operations, advertising and human resource issues. Will also examine laws and regulations governing media as well as ownership trends.

MASC 686. International Journalism. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MASC 611, 642, 643, 644, 645 and 646. Explores how major news organizations in the U.S. and abroad cover international news in the 21st century as well as the various media structures and systems that are in place in countries around the world. Students will examine the power and impact of global news media in shaping public opinion. They will study trends in international coverage. Students will explore the role of the press in a democracy as well as in authoritarian or communist nations. They will examine the ethical and legal dimensions of international reporting across various media systems, regulations and protocols. The course will also emphasize the ways in which technology is rapidly changing how news is developed and disseminated. Coverage of wars and major world conflicts will also be emphasized.

MASC 688. Converged Media Applications. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MASC 644 and 684. Graduate-level research and production focused on multimedia. Students will complete a significant multimedia project that draws on their experiences and the skills learned in other graduate courses.

MASC 691. Topics in Mass Communications. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. May be repeated for 6 total credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor and director of graduate studies. An advanced study of selected topic in mass communications. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topic(s) to be offered each semester.

MASC 692. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. A maximum of 3 credits may be submitted toward the master's degree. Prerequisite: permission of instructor and director of graduate studies.

MASC 693. Practicum in Mass Communications. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-6 credits. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: permission of director of graduate studies. Student participation in planned research or internship experience under the supervision of mass communications faculty. Graded as pass/fail.

MASC 694. Strategic PR Campaign Design and Implementation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MASC 675, 676, 681 and 682. Brings together all the various tasks and concepts used in public relations work to shape an effective campaign. Through projects students become competent and proficient in analyzing cases, strategizing, implementing and evaluating public relations campaigns at senior management levels.

MASC 695. Fieldwork/Internship. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1, 2 or 3 credits per semester. Maximum total of 3 credits toward graduation. Prerequisite: permission of director of graduate studies. Selected students will receive on-the-job training under the supervision of an instructor and the employer. Internships are available in newspapers, magazines, public relations, advertising, radio and television. Graded S/U/F.

MASC 697. Portfolio Development for Strategists. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MASC 663. Continues the development and demonstration of critical thinking skills, insights and creative abilities in a variety of areas sought by agency planning directors, media planning directors, management supervisors and recruiters. Development of concepts and materials necessary for the creation of mini-books and individual portfolios will be one of the main focal points. Independent projects pursued specifically for portfolio development also will be conducted.

MASC 699. Thesis. 1-3 Hours.
1-3 credits. May be repeated. A maximum of 3 credits may be submitted toward the master’s degree.

Mathematics (MATH)

MATH 502. Abstract Algebra I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MATH 401 with a minimum grade of a C, or permission of instructor. A study of groups, subgroups, quotient groups and homomorphisms, group actions, sylow theorems, direct and semi-direct products, rings, integrals domains, and polynomial rings.

MATH 505. Modern Geometry. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MATH 300, and MATH 307 or MATH 310, or permission of instructor. Topics in Euclidean, projective and non-Euclidean geometries from a modern viewpoint.
MATH 507. Bridge to Modern Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate standing. Metric spaces, normed vector spaces, inner-product spaces and orthogonality, sequences and series of functions, convergence, compactness, completeness, continuity, contraction mapping theorem, and inverse and implicit function theorems.

MATH 511. Applied Linear Algebra. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 310 or permission of instructor. The algebra of matrices, the theory of finite dimensional vector spaces and the basic results concerning eigenvectors and eigenvalues, with particular attention to applications.

MATH 515. Numerical Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate standing. Knowledge of a programming language or mathematical software package recommended. Theoretical derivation and implementation of numerical methods. Topics to include direct methods, data fitting, differentiation, integration and solutions to ordinary differential equations.

MATH 535. Introduction to Dynamical Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate standing. Theoretical and computational introduction to continuous and discrete dynamical systems with applications. Topics include existence and uniqueness of solutions, stability and bifurcations.

MATH 550. Combinatorics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MATH 211 or MATH 300, and MATH 350, both with a minimum grade of C; or permission of instructor. Topics include basic counting, binomial theorems, combinations and permutations, recurrence relations, generating functions, and basic graph theory with emphasis to applications.

MATH 555. Dynamics and Multivariable Control I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 301 and 310 or the equivalent. Systems of differential equations with controls, linear control systems, controllability, observability, introduction to feedback control and stabilization. Crosslisted as: ENGR 555.

MATH 556. Graph Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MATH 211 or MATH 300, MATH 310, and MATH 356, each with a minimum grade of C; or permission of instructor. Introduction to graph classes, graph invariants, graph algorithms, graph theoretic proof techniques and applications.

MATH 585. Biomathematics Seminar: 1 Hour.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 1 credit. Prerequisite: MATH 301 or permission of instructor. May be repeated with different thematic content. Opportunity for students to develop their understanding of the connection between mathematics and the arts of biology and medicine. Activities include reading of classical and contemporary research literature, attending seminar talks and class discussions.

MATH 591. Topics in Mathematics. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. May be repeated for credit with different topics. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor. Open to qualified undergraduates. A study of selected topics in mathematical sciences. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester and prerequisites.

MATH 593. Internship in Mathematical Sciences. 3,6 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-6 credits. May be repeated for credit. Student participation in a planned educational experience under the supervision of a mathematical sciences faculty member. The internship may include supervised teaching, statistical consulting or participation in theoretical or applied research projects. A grade of P may be assigned students in this course. May be applied toward the degree in mathematical sciences only with the permission of the graduate affairs committee.

MATH 602. Abstract Algebra II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 502. A study of modules, vector spaces, field extensions and Galois theory.

MATH 607. Measure and Integration Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 507. Measurable sets and functions, sets of measure zero, Borel sets, Lebesgue measure and integral, fundamental convergence theorems, Lp spaces, and foundations of probability theory.

MATH 610. Advanced Linear Algebra. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Vector spaces, bases and dimension, change of basis. Linear transformations, linear functionals. Simultaneous triangularization and diagonalization. Rational and Jordan canonical forms.

MATH 615. Iterative Numerical Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 515. Theoretical development of solutions to large linear and nonlinear systems by iterative methods with consideration given to optimal implementation.

MATH 632. Ordinary Differential Equations I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MATH 507 and MATH 535. Linear systems theory; existence, uniqueness and continuous dependence for nonlinear systems; invariant manifolds; stable manifold theorem; Hartman-Grobman theorem; Lyapunov stability theory; Hamiltonian and gradient systems.

MATH 633. Partial Differential Equations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 507. Classification of partial differential equations, initial and boundary value problems, well-posedness; first-order equations and methods of characteristics; wave equation; heat equation, transform methods, maximum principle, energy methods; Laplace's equation. Other topics may vary depending on the interest of the students and the instructor.

MATH 640. Mathematical Biology I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 535. Mathematical modeling in the biological and medical sciences. Topics will include continuous and discrete dynamical systems describing interacting and structured populations, resource management, biological control, reaction kinetics, biological oscillators and switches, and the dynamics of infectious diseases.

MATH 650. Advanced Combinatorics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 550. Topics include advanced applications of the pigeonhole principle and inclusion-exclusion principle, recurrence relations, generating functions, special counting sequences, Ramsey theory, and combinatorial designs and codes.

MATH 655. Dynamics and Multivariable Control II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MATH 555 and MATH 507 recommended, or permission of instructor. Control problems for nonlinear systems of ordinary differential equations, methods of feedback control to achieve control objectives. Crosslisted as: ENGR 655.
MATH 656. Advanced Graph Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 556. This course lays a rigorous theoretical foundation for further advanced study in graph theory. Topics may include connectivity, matching, planarity, coloring, Hamiltonian cycles and topological graph theory, as well as further advanced material.

MATH 661. Number and Operations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Ways of representing numbers, relationships between numbers, number systems, the meanings of operations and how they relate to one another, and computation within the number system as a foundation for algebra; episodes in history and development of the number system; and examination of the developmental sequence and learning trajectory as children learn number concepts. A core course for preparation as a K-8 mathematics specialist. Not applicable to M.S. in Mathematical Sciences.

MATH 662. Geometry and Measurement. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explorations of the foundations of informal measurement and geometry in one, two and three dimensions. The van Hiele model for geometric learning is used as a framework for how children build their understanding of length, area, volume, angles and geometric relationships. Visualization, spatial reasoning and geometric modeling are stressed. As appropriate, transformational geometry, congruence, similarity and geometric constructions will be discussed. A core course of preparation as a K-8 mathematics specialist. Not applicable to M.S. in Mathematical Sciences.

MATH 663. Functions and Algebra. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examination of representation and analysis of mathematical situations and structures using generalization and algebraic symbols and reasoning. Attention will be given to the transition from arithmetic to algebra, working with quantitative change, and the description of and prediction of change. A core course for preparation as a K-8 mathematics specialist. Not applicable to M.S. in Mathematical Sciences.

MATH 664. Statistics and Probability. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Descriptive statistics and data analysis; exploration of randomness, data representation and modeling. Descriptive statistics will include measures of central tendency, dispersion, distributions and regression. Analysis of experiments requiring hypothesizing, experimental design and data gathering. A core course for preparation as a K-8 mathematics specialist. Not applicable to M.S. in Mathematical Sciences.

MATH 665. Rational Numbers and Proportional Reasoning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Basic number strands in fractions and rational numbers, decimals and percents; ratios and proportions in the school curriculum. Interpretations, computations and estimation with a coordinated program of activities that develop both rational number concepts and skills and proportional reasoning. A core course for preparation as a K-8 mathematics specialist. Not applicable to M.S. in Mathematical Sciences.

MATH 666. Functions and Algebra II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 663 or equivalent. Examination of the K-8 strands related to algebra. A study of linear, exponential and quadratic functions. Use of number lines, coordinate axes, tables, graphing calculators and manipulatives to understand core algebraic ideas and real-world contexts. Course provides preparation for K-8 mathematics specialists. Not applicable to M.S. in Mathematical Sciences.

MATH 690. Research Seminar. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours; 2 credits. Enrollment is restricted to students with graduate standing. Discussion of topics in the mathematical sciences stimulated by independent reading in selected area. Each student will give at least one oral presentation and complete an expository writing assignment.

MATH 691. Special Topics in Mathematics. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. A detailed study of selected topics in mathematics. Possible topics include commutative rings and algebras, topological groups, special functions, Fourier analysis, abstract harmonic analysis, operator theory, functional analysis, differential geometry, Banach algebras and control theory.

MATH 697. Directed Research. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits per semester. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: graduate standing. Supervised individual research and study in an area not covered in the present curriculum or in one which significantly extends present coverage. Research culminates with an oral presentation and submission of a written version of this presentation to the supervising faculty member.

MATH 698. Thesis. 1-3 Hours.
Hours to be arranged. 1-3 credits. A total of 3 or 6 credits may be applied to the M.S. in Mathematical Sciences/Applied Mathematics or to the M.S. in Mathematical Sciences/Mathematics. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: graduate standing. Independent research culminating in the writing of the required thesis as described in this bulletin. Grade of S/U/F may be assigned in this course.

MATH 707. Functional Analysis I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 507. Banach and Hilbert spaces, bounded linear maps, Hahn-Banach theorem, open mapping theorem, dual spaces, weak topologies, Banach-Alaoglu theorem, reflexive spaces, compact operators, spectral theory in Hilbert spaces.

MATH 715. Numerical Solutions for Differential Equations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 515 or MATH 615. Students will use the finite difference method and the finite element method to solve ordinary and partial differential equations. Course will explore the theoretical underpinnings of the techniques and implement the methods to solve a variety of equations.

MATH 727. Topics in Analysis: ____. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. A detailed study of selected topics in mathematics. Possible topics include commutative rings and algebras, topological groups, special functions, Fourier analysis, abstract harmonic analysis, operator theory, functional analysis, differential geometry, Banach algebras and control theory.

MATH 732. Ordinary Differential Equations II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 632. Center manifold theory; normal form theory; oscillations in nonlinear systems; local bifurcation theory of equilibria and periodic orbits.

MATH 750. Research Seminar. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours; 2 credits. Enrollment is restricted to students with graduate standing. Discussion of topics in the mathematical sciences stimulated by independent reading in selected area. Each student will give at least one oral presentation and complete an expository writing assignment.

MATH 797. Directed Research. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits per semester. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: graduate standing. Supervised individual research and study in an area not covered in the present curriculum or in one which significantly extends present coverage. Research culminates with an oral presentation and submission of a written version of this presentation to the supervising faculty member.

MATH 798. Thesis. 1-3 Hours.
Hours to be arranged. 1-3 credits. A total of 3 or 6 credits may be applied to the M.S. in Mathematical Sciences/Applied Mathematics or to the M.S. in Mathematical Sciences/Mathematics. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: graduate standing. Independent research culminating in the writing of the required thesis as described in this bulletin. Grade of S/U/F may be assigned in this course.
MATH 756. Topics in Graph Theory: ____. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated with different topics for credit. Prerequisite: MATH 656. A detailed study of selected topics, which may include extremal graph theory, spectral graph theory, infinite graphs, random graphs and graph minors.

MATH 769. Topics in Applied Mathematics: ____. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated with different topics for credit. A detailed study of selected topics, which may include advanced partial differential equations, discrete dynamical systems, fluid dynamics, computational physiology, disease dynamics, kinetic theory, optimal transportation, numerical optimization and population dynamics.

Media, Art, and Text (MATX)

MATX 601. Texts and Textuality. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores theories of texts and textuality as they relate to the study of media, the arts and discourse of any kind.

MATX 602. History of Media, Art, and Text. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the history of communication technologies in their social and cultural contexts, with an emphasis on the development of contemporary digital technology and new media. Students will explore how the interactions between communication practices and technologies are related to institutions, identity formation, cultural values, social practices and economic conditions.

MATX 603. Mass Media. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the history of mass media and the leading theories, concepts and methods for mass media research.

MATX 604. Interdisciplinary Workshop. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to first-year MATX students. Students gain an understanding of current interdisciplinary theory and practice across media, art, and text. Examination of real-world examples provides a foundation for academic and professional careers in today’s interdisciplinary digital environment. Workshopping of students’ preliminary dissertation ideas, conference abstracts, teaching portfolios and professional websites develops content and skills needed for the MATX e-portfolio. Graded as pass/fail.

MATX 690. Seminar in Media, Art, and Text. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Graduate-level research and reading centered on interdisciplinary study.

MATX 696. Internship. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits; may be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Planned experiences approved by student’s adviser under the supervision of professionals and evaluated by university faculty.

MATX 791. Directed Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits; may be repeated for credit. Focuses on a selected topic chosen by student and approved by student’s adviser.

MATX 897. Dissertation Project. 1-12 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-12 credits; may be repeated for credit. Research and work leading to the completion of the dissertation project.

Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (NANO)

NANO 570. Nanoscale Physics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course builds a fundamental understanding of the unique properties of materials with nanoscale dimensions and emphasizes the physics and thermodynamics underlying several phenomena encountered in nanotechnology. The course starts from a general description of size effects and then moves to describe the fundamental aspects of nanocluster physics such as magic numbers, and concludes with a description of the theory and fabrication of nanoscale devices. Suggested background: PHYS 380.

NANO 571. Nanoscale Chemistry. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course builds a fundamental understanding of the unique chemical properties of materials with nanoscale dimensions and emphasizes the synthetic chemistry encountered in nanotechnology. The course starts from a description of crystallization and growth models and concludes with discussion of several different synthetic approaches of nanoscale systems. Suggested background: PHYS 380.

NANO 650. Experimental Techniques in Nanoscience I. 1.5 Hour.
Semester course; 1.5 lecture hours. 1.5 credits. The course will focus on a variety of instrumental methods and techniques commonly applied to the characterization of nanomaterials. Particular attention will be placed on the theory behind the measurements, instrument safety, sample preparation and data analysis/interpretation. Topics will focus on X-ray, optical and electron characterization techniques. Suggested background: CHEM 409 or PHYS 450.

NANO 651. Experimental Techniques in Nanoscience II. 1.5 Hour.
Semester course; 1.5 lecture hours. 1.5 credits. The course will focus on a variety of instrumental methods and techniques commonly applied to the characterization of nanomaterials. Particular attention will be placed on the theory behind the measurements, instrument safety, sample preparation and data analysis/interpretation. Topics will cover morphological and physical properties characterization tools. Suggested background: CHEM 409 or PHYS 450.

NANO 660. Theoretical Studies of Nanostructures. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CHEM 660 or PHYS 580. Introduction to theoretical techniques needed to study electronic and magnetic properties of nanostructures. Covers theoretical first-principles approaches to study electronic structure of molecules, clusters, nanostructure materials and condensed matter, including determination of geometry and electronic states. Will also cover magnetic properties in reduced sizes, including quantum effects and the model Hamiltonians. A brief discussion of effective interatomic molecular potentials and their application in monte-carlo and molecular dynamics methods will be included, as well as a discussion of application of nanomaterials to medical areas. Suggested background: CHEM 660 or PHYS 580.

NANO 661. Computational Nanoscience. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CHEM 511, CHEM 512 or CHEM 612. Open only to students admitted to the Nanoscience and Nanotechnology Ph.D. program. Introduction to computational methods used to model true nanostructures containing more than 10^5 atoms and whose assembly, morphology and properties are governed by noncovalent interactions. Structural and dynamic aspects of the computational methods will be covered throughout the course. Applications to nanotechnology and environmental cleanup will be covered through special topics assignments during the semester and discussed by the end of the course.
NANO 690. Research Seminar in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 1 credit. May be repeated for credit. In addition to reports presented by staff and visiting lecturers, current problems and developments in nanoscience and nanotechnology are discussed. Graded S/U/F.

NANO 692. Nanoscience Seminar Presentation. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 1 credit. May be repeated for credit. In addition to reports presented by students, staff and visiting lecturers, current problems and developments in chemistry are discussed.

Operations Research (OPER)

OPER 520. Game Theory and Linear Programming. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 310. The mathematical basis of game theory and linear programming. Matrix games, linear inequalities and convexity, the mini-max theorems in linear programming, computational methods and applications. Crosslisted as: MATH 520.

OPER 527. Optimization I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate status in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis, or permission of the instructor. Introduction to optimization and mathematical programming. Course addresses fundamental concepts of optimization (such as optimality conditions and duality) as well as the construction, solution, analysis and application of linear programming and network models. Emphasis is placed on using software to solve problems as well as on understanding its underlying methodology. Integer programming models will be introduced. Students may not receive degree credit for both OPER 427 and OPER 527.

OPER 528. Stochastic Simulation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate status in mathematical sciences, systems modeling and analysis, or decision sciences and business analytics, or permission of the instructor. An introduction to stochastic discrete-event simulation. The course covers simulation modeling and programming in general-purpose languages (e.g., VBA for Excel) and (briefly) in specialized simulation environments (e.g., Arena, @Risk). The probability foundations of stochastic simulation of stochastic processes, random number and variate generation, variance reduction techniques, and proper design and analysis of the simulation experiment are emphasized. Applications are drawn from manufacturing, finance, logistics and service systems. Students may not receive degree credit for both OPER 428 and OPER 528.

OPER 591. Topics in Operations Research. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be taken more than once for credit. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor. A detailed study of selected topics in operations research.

OPER 627. Optimization II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: OPER 527. This course will address basic theory and algorithms for nonlinear optimization (unconstrained and constrained). Both theoretical foundations and practical implementations of optimization algorithms will be covered.

OPER 635. Network Models and Graph Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: OPER 527 or permission of the instructor. This course will focus on optimization models for network problems, as well as on the underlying graph theoretic structure for such models. Emphasis will be on solution procedures and applications with some discussion of related implementation issues. The course will concentrate on the study of polynomial-time algorithms for well-solved problems. May also include treatment of solution techniques for NP-hard network problems. Possible topics for the course include, but are not limited to, maximum flows/minimum cuts in networks, minimum spanning trees, minimum cost flows, matching and assignment, shortest path problems, traveling salesman problems and multicommodity flows.

OPER 636. Machine Learning Algorithms. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate status in mathematical sciences, systems modeling and analysis, decision sciences and business analytics, or computer science, or by permission of the instructor. Introduces an in-depth analysis of machine learning algorithms for data mining, equipping students with skills necessary for the design of new algorithms. Analyses will include framing algorithms as optimization problems and a probabilistic analysis of algorithms. Students will be exposed to current areas of research in the construction of data mining algorithms. Crosslisted as: STAT 636.

OPER 639. Practical Optimization. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: OPER 527. The application of optimization theory toward the solution of practical problems in operations research. The use and analysis of computer programs available to solve such problems. The algorithms used in these programs will be discussed from a practical and theoretical point of view.

OPER 641. Stochastic Simulation and Monte Carlo Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: STAT 513 and either STAT 503 or STAT 613. Addresses the methodological foundation of applying stochastic modeling and simulation with a focus on introducing simulation concepts through examples, algorithms and experiments. Topics include simulation output analysis, input modeling, simulation optimization, steady-state simulation, variance reduction techniques, sensitivity analysis and Monte Carlo optimization.

OPER 643. Decision and Risk Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate status in mathematical sciences, systems modeling and analysis, or decision sciences and business analytics, or permission of the instructor. This course presents the decision and risk analysis theory and methodology. Decision analysis applies to hard problems involving sequential decisions, major uncertainties, significant outcomes and complex values. The course includes: decision structuring with influence diagrams and decision trees; modeling uncertainty with subjective probabilities; sensitivity analysis and the value of information; and modeling preferences with utility functions. Decision and risk analysis applications in business and government are considered.

OPER 645. Queuing Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate status in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis, or permission of the instructor. This operations research course provides a development of some basic queuing systems. Such systems will include birth-death queues, as well as the M/G/I and GI/M/S queuing systems. Other topics may include the GI/G/I queues, overflow queues and some basic queuing networks.
OPER 647. Multiobjective Decision Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate status in mathematical sciences, systems modeling and analysis, or decision sciences and business analytics, or permission of the instructor. Introduction to the mathematical foundations of multiattribute utility theory. Topics covered include: structuring objectives; tradeoffs under certainty; unidimensional utility theory; multiattribute preferences under uncertainty; preferences over time; and aggregation of individual preferences. Real world applications will be discussed throughout.

OPER 648. Systems Reliability Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate status in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis, or permission of the instructor. An introduction to engineering reliability and risk analysis, specifically failure data analysis, maintenance problems, system reliability and probabilistic risk assessment. Applications in computer science and engineering will include stochastic characterization of wear in hardware systems and the development of failure models for software systems. Decision problems such as the optimal maintenance of repairable systems and optimal testing policies for hardware and software systems will be examined. The analysis of risk through fault trees, event trees and accident precursor analysis also will be discussed. Crosslisted as: STAT 648.

OPER 649. Statistical Quality Control. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate status in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis, or permission of the instructor. Demonstrates how statistics and data analysis can be applied effectively to process control and management. Topics include the definition of quality, its measurement through statistical techniques, variable and attribute control charts, CUSUM charts, multivariate control charts, process capability analysis, design of experiments, and classical and Bayesian acceptance sampling. Statistical software will be used to apply the techniques to real-life case studies from manufacturing and service industries. Crosslisted as: STAT 649.

OPER 690. Research and Communications Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: 9 graduate credits in operations research (OPER) and/or statistics (STAT) and permission of the instructor. Designed to help students attain proficiency in professional and academic communication and research in the context of statistics and operations research. The course focuses on the discipline-specific communication and research skills necessary to excel in careers or graduate studies in these disciplines. Crosslisted as: STAT 690.

OPER 691. Special Topics in Operations Research. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be taken more than once for credit. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor. A detailed study of selected topics in operations research.

OPER 696. Applied Project. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours (to be arranged). 1-3 credits. Up to three credits will be applied to the M.S. in Mathematical Sciences (operations research or statistics concentration) per section. Can be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: SSOR 690 or permission of the faculty adviser. Designed to allow students to apply concepts and theories learned in other courses to a practical situation. Includes the selection, written description, completion and written report of the project and a presentation of the findings. Students may not receive credit for both OPER/STAT 696 and OPER/STAT 698. Graded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory. Crosslisted as: STAT 696.

OPER 697. Directed Research. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be taken more than once for credit. Prerequisite: graduate standing. Supervised individual research and study in an area not covered in the present curriculum or in one which significantly extends present coverage. Research culminates with an oral presentation and submission of a written version of this presentation to the supervising faculty member.

OPER 698. Thesis. 1-3 Hours.
Hours to be arranged. 1-3 credits. A total of 3 or 6 credits may be applied to the M.S. in Mathematical Sciences/Operations Research. (A total of 3 credits for an expository thesis or a total of 6 credits for a research thesis.) May be taken more than once for credit. Prerequisite: graduate standing. Independent research culminating in the writing of the required thesis as described in this bulletin. Grade of S/U/F may be assigned in this course.

OPER 731. Discrete Optimization. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: OPER 527. Provides the theoretical background necessary to design and evaluate advanced solution techniques for discrete optimization problems. Topics include theory of polyhedra and valid inequalities for integer programming models, matchings, computational complexity, and sufficient conditions for integer programs to be polynomially solvable. Scheduling, packing, covering and routing models will also be examined.

OPER 732. Optimization Under Uncertainty. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: OPER 527; graduate standing in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis; or permission of the instructor. Offers an exploration of issues concerning decision-making problems under uncertainty using mathematical programming tools. Topics addressed include modeling uncertainty in optimization models, two-stage stochastic programs with recourse, chance constrained programs, statistical inference in stochastic programs and robust optimization. Special attention is paid to the algorithms, approximation via sampling and applications.

OPER 736. Mathematics of Knowledge and Search Engines. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: STAT 541 or equivalent. Investigates the mathematics, methods and algorithms for searching for and extracting structures of interest (knowledge) from large and possibly high-dimensional datasets. The motivation is the rapid and phenomenal growth of the search engine (as demonstrated by Google) as a major tool for search on the Internet, which has impacted commerce, education and the study of social, financial and scientific datasets. The development of the mathematical and statistical learning algorithms behind these search engines has led to advances in how large, high-dimensional datasets can be effectively analyzed for the extraction of knowledge. Crosslisted as: STAT 736.

OPER 741. Advanced Stochastic Simulation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: STAT 513, OPER 528 and either OPER 503 or 613, or permission of the instructor. This is an advanced-level course on stochastic modeling and simulation. State-of-the-art topics on simulation theory and methodology will be taught through lectures and guided literature review. Tentative topics include advanced simulation output analysis, simulation optimization, steady-state simulation, nested simulation, metamodeling, variance reduction (stratification, importance sampling, quasi-Monte Carlo, etc.).
OPER 743. Decision Analysis II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: OPER 643 or OPER 647. Introduces the current areas of research in the field of decision analysis, which applies to hard problems involving sequential decisions, major uncertainties, significant outcomes and complex values. Includes current research in decision structuring and representation, modeling uncertainty with subjective probabilities, modeling preferences with utility functions and modeling multiattribute preferences.

OPER 791. Special Topics in Operations Research. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. A detailed study of selected advanced topics in operations research.

Philosophy (PHIL)

PHIL 521. Aesthetics. 3 Hours.
Semester courses; 3 lecture hours. 3, 3 credits. A critical survey of aesthetics from antiquity to the 20th century. First semester: antiquity to the Renaissance; Second semester: the Renaissance to the present. Topics to be considered include the nature of art, aesthetic experience, the aesthetic analysis in the arts of painting, music, architecture and the motion picture.

PHIL 522. Aesthetics. 3 Hours.
Semester courses; 3 lecture hours. 3, 3 credits. A critical survey of aesthetics from antiquity to the 20th century. First semester: antiquity to the Renaissance; Second semester: the Renaissance to the present. Topics to be considered include the nature of art, aesthetic experience, the aesthetic analysis in the arts of painting, music, architecture and the motion picture.

PHIL 591. Topics in Philosophy. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. Prerequisite: written permission of instructor or graduate standing. A graduate-level, in-depth study of an individual philosopher, a particular philosophical problem, or a narrowly defined period or school. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

PHIL 592. Independent Study. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 credits. An independent study course to allow graduate students to do research, under the direction of a professor qualified in that field, in an area of major interest.

PHIL 683. Administrative Ethics. 2,3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 or 3 lecture hours. 2 or 3 credits. A philosophical investigation into the problems of making ethical decisions, focusing on issues likely to confront the public administrator. Examples of such issues are equity in social services delivery, affirmative action, loyalty to the bureaucracy vs. "whistle blowing," and conflicts of interest between personal and public interest. Crosslisted as: PADM 683/GVPA 683.

PHIL 691. Topics in Philosophy. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. Prerequisite: written permission of instructor or graduate standing. A graduate-level, in-depth study of an individual philosopher, a particular philosophical problem, or a narrowly defined period or school. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

PHIL 692. Independent Study. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. Open to graduate students only. An independent study course to allow graduate students to do research, under the direction of a professor qualified in that field, in an area of major interest.

PHYS 508. The Physical Science of Space for Teachers. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: B.S. or B.A. degree with at least two mathematics and two science courses or permission of instructor. The course is designed for the secondary physical science and physics teachers. The physical science phenomena of the solar system and the universe: mechanics, electromagnetism, optics and energy are presented for the teacher. The course curriculum closely follows the Virginia Science Standards of Learning for Physics and Physical Science. The course makes use of the Virginia Science Museum's interactive physical science exhibit galleries (aerospace, force and motion, waves and patterns, light and vision matter, crystals and electromagnetism as well as the Digistar planetarium and telescopes).

PHYS 509. Experiencing Science for Teachers. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: B.S. or B.A. degree with at least two mathematics and two science courses or permission of instructor. Designed to give physical science and physics teachers an understanding of the methods and processes actually used by scientists in different disciplines. Students repeat classic experiments, read from original works, keep detailed research journals, participate in laboratory experiments, engage in the peer review process and present results of projects in colloquium format. The course meets at the Science Museum of Virginia and uses the interactive science exhibits; visits to science sites in the area.

PHYS 510. Physical Science Demonstrations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHYS 509 or permission of instructor. The course is designed to give the working secondary physical science and physics teacher a depth of experience in designing and effectively using experiments to interpret phenomena for students. Participants learn the essentials of developing effective apparatus for investigations, interactive exhibits and demonstrations in the physical sciences. Students will undertake and present a major project as part of the course.
PHYS 514. Modeling Biocomplexity. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2.5 lecture and .5 laboratory hours. 3 credits.
Prerequisite: one year of calculus. Introduction to the modeling and simulation of the behavior of complex biological systems, including models in both continuous and discrete time. Numerical methods using mathematica, analytical methods using calculus and laboratory experiments using computer interfaces will be used to study population dynamics and the behavior of physiological systems exhibiting such properties as oscillations and chaotic biological dynamics. Crosslisted as: BNFO 514.

PHYS 522. Optics and Laser Physics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHYS 376 or permission of instructor. The purpose of this course is to introduce a range of topics from optics and the principles of laser operation. Topics include waves, physical optics, geometric optics, superposition, interference, polarization, diffraction, Fourier optics, coherence, lasers, second quantization.

PHYS 550. Techniques in Material Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 4 laboratory and 2 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHYS 450 or graduate standing. This course focuses on the application of modern characterization techniques in materials research. Techniques to be studied include high-resolution X-ray diffraction, low-energy electron diffraction, light-energy electron diffraction, scanning-tunneling microscopy, molecular beam epitaxy, Auger electron spectroscopy and X-ray photoemission spectroscopy.

PHYS 571. Theoretical Mechanics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: PHYS 376 and PHYS 380, or graduate standing. An introduction to advanced dynamics involving the Lagrangian and Hamiltonian formalisms.

PHYS 573. Analytical Methods in Physics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: PHYS 376 and PHYS 380, or graduate standing. Theoretical and numerical techniques in solving differential equations in condensed matter. Classification of electronic states in solids and clusters using groups, infinite series approximations, calculus of residues and causality.

PHYS 576. Electromagnetic Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHYS 571. Maxwell's equations of electromagnetism, vector and scalar potentials, electromagnetic waves and radiation theory.

PHYS 580. Quantum Mechanics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHYS 571. Theoretical quantum descriptions with emphasis upon mathematical techniques. Schrodinger equation, hydrogen atom, eigenfunctions and eigenvalues, angular momentum and spin and perturbation theory.

PHYS 583. Geometrical Methods of Physics and Gravitation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: PHYS 571 and PHYS 573 or permission of instructor. Introduction to the language of differential geometry that is needed for research in gravitation and cosmology. Topics include tensors, connections on manifolds, gauge-invariant field theories and Einstein's theory of general relativity. Examples include black holes and cosmological solutions of Einstein's field equations.

PHYS 591. Topics in Physics. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Open to graduate students and to undergraduate students with advanced standing. An in-depth study of a selected topic in advanced physics. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester and prerequisites. Applicable toward physics major requirements.

PHYS 640. Equilibrium Statistical Physics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: PHYS 571 and PHYS 580. Fundamentals of equilibrium statistical physics. Topics include review of thermodynamics, canonical and grand canonical partition functions, mean-field theories, Ising and Bragg-Williams models, Landau theory, fluctuations about the mean field, critical phenomena, exact solution to the one-dimensional Ising model, two-dimensional Ising model and the renormalization group.

PHYS 641. Solid State Physics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: PHYS 571 and PHYS 580. Study of structure and electronic properties of materials in the solid phase.

PHYS 650. Subatomic Physics I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisites: PHYS 576, PHYS 580 and CHEM 510. Studies of nuclei and elementary particles, reaction dynamics, particle accelerators, detection devices, particle classification, symmetries and conservation laws, quantum electrodynamics, the weak interaction, quantum chromodynamics, unified theories, the nuclear shell model and collective model, and nuclear reactions. Offered in cooperation with Virginia State University.

PHYS 651. Subatomic Physics II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHYS 650. A continuation of PHYS 650. Offered in cooperation with Virginia State University.

PHYS 661. Surface and Materials Physics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisites: PHYS 641, CHEM 510 or permission of instructor. This course will focus on the physics of surface, interfacial and other nanostructured material systems, and the experimental techniques used to assay their geometric and electronic properties. Topics include ultra-high vacuum techniques and design, surface geometric and electronic structure, adsorbrates on surfaces and interface formation, thin film growth, and layered systems. Characterization techniques to be discussed include geometric probes (STM, AFM, RHEED, LEED, AFM, XRD) and synchrotron radiation-based electronic structure probes (PES, SXF, NEXAFS).

PHYS 663. Studies in Nuclear Physics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Credits for only two televised courses will count toward degree requirements. Courses televised by the Virginia Cooperative Graduate Engineering Program. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester and prerequisites.

PHYS 670. Conceptual Physics for Teachers I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 4 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: PHYS 508, PHYS 509 and PHYS 510, or permission of instructor. First of the sequence 670-672. Development of the methodology for the experimental design at middle and high school level, concentrating on the science of measurement, materials structure and characterization, and light and optical properties of matter. The 670-672 sequence uses and develops computer-based experiments and interactive multimedia materials for use in the classroom. The course contains examples of vertical integration of technological applications of physical principles across disciplines.

PHYS 671. Conceptual Physics for Teachers II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 4 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHYS 670 or permission of instructor. Second of the sequence PHYS 670-672. Development of the methodology for experimental design at middle and high school level, concentrating on sound and acoustics, electromagnetism and classical mechanics.
PHYS 672. Conceptual Physics for Teachers III. 3 Hours. 
Semester course; 4 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHYS 671 or permission of instructor. Third of the sequence PHYS 670-672. Development of the methodology for the experimental design at middle and high school level, concentrating on heat, thermodynamics and modern physics.

PHYS 690. Research Seminar. 1 Hour. 
Semester course; 1 credit. May be repeated for a maximum of 4 credits. Examines current problems and developments in physics.

PHYS 691. Special Topics. 3 Hours. 
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisites: at least one graduate-level physics course and permission of instructor. Selected topics in physics from such areas as statistical physics, quantum field theory, semiconductor device physics, general relativity, electronic structure of solids, thin-film fabrication techniques, superconductivity, nuclear magnetic resonance techniques, crystallography and nuclear physics.

PHYS 697. Directed Research. 1-15 Hours. 
Semester course; 1-15 credits. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: at least one graduate-level physics course and permission of instructor. Research leading to the M.S. or Ph.D. degree.

Political Science (POLI) 

POLI 591. Topics in Political Science. 3 Hours. 
Semester course; 3 credits. An in-depth study of a selected topic in political science in a seminar environment. Intended for small groups of students interested in examining issues and problems related to aspects of the political processes.

Psychology (PSYC) 

PSYC 601. Foundations of Applied Developmental Psychology. 3 Hours. 
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in the psychology program or permission of instructor. An introduction to developmental research and theory on applied research topics. Topics include ethical issues in applied developmental science, culture, ethnicity and child development, poverty, child abuse, nontraditional families, childcare, family instability, early childhood intervention and parenting.

PSYC 602. Psychology of Aging. 3 Hours. 
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires permission of instructor. Students must complete social sciences research methods before taking this course. Psychological adjustment in late life; special emphasis on personality, cognitive and emotional development; life crises associated with the aging process. Crosslisted as: GRTY 602.

PSYC 603. Developmental Processes. 3 Hours. 
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Cognitive, social, personality and behavioral development across the life span is considered, with special attention to theories of development.

PSYC 604. Social Psychology of Business and Industry. 3 Hours. 
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PSYC 630 or permission of instructor. The theme is the influence of organizational structure on behavior. Topics will include motivation, attitudes, job satisfaction, morale, leadership and supervision.

PSYC 605. Social Development. 3 Hours. 
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PSYC 603 or permission of instructor. The development of social relations, focusing primarily on infancy and childhood, but also considering adulthood and aging. Attachment, parent-child interaction, peers, siblings, aggression, sex-roles, cultural determinants, deprivation and remediation, social cognition, adulthood changes, parenthood. Critical evaluation of theory and current research.

PSYC 606. Development in Middle Childhood. 3 Hours. 
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in the psychology program or permission of instructor. An introduction to theory and research on children during middle childhood. Topics include language, intelligence, early education, schooling, social cognition, theory of mind, attachment, social competence, emotions and socialization.

PSYC 607. Advanced Educational Psychology for Elementary Teachers. 3 Hours. 
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Application of the principles of psychology to the teaching-learning process in the elementary classroom. Discussion will focus on the comprehensive development of individual learning experiences and educational programs from the point of view of the educator and administrator. Crosslisted as: EDUS 607.

PSYC 608. Research in Counseling Psychology. 3 Hours. 
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Graduate standing in the counseling psychology program or permission of counseling committee. An introduction to the theoretical, procedural, methodological and ethical issues encountered during the conduct of empirical research in counseling psychology. Topics include the empirical analysis of such mainstream counseling research activities as assessment, interventions, consultation, supervision, training, psychosocial factors in health and prevention, career development, the study of diversity and underrepresented populations, and professional issues in counseling psychology.

PSYC 609. Contemporary Issues in Clinical Psychology. 3 Hours. 
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: first-year graduate standing in clinical psychology or permission of the instructor. Informs first-year doctoral students of the philosophy behind the training model and the requirements of the doctoral program in clinical psychology in the context of the current status of contemporary issues in the field. Includes coverage of traditional and innovative training models, research issues, the role of assessment and psychotherapy in clinical psychology, the medical vs. the behavioral model of psychopathology, relations with other mental health professions, professional issues such as licensure and credentialing, and malpractice.

PSYC 610. Attitude Theory and Research. 3 Hours. 
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Theory and research in attitudes. Attitude formation and change, including cognitive consistency, learning and reinforcement, social judgment, and functional theories.

PSYC 611. Contemporary Issues, Supervision and Leadership in Counseling Psychology. 3 Hours. 
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Contemporary issues, problems and research related to the practice of counseling psychology; their importance in developing a professional identity and sensitivity to major developments in the field; history, present status and future directions in the field of counseling psychology.
PSYC 612. Seminar in Motivation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A survey of some theoretical views of motivation. Biological, cultural personality and learning theories of motivation will be covered. Theoretical positions will be related to current empirical findings.

PSYC 613. Cognitive Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/discussion hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in psychology or permission of instructor. The development of the intellectual processes, including reasoning, memory, imagery and knowledge. Special attention will be given to theories of cognitive growth. Although the focus will be on child cognitive developments, consideration of life-span issues will be included.

PSYC 614. Development in Infancy and Early Childhood. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PSYC 603 or permission of instructor. An introduction to theory and research on children from birth to early childhood, including sensory and behavioral capacities; cognitive, social and emotional development; and contexts of development (especially the family). Emphasis on stage salient tasks of development and the effects of early experience on function later in life. Consideration of the challenges associated with research and intervention with these age groups.

PSYC 615. Aging and Mental Disorders. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The course deals with common psychological disorders and problems of late life, their etiology, methods of evaluating psychological status and intervention strategies that have been used successfully with older persons. Topics include epidemiology of psychological disorders and mental health service utilization; late-life stressors and crises; psychology of health, illness and disability; techniques and procedures in the evaluation of the older adult; functional and organic disorders; institutionalization; individual, group and family therapy; behavioral techniques; peer counseling and crisis intervention; and drugs and the elderly. Crosslisted as: GRTY 615.

PSYC 616. Psychopathology. 1,3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1 or 3 credits. May be taken only one time for credit toward degree. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Clinical and experimental contributions to the field of psychopathology, with particular attention to the roles of learning and motivation in the development of behavior disorders.

PSYC 617. Sensation and Perception. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The major phenomena of vision, audition, olfaction, gustation and the skin senses. Psychophysics and the effects of sensory deficits. The relationship of variations in environmental energy to the psychological reactions of sensing and perceiving.

PSYC 618. Seminar in Personality. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. A detailed exploration of various approaches in personality. Contemporary issues in personality theory.

PSYC 619. Learning and Cognition. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in psychology or permission of instructor. Covers principles and theories of learning and cognitive psychology from simple associative learning through memory, comprehension, thinking and social behavior.

PSYC 620. Design and Analysis of Psychological Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: undergraduate course in basic statistics or permission of instructor. An introduction to research design in psychology (e.g., logic behind various research designs, typical research problems). Review of principles of hypothesis testing, general linear model, analysis of variance including factorial designs with special emphasis on prior and post-hoc comparisons, repeated-measures designs and mixed designs.

PSYC 622. Physiological Correlates of Emotion. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Research and theories of emotion emphasizing physiological bases, with special attention to neurological and endocrine systems. Applications to psychological functioning.

PSYC 623. Counseling Theories and Personality. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Enrollment requires permission of instructor. Overview of major trends in personality theory, techniques and current research in psychotherapies as they apply to counseling psychology. Includes descriptions of some brief psychoeducation and preventive interventions and stresses accountability in outcome of all interventions.

PSYC 624. Group Counseling and Psychotherapy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Historical perspective. Basic dynamics and processes of therapeutic groups. Role and technique of the group facilitator. Examination of different theoretical approaches.

PSYC 625. Career Development and Occupational Health. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. A review of major theories and current research in career development and topics in occupational health are presented. Theory, research and techniques associated with vocational assessment and intervention are reviewed. Emphasis on late adolescent and adult populations.

PSYC 626. Single-case Experimental Design for the Clinical Research Practitioner. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Review of single-case design models that have utility for clinicians in evaluating their practice. Emphasis will be placed on the historical development of the field and on the main experimental design issues that are relevant to the conduct of single-case research.

PSYC 627. Research Methods in Clinical Psychology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PSYC 680 and graduate standing in clinical or counseling psychology, or permission of instructor. Examines the role of research in clinical psychology and experimental design issues in psychotherapy research.

PSYC 628. Psychology of Adolescence. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in psychology or permission of instructor. Theories and research on the social, personality and cognitive development of adolescents. Emphasis is placed on the development of identity and relationships with family and peers, within the contexts of home, school, work and community. Variations in development related to cultural differences will also be the focus, but atypical behavior will be explored. Normal adolescent behavior will also be addressed. Current research ideas will be examined.
PSYC 629. Biological Basis of Behavior. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: an undergraduate course in physiological psychology or permission of instructor. Theory and current experimental research on the physiological and neurological concomitants of behavioral variables.

PSYC 630. Social Psychology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Topics include attitudes, social influence processes, person perception, affiliation and attraction, group processes, cultural influences on behavior and conformity.

PSYC 631. Evaluation Research: Psychological Perspectives. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides the student with knowledge of and skills in evaluation research. Additionally, students will learn how to apply psychological theories and applied research methods in evaluating psychological interventions and treatment programs. The class covers several key aspects of evaluation: 1) use of psychological theory in evaluations, 2) defining the problem, 3) contextual issues surrounding the evaluation, 4) selecting the appropriate type and design of evaluation, 5) methodological issues and 6) steps involved in conducting an evaluation of process and outcome. Course will attend to: a) theoretical, b) political, social and contextual factors that impact an evaluation, c) cultural considerations when conducting an evaluation, d) practical and logistical considerations and e) effective collaboration with community partners. Course examples and materials will be drawn from the professor’s experiences with evaluating community-based psychological interventions and prevention programs and the experiences of guest presenters.

PSYC 632. Research Methods in Social Psychology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: PSYC 680 and PSYC 630. Epistemological, methodological, technical and ethical problems encountered during the scientific study of social psychological phenomena. Emphasizes practical experience in theory development, hypothesis derivation, research planning, data collection, reduction and analysis, and dissemination strategies.

PSYC 633. Group Dynamics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PSYC 630 or permission of instructor. Theoretical explanations and empirical research related to group formation, development, performance and dissolution. Topics include obedience, conformity, group productivity and leadership.

PSYC 634. Attribution and Social Cognition. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PSYC 630. Analysis of the perceptual and inferential processes that influence the perceiver’s understanding of others’ traits and characteristics. Examines theoretical perspectives and current empirical studies of the intuitive use of behavioral data in making inferences concerning the causes of actions and events and the cognitive mechanisms that structure inferences about others’ qualities.

PSYC 635. Psychology of Health and Health Care in the Elderly. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Presents health psychology models, theories and issues relating to the etiology, course and treatment of illness in the elderly. Covers older patient-practitioner interaction, compliance, late-life stress and illness, and psychosocial issues in terminal care.

PSYC 636. Research Methods in Developmental Psychology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PSYC 680. Research designs, methods, ethical issues and problems specific to developmental psychology. Cross-sectional, longitudinal and sequential strategies. Statistical issues, multivariate statistics and choice of statistical designs appropriate for developmental research questions. Computer skills in organizing and analyzing data. Grant writing and scientific reporting.

PSYC 637. Operant Behavior. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in psychology or permission of instructor. Presents an overview of the methodology, terminology and phenomena unique to the experimental analysis of behavior. Topics include operant methodology, schedules of reinforcement, stimulus control, acquisition of behavior, conditioned reinforcement, punishment, scheduled-induced behaviors and use of operant techniques in drug research.

PSYC 638. The Evolution of Psychological Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: core course in student’s area of specialization or permission of instructor. A survey of the development and present state of various psychological systems. Current meta-theoretical and systematic issues in psychology.

PSYC 639. Research Methods in Biopsychology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Methodological, technical and ethical problems in biopsychology. Examples are design and use of circuits in behavioral sciences, stereotoxic surgery, histology, drug procedures, research design, data collection procedures and data analysis.

PSYC 640. Parenting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is about parenting. Students review and discuss theories and literature on human parenting, including the history of parenting, contextual issues in parenting, parenting at different stages of children’s lives (from pregnancy and infancy through having adult children) and parenting children with special needs (including disabilities and behavior problems). Also covers parent training and education, the journey to becoming a parent through adoption, parenting contributions to social, emotional and cognitive competence, child maltreatment and public policy around parenting. Students review parenting in different family structures including married, never married, divorced and separated families. This is not a course on how to parent, but practical issues in the lives of parents are discussed.

PSYC 641. Survey of Psychological Assessment and Treatment of the Older Adult. 3 Hours.
3 credits. A combination didactic and skills training course; review of major treatment strategies and techniques for utilization with the older adult client with emphasis on group, individual and paraprofessional delivery systems; evaluation of crisis intervention and consultation team approaches; lectures, demonstration and classroom practice of actual treatment techniques. Crosslisted as: GRTY 641.

PSYC 642. Practicum in Clinical Geropsychology. 3 Hours.
3 credits. An initial practicum geared as an entry to the team practicum experience; focus on familiarizing the student with mental health service delivery systems for the elderly in the Richmond community; rotation through a limited number of facilities such as nursing homes, retirement centers, nutrition sites, emergency hotline services for the elderly and various agencies involved in deinstitutionalization; possible extended placement in a particular facility. Crosslisted as: GRTY 642.
PSYC 643. Principles of Psychological Measurement. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in psychology or permission of instructor. Basic psychometric concepts to prepare the student for subsequent evaluation instruments. Origins and logic of testing, criteria for judging tests, standardization and reliability, and validity and principles of test development and construction.

PSYC 644. Individual Tests of Intelligence. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in clinical or counseling psychology or permission of counseling or clinical psychology program. Examines the administration, scoring, interpretation and research foundations of the major individual tests of intelligence. Emphasizes the Wechsler scales and the measurement of adult and child intelligence. Develops psychological report writing skills.

PSYC 645. Assessment of Personality. 2,3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 2 or 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in clinical or counseling psychology, or permission of clinical or counseling psychology program and instructor. Examines use of objective and projective tests in assessment of personality. Emphasizes clinical interpretation of the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory (MMPI), and the administration and clinical interpretation of the Rorschach and Thematic Apperception Test (TAT). Stresses integrative report writing.

PSYC 646. Projective Techniques. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in clinical or counseling psychology or permission of counseling and clinical program committee. Projective devices for the assessment of personality. Supervised administration, scoring, interpretation and written reports of individually administered projective personality tests.

PSYC 647. Neuropsychological Assessment. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in psychology and permission of instructor. Psychological assessment of brain-behavior relationships in the context of neurological or neuropsychological problems. Emphasis is on current modifications of Halstead's tests and on the Reitan-Indiana Neuropsychological Battery for younger children. Laboratory requires supervised administration, scoring and interpretations of neuropsychological test batteries.

PSYC 648. Behavioral Assessment of Clinical Problems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in psychology and permission of instructor. Development, evaluation, use and interpretation of behavioral approaches to the assessment of clinical problems, including self-monitoring, behavioral ratings and direct observational assessment procedures. Both existing instruments and procedures for designing new instruments will be discussed.

PSYC 649. Clinical Assessment of Child Disorders. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: PSYC 643 and graduate standing in clinical psychology, or permission of clinical program committee and instructor. Administration and interpretation of intellectual and personality assessment instruments for children. Laboratory requires supervised administration, scoring, interpretation and written reports of these assessment instruments.

PSYC 650. Advanced Child Psychopathology. 1,3 Hour.
Semester course; variable hours. 1 or 3 credits. May be taken only one time for credit toward degree. Principal childhood behavioral abnormalities: mental retardation, psychosis, learning disabilities, speech and language problems, school-related behavioral problems, neurosis, psychosomatic disorders and juvenile delinquency. Genetic, prenatal, perinatal, postnatal and social-psychological factors related to etiology. Integration of assessment and treatment methods.

PSYC 651. Theories of Counseling and Interviewing. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1, 2 or 3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate standing in counseling or clinical psychology, and permission of instructor. Introduces basic principles of interviewing as they apply to theories and practice of psychotherapy and counseling. Laboratory requires videotaping of simulated counseling/psychotherapy session, modeled and role-played interview situation, skill development and demonstration, and evaluative interpersonal feedback.

PSYC 652. Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in psychology and permission of the instructor. Presents the major approaches to psychological interventions for children's and adolescents' behavioral and emotional disorders. Includes a review of empirical research evaluating the effectiveness of contemporary psychological interventions for specific disorders.

PSYC 653. Family Counseling and Therapy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: PSYC 616, and PSYC 693 or PSYC 694, and PSYC 645; or permission of instructor. Emphasizes an applied approach to family assessment and therapy. Presents theories and concepts of major approaches to family therapy and general systems issues. Emphasizes techniques of family therapy. Involves participants in role playing, demonstration, films and case discussion.

PSYC 654. Marriage Counseling and Therapy: Theory, Practice and Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in clinical or counseling psychology, or permission of instructor. Surveys major theories of marital interaction and counseling (as distinct from family counseling). Students perform assessment batteries and interviews and practice selected techniques of marital counseling. Participation in a research project, either library, field, or experimental research, is required.

PSYC 655. Community Interventions: Development, Implementation and Evaluation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Provides an understanding of the concepts community, prevention and promotion and how interventions that adopt such a perspective differ from traditional psychotherapeutic interventions in their goals and targets. Explores how to critically evaluate research related to community and preventive interventions. Emphasizes consideration of issues in designing, implementing and evaluating community intervention projects. Provides opportunities to conduct part of the intervention in a community setting.
PSYC 656. Structured Training Groups. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. This course presents an introduction to the historical roots and basic assumptions of group training methods. The specific focus is on those structured, behavioral interventions that are designed to be time limited and emphasize staff development or training needs of clients. Needs assessment, screening, program development and evaluation, consultation methods and ethics are included as topics. Leadership styles and the composition of training grant proposals are developed and critiqued in the laboratory/experiential component of this course.

PSYC 657. Advanced Educational Psychology for Secondary Teachers. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Application of the principles of psychology to the teaching-learning process in the secondary classroom. Discussion will focus on the comprehensive development of individual learning experiences and educational programs from the point of view of the educator and administrator. Crosslisted as: EDUS 617.

PSYC 659. Seminar in Consultation Psychology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in psychology or permission of instructor. Explores theory and practice of psychological consultation using case materials, readings and individualized projects. Covers conceptual models and role choices available to the consulting psychologist, common phases, principles and practices found in the consultation process and program evaluation and consultation research methods and issues.

PSYC 660. Health Psychology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: PSYC 629 and graduate standing in psychology, or permission of instructor. Provides an overview of research in and applications of the principles of behavioral psychology with respect to the fields of medicine, health maintenance and illness. Emphasizes the integration of theoretical research and applied issues in these areas. Surveys major topics in behavioral medicine, including psychophysiological disorders, compliance and adherence with health care regimens, psychological adjustment to illness and pain, behavioral dentistry, pediatric psychology, cardiovascular risk reduction, eating and sleeping disorders, behavioral pharmacology and biofeedback. Explores roles of psychologists.

PSYC 661. Clinical Applications of Health Psychology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Clinical health psychology has emerged as a distinct practice area within professional psychology. It is best defined as the application of psychological assessment and intervention methods to various specialty areas within medicine. These areas include rehabilitation medicine, neurology, geriatrics, transplant medicine, bariatrics, oncology, cardiology, pain management, sleep medicine, reproductive health, pediatrics, gastroenterology and primary care. The course will survey the clinical roles of and intervention and assessment tools used within each of these specialty areas, and will include guest lectures provided by clinicians who work in these specialty areas from the VCU Health System or the larger community. In addition, students will conduct information-gathering telephone interviews with clinicians from around the nation and present their findings in a discussion format. Course evaluation will be based primarily on class discussion, student presentations of interviews and two take-home exams.

PSYC 662. Diagnostic and Behavioral Assessment. 2,3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 2 or 3 credits. Designed to introduce students to the theory and practice of diagnostic and behavioral assessment. The course primarily focuses on the conceptual underpinnings and major methods associated with the diagnostic and behavioral assessment traditions. Emphasis is placed on how these assessment traditions can be used together to guide case conceptualization, monitor treatment progress and outcome, treatment planning, and treatment selection. The course covers psychometric theory, classics assessment controversies and the psychometric strengths and weaknesses of the diagnostic and behavioral assessment approaches. The course ends with a review of risk assessment. The goal of the course is to provide students with the knowledge and skills to critically apply the appropriate assessment strategies to guide clinical work from intake to termination.

PSYC 664. Psychological Needs of Military Service Members and Their Families. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Provides opportunities to understand the psychological needs of both service members and their families – from pre-deployment through post-deployment – through presentations by professionals from the Department of Defense, National Guard, VA Medical Center and other military organizations. Explores the impact of psychological trauma and physical injuries on service members’ well-being. Emphasizes a review of different interventions and other sources of help available for returning service members and their families. Provides an opportunity to prepare an integrative review of a topic related to a military issue.

PSYC 665. Psychodynamic Approaches to Psychological Treatment. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Examines basic principles in conceptualizing and treating clients from a psychodynamic perspective. Theoretical and clinical readings and case materials are used as a basis for an in-depth analysis of psychodynamic theories and practices within a seminar format.

PSYC 666. Crisis Intervention: Theory, Research and Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PSYC 629 and graduate standing in psychology or permission of instructor. Reviews the development of the concept of psychological crisis and of intervention programs in a range of areas such as sexual assault, natural disasters, telephone hotlines and medical emergencies. Relevant theory and data from community psychology, laboratory and applied research, sociology and psychiatry will be considered.

PSYC 667. Behavior Therapy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in the psychology program or permission of instructor. Emphasizes group and individual approaches to the following general areas: observational techniques; counterconditioning and extinction procedures; techniques of positive and negative control; self-control procedures; use of modeling and role playing as change techniques; behavioral feedback and cueing procedures.

PSYC 668. Interpersonal Psychotherapy: Social Psychological Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Analysis of counseling and psychotherapy as interpersonal influence processes. Applications of social psychological theories and research to the process of therapeutic change; identification of key aspects of the change process and of how these aspects are embodied in current approaches and techniques of counseling and psychotherapy. Emphasis on experimental methods of studying change processes.
PSYC 669. Interpersonal Psychotherapy: Communication Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Theory and research in nonverbal communication. Communication theories of psychotherapy and a communication analysis of key concepts in psychotherapy.

PSYC 670. Seminar in Gestalt Therapy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Philosophical basis, historical background, theoretical formulation, techniques and application of Gestalt therapy. Students will have the opportunity to practice and observe the techniques.

PSYC 671. Readings and Research. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. Prerequisite: written permission of instructor. Individual study leading to the investigation of a particular problem in a systematic fashion under the supervision of a member of the faculty.

PSYC 675. Ethical Principles of Psychology. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. A discussion of some of the current problems of interest to psychologists. Particular emphasis on the ethical principles of psychology, and the dilemmas encountered in the teaching, research and applied practice of psychology.

PSYC 676. Personal Awareness in Multicultural Counseling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 seminar hours and 1 hour skills-building component. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in the counseling psychology doctoral program or permission of the instructor. Focus on (1) self-awareness regarding cultural issues, (2) knowledge of cultural differences and (3) counseling skills with culturally different clients. This course will provide the theoretical and research knowledge base to complement students’ experiential training in multicultural issues. Building on the students’ knowledge of Western and non-Western psychology theories and practices, the course will help students in developing a theory of cross-cultural and multicultural counseling. The course will further focus on historical development of multiculturalism and examine existing research in this area.

PSYC 677. Minority Issues in Mental Health. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in psychology or permission of instructor. Presents an overview of issues pertaining to the mental health of visual/ethnic groups (VREG) in the United States (i.e., African-Americans, Hispanics, Asian-Americans and Native Americans). Topic areas include research and psychological theories, assessment, diagnosis, ethnic identity, acculturation, service utilization, the family, psychotherapy and training issues.

PSYC 679. Culture, Ethnicity and Health. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to graduate students in health psychology or by permission of instructor. This course is designed to provide students with a foundation for understanding and addressing health disparities from a psychological perspective. The class will focus on: (a) health disparities from a historical, political, economic, social and environmental perspective; (b) the intersection of race, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic status, sexual orientation and other social factors that may exacerbate disparities; (c) challenges in the measurement of minority health and disparities; (d) the role of cultural competence in health promotion and disease prevention; and (e) barriers to health care that contribute to disparities.

PSYC 680. Statistics in Psychological Research I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: an undergraduate psychological statistics course or equivalent within the past three years or successful passage (80 percent or greater) of an undergraduate psychological statistics equivalency test to be completed at VCU. Extensive coverage of multiple regression/correlation analysis with applications in psychology. Survey of applications of multivariate statistical analyses in psychology.

PSYC 681. Statistics in Psychological Research II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PSYC 680 or permission of instructor. Will build on PSYC 680 and provide extensive coverage of multiple regression/correlation analysis with applications in psychology. Will provide a survey of applications of multivariate statistical analyses in psychology and will introduce students to recent statistical developments in the field.

PSYC 688. The Self and Identity. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: PSYC 630 and 680 or permission of instructor. Our sense of self provides meaning and coherence to our lives; it is the lens through which we interpret the world. This seminar will take a research-based approach, and almost all readings will be psychology journal articles. Class will focus on key topics in recent self research (e.g., self-regulation, self-esteem, the self and relationships, different cultural conceptions of self) as well as debate controversial issues in the literature (e.g., the cultural universality of self-enhancement, whether positive illusions are healthy). Students may choose some of the topics covered in the latter part of the semester. Evaluation will be based primarily on class discussion, student-led debates and discussions, and a research proposal and presentation at the end of the semester.

PSYC 690. Research Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 4 hours per credit. 1-3 credits. Available to graduate students in the psychology department with approval by their program committee. Provides the graduate student in psychology the opportunity to design and apply research skills under close faculty supervision. Involves research projects that progressively become more sophisticated as students increase their research skills.

PSYC 691. Special Topics. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Theory, research and techniques in specialized topics of current interest are presented.

PSYC 693. Counseling Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; one-half day per credit. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Available only to graduate students in counseling psychology approved by the counseling program committee. A series of training experiences designed to facilitate progressively greater degrees of skill development in counseling psychology.

PSYC 694. Clinical Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; one-half day per credit. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Available only to graduate students in clinical psychology approved by the clinical program committee. The graduate student in clinical psychology is given an opportunity to apply and practice interviews and diagnostic and therapeutic skills with clients requiring psychological services. Careful supervision and evaluation of the student is provided. The practicum may be located at a clinic on campus or in a hospital or other agency off campus.
PSYC 695. Practicum in Clinical or Counseling Supervision. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 4 supervisory hours. 2 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Credits earned do not count as course credits toward the degree. Prerequisites: permission of instructor, enrollment in graduate program in clinical or counseling psychology, completion of 12 hours of clinical (PSYC 694) or counseling (PSYC 693) practicum. This course is an opportunity to develop, apply and practice psychotherapy supervision skills under the direct supervision of clinical or counseling faculty members.

PSYC 696. Internship. 0.5 Hours.
0.5 credit. Prerequisite: approval of the director of the program involved. The internship is one-year, full-time assignment, under supervision, to an agency approved by the student's program committee. Graded S/U/F.

PSYC 700. Grant Writing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: two graduate courses in statistics or permission of instructor. Students are expected to enter course with a pre-approved topic identified and substantial background reading completed. Focuses on preparing an NIH grant application, using F31-F32 mechanism (predoctoral or postdoctoral National Research Service Award) as a model. Course covers elements of a grant application, details of the grant review process and key features of successful applications. Students prepare a research plan for their own application based upon their current work.

PSYC 702. Causal Analysis for Organizational Studies. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: two graduate courses in statistics or permission of instructor. Focuses on conceptual and statistical issues involved with causal analysis with nonexperimental and experimental data. Course covers basic and advanced confirmatory factor analysis and structural equation techniques, with an emphasis on organizational and psychological applications. Crosslisted as: MGMT 702.

PSYC 795. Practicum in the Teaching of College Psychology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisites: appointment as a graduate teaching assistant in psychology or permission of instructor. Students develop skills in the design and conduct of undergraduate courses in psychology through observation and supervised experiences: acquaints students with university, college, and department policies and resources in support of instruction; familiarizes students with disciplinary resources; assists students in evaluating personal strengths and weaknesses.

PSYC 798. M.S. Thesis. 1-6 Hours.
1-6 credits. May be repeated.

PSYC 898. Doctoral Dissertation. 1-12 Hours.
1-12 credits. May be repeated.

Rehabilitation and Movement Science (REMS)

REMS 540. Cardiovascular Pathophysiology and Pharmacology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: HPEX 375 and HPEX 440 or equivalents. Presents theoretical principles of electrocardiography and the effects of pharmacological intervention in the treatment of cardiovascular disease. Specific emphasis placed on myocardial ischemia, myocardial infarction and their treatment through exercise rehabilitation protocols. The impact of pharmacological agents on the ECG and on exercise are explored. Crosslisted as: HEMS 540.

REMS 608. Advanced Musculoskeletal Sciences. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the structure and function of tissues of the musculoskeletal system. Investigates mechanisms of healing of these tissues and explores the affects of various modalities, altered use and disease on the structure and function of musculoskeletal tissues. Crosslisted as: PHTY 608.

REMS 611. Biomechanics of Human Motion. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOL 205 or equivalent. Recommended: PHYS 201, or HPEX 374 or 373, or equivalents. Application of the knowledge and methods of mechanics in the study of the structure and function of the human body as applied to sport, physical activity and rehabilitation. Topics include kinematics, kinetics and methods of biomechanical analysis. Crosslisted as: HEMS 611.

REMS 612. Advanced Biomechanics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: REMS/HEMS 611 or permission of instructor. Designed for students in the interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science. Covers advanced biomechanics techniques for the evaluation and quantification of human performance. Encourages scientific thought with practical applications. Crosslisted as: PHTY 612.

REMS 660. Neuromuscular Performance. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: HEMS/REMS 601 and HEMS 611. Examines the interrelationships between the musculoskeletal and neuromuscular systems. Includes examination of normal and abnormal biomechanics of the musculoskeletal system, biomechanical factors related to human performance, as well as acute and chronic adaptations of the neuromuscular system. Emphasizes how these principles can be applied to physical training in healthy and diseased populations and treatment and rehabilitation in the sports medicine setting. Crosslisted as: HEMS 660.

REMS 665. Instrumentation in Motion Analysis. 3 Hours.
2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Designed for students in the interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science Program. Examines theories, principles, and applications of systems used to qualify and characterize movement.

REMS 690. Research Seminar in Rehabilitation and Movement Science. 0.5 Hours.
Seminar course; 0.5 credit. Seminar course designed for students in the interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science Program. Presentation and discussion of research reports and topics of interest. Advances skills in critical analysis and discussion leadership. Topics and research presentations vary from semester to semester and are coordinated by the instructor of record. May be repeated. Graded as pass/fail.

REMS 692. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for 6 credits. Determination of the amount of credit and permission of the instructor and division head must be procured prior to registration. Cannot be used in place of existing courses. An individual study of a specialized issue or problem in health or movement sciences. Crosslisted as: HEMS 692.
REMS 701. Advanced Exercise Physiology I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHIS 501 or other graduate-level mammalian physiology course or permission of instructor. Investigates the effect of acute and chronic exercise stimuli on human performance and select disease states. Topics to be addressed include exercise bioenergetics, metabolic responses to exercise, contributions to substrate selection and utilization during exercise, muscular performance and adaptations to exercise training, cardiovascular adaptation to exercise, aerobic and anaerobic training programs, and effects of training on fitness and performance.

REMS 702. Advanced Exercise Physiology II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: PHIS 501 or other graduate-level mammalian physiology course or permission of instructor, and REMS 701. Investigates the effect of physiological stressors on human performance and health through lecture and article discussion. Topics to be addressed include exercise in the heat and cold, effects of altitude on physical performance, acute and chronic endocrine responses to exercise, role of adipokines in chronic disease conditions, the use of ergogenic aids in sport.

REMS 703. Cardiovascular Exercise Physiology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires permission of instructor. Investigates the structural, functional and cellular principles of human cardiovascular physiology as applied to health and human performance. Emphasis will be placed on the metabolic, contractile and hemodynamic adaptations to acute and chronic exercise training.

REMS 704. Psychobiology of Physical Activity. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires permission of instructor. "Psychobiology" is defined as the integrative study of behavior from the social, cognitive and biological levels of analysis. This course will include an examination of the research that encompasses psychophysiology, psychoneuroendocrinology, psychoneuroimmunology, neuroscience, physiological psychology and behavioral genetics applied to exercise.

REMS 705. Metabolic Aspects of Physical Activity. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires permission of instructor. This course is designed to explore the thermic effects of physical activity in apparently healthy individuals, as well as those with increased risk for cardiovascular, metabolic or other inflammatory diseases. Additionally, the relationship between physical activity and food intake, resting metabolic rate and dietary-induced thermogenesis will be reviewed. The examination of gastrointestinal function during dietary manipulation will also be assessed to address performance enhancement in several types of physical activities. This course will emphasize the metabolic control of ATP synthesis, which includes carbohydrate, lipid and protein metabolism and their interaction with one another in response to biological needs during rest and physical activity.

REMS 710. Research Techniques in Rehabilitation and Movement Science. 1-3 Hours.
50 hours of laboratory times per credit hour. 1-3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor required. Examines and explores laboratory techniques used in rehabilitation and movement science research. Provides opportunity to begin transitioning clinical problems to research questions. Opportunities in laboratories of the rehabilitation and movement science program or other laboratories approved by the adviser or program directors. Focuses on individual student learning needs. Graded as pass/fail.

REMS 793. Teaching Practicum in Higher Education. 1 Hour.
50 hours of contact/preparation time for each credit. 1 credit. Practicum designed for students in the interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science degree program. Develops skills necessary for classroom teaching including preparing and presenting selected topic(s), writing test questions, and grading examinations. May be repeated for additional teaching experience. Graded as pass/fail.

REMS 794. Research Presentation Seminar. 1 Hour.
1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Seminar course designed for students in the interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science Program. Develops presentation skills. Requires preparation and presentation of research at a public research forum scheduled by the instructor of record. Students are expected to submit their research for presentation at a selected regional, national or international conference in a related field. Graded as pass/fail.

REMS 798. Research in Rehabilitation and Movement Science. 1-12 Hours.
Semester course; 1-12 credits. Research leading to the Ph.D. degree and elective research projects for students in the Rehabilitation and Movement Science doctoral program. May be repeated. Graded as "S," "U" or "F."

Religious Studies (RELS)
RELS 592. Independent Study. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 credits. Determination of the amount of credit and permission of the instructor and department chair must be procured prior to registration for the course. Open only to graduate students. An independent study course to allow qualified graduate students to do research in an area of major interest.

Sociology (SOCY)
SOCY 500. Advanced Principles of Sociology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A comprehensive analysis of the concepts and techniques useful for understanding society and culture as well as the social processes and structures operant within these spheres.

SOCY 501. The Foundations of Sociological Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The foundations of theoretical explanation of the social world is addressed from an historical and philosophical perspective. The emergence of contemporary sociological theory in the 19th and 20th centuries is reviewed.

SOCY 502. Contemporary Sociological Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A critical assessment is given of such contemporary theoretical orientations as functionalism, conflict theory, exchange theory, symbolic interactionism and phenomenology.

SOCY 508. Introduction to Social Statistics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Introduction to statistical methods applicable in a variety of settings, with emphasis on nonexperimental data. Data description and analysis including chi-square and t-tests, using a statistical computing package. Not applicable toward M.S. in Mathematical Sciences or Computer Science. Crosslisted as: STAT 508.
SOCY 510. Domestic and Sexual Violence in Social Context. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Students will learn about the experiences of and responses to sexual and domestic violence in specific social contexts, with a focus on less visible contexts and underserved populations. Examines violence within various family structures and intimate relationships including racial/ethnic minority and immigrant groups and gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender relationships, in various community settings including college campuses and the military, and among people with disabilities. Guest lectures provided by community experts in these areas.

SOCY 515. Globalization and Transformation: Concepts and Realities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines how globalization significantly affects cultural processes at both local and national levels. Transformations of cultural understandings and practices under such circumstances will be explored. Virtual course components will bring causes, processes and consequences of the transformations of Western, Eastern and developing countries into focus. Crosslisted as: INTL 500.

SOCY 524. Aging and the Minority Community. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An analysis of the relationship between the aging process and American minority communities. In addition to the sociological factors, the course will examine demographic, physiological and psychological aspects of minority aging. Attention will also focus on dominant social problems and federal policies toward the aged.

SOCY 593. Internship in Sexual and Domestic Violence Practice and Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 12 hours per week. 3 credits. Provides students practical experiences working in settings that address sexual and domestic violence. Students will focus on various areas including but not limited to service provision, intervention, research and program evaluation. Students will work closely with organizations/agency staff and follow their instructions.

SOCY 601. Sociological Research Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Review of sociological research methodologies, including research design, ethical issues, measurement, data collection techniques, sampling and the basic logic of qualitative and quantitative analysis. The focus is on developing the student's abilities to critically evaluate uses of methodologies in the research literature and justify methodological choices.

SOCY 602. Applications of Sociological Research Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SOCY/STAT 508 or equivalent and SOCY 601. Emphasis on applying methods for developing and executing a sociological research project, including the problem statement, theoretical framework, literature review, research design, ethics, sampling, data collection procedures, data analysis and presentation of results.

SOCY 603. Seminar in Population Studies. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Analysis of fertility, mortality and migration from a sociodemographic perspective. Special attention will be paid to sociological determinants of demographic processes and their interrelationships.

SOCY 604. Sociology of Work in Industry. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Analyses of work relations and the social structures and mechanisms that govern and arise out of them and examination of the social problems that are inherent in the characteristics that make a society an industrial society.

SOCY 605. Survey Research Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SOCY 601, SOCY 602 and SOCY/STAT 608, or permission of instructor. Examines all major areas of survey research methodology including sampling, design, data collection methods, questionnaire design, data analysis and data processing. Addresses problems specific to survey research, such as telephone interviewing, constructing large representative samples and nonresponse rates. Crosslisted as: PADM 605.

SOCY 607. Seminar in Racial and Ethnic Relations in America. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of intergroup relations in such areas as busing and school desegregation, racism, minority and athletics, the emergence of white ethnic groups in the political systems, and the position of minorities in legal, economic and medical institutions.

SOCY 608. Statistics for Social Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: STAT/SOCY 508 or SOCY 214 or permission of instructor. Statistical methods applied in social research. Topics include analysis of variance, correlation and regression, including stepwise methods, and the analysis of discrete data. Study of a statistical package, emphasizing manipulation of survey data sets. Not applicable toward M.S. in Mathematical Sciences or Computer Science. Crosslisted as: STAT 608.

SOCY 609. Seminar in the Family. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Analysis of contemporary family life with an emphasis on the influence of social change. Consideration of current family crises and problems.

SOCY 610. Complex Organizations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of complex organizations in society with emphasis on the determinants and effects of organizational structure and process.

SOCY 611. Studies in the Community. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The organization of the community with emphasis on major trends in urban development and growth. The interdependence of political, social and economic geographic units. The need for cooperative planning and control.

SOCY 612. Seminar in the Sociology of Deviant Behavior. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The nature and functions of deviance. Theories and problems of social control.

SOCY 613. Social Stratification. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An in-depth analysis of status differentials in society (e.g., social class, prestige and power).

SOCY 614. Seminar in the Sociology of Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. A sociological analysis of education as a social institution with an emphasis on methodological issues and policy implications.

SOCY 615. Seminar in Mass Communications. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Some theoretical background in sociology is recommended. A sociological analysis of contemporary media and their interrelationships with social systems, media and national development. Special emphasis on media as instruments of social and cultural change.

SOCY 620. Seminar in Criminology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examination and analysis of social, psychological, and economic theories and correlates of criminal behavior. Typologies of offenders. Crosslisted as: CRJS 620.
SOCY 622. Theory Construction. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A consideration of recent social theorists in which emphasis is placed on the logic of theory construction.

SOCY 624. Community and Community Services for the Elderly. 3 Hours.
3 credits. A conceptual/theoretical overview of community focusing on the ecological, psychological and social dimensions of community and on communities of the aged. Crosslisted as: GRTY 624.

SOCY 625. Urban Sociology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing. A detailed analysis and examination of the social and ecological structures and processes of the modern city with primary emphasis on the macro-level organization of urban life.

SOCY 630. Social Psychology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Discussion and investigation of selected social psychological issues in sociology, as well as traditional and innovative methodology applied to these issues.

SOCY 631. Battered Women in the Criminal Justice System. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides students with an understanding of (1) the major developments and trends in the law related to battered women in the criminal justice system; (2) the role of the various players in the criminal justice system; (3) how child abuse and sexual abuse are treated in the criminal justice system; and (4) battered women who kill and the defense of battered woman syndrome. Introduces the stages of the criminal justice system as it relates to battered women and their children.

SOCY 632. Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence: Medical Practice and Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an overview of the sociological perspective on intimate partner and sexual violence as it relates to women’s health. Also covers practical responses to violence such as screening, assessment, treatment and referral behaviors of medical providers, as well as policy in the health care setting.

SOCY 633. Application of the Policy Process to Issues of Violence. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Offers an interdisciplinary approach to understanding different models of decision-making and the policy process found at all levels of American government. The focus is on the public sector with application to private and nonprofit settings. A six-stage model of policy initiation, selection, implementation, evaluation and termination is presented and explored through the use of case studies and examples of policy initiatives related to domestic violence, sexual assault and youth violence. Prepares students to recognize and understand the key stages of and influences on the policy process and apply them in their current and future work settings.

SOCY 634. Social Contexts of Childhood and Violence. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Course will increase awareness and knowledge of children and adolescents as victims of violence, “absorbers” of violence and perpetrators of violence, as well as the victim-perpetrator dichotomy. Course is informed by an interdisciplinary framework to include neuroscience, trauma-informed practice, socioecological model, child development and resiliency. Topics include children and adolescents’ experience with domestic violence, sexual violence, physical abuse, neglect, human trafficking, teen-dating violence, violence against LGBTQ youth, school violence, neighborhood/community violence and violence in the media. This highly interactive course will also consider innovative intervention and prevention strategies and discuss relevant policy issues.

SOCY 635. Theorizing Gender Violence. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Teaches students to think sociologically and structurally about gender and violence. Familiarizes students with sociological and feminist scholarship and explanatory theories related to preventing and responding to gender violence. Students will learn about the experiences of and responses to sexual and domestic violence in specific social contexts, with a focus on less visible and underserved populations. Guest lectures provided by community experts in these areas. Also examines social policy and research implications of various approaches.

SOCY 640. Seminar in Political Sociology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Analysis of structures and processes of political organization. Examination of the creation and management of power, diffusion and regulation of conflict, and the politics of modernization and bureaucratization.

SOCY 645. The Sociology of Health and Illness. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of sociocultural factors in health and illness and the influence of social factors on recovery and rehabilitation. Special attention will be paid to the methodology found in current studies.

SOCY 646. Seminar in the Sociology of Mental Health and Disorder. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Seminar in social organizational causes of clinical depression, schizophrenia, neurosis and personality disorders. Focus is on prevention through social engineering and social policy. Impact of social change, sex roles and socialization processes on rates of mental disorder emphasized.

SOCY 650. Theories of Social and Institutional Change. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of social change with emphasis on institutional settings. Topics examined include alternative theoretical perspectives on change, structural sources of change, approaches to planned change, and the role and function of change agents.

SOCY 652. Environmental Sociology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Exploration of the social and political dimensions of human-environment relationships through the lens of environmental sociology and human geography. The course focuses on large-scale, planetary transformations often referred to as climate change, a diverse range of effects that are becoming increasingly salient parts of our everyday lives.

SOCY 654. Political Economy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A rigorous introduction to historical and theoretical modes of inquiry that are foundational to a wide range of critical sociology. An exploration of the major sociological paradigms for analyzing relations among state, economy and society. Topical focus will vary each term, but will include a critical evaluation of liberal political economy, an investigation of 20th century capitalism and the rise of neoliberalism, and the intersections of race, gender and class in the modern world-system.
SOCY 656. Social Network Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor. Provides a solid introduction to the theoretical foundations, basic measures and common applications of Social Network Analysis. Begins with overview of what it means to practice SNA and discusses the implications and use of SNA as social science methodology. Using online discussions and standard SNA methodological tools, students will engage in peer discussions and complete a series of practica designed to introduce the SNA methodology. Course will also take a broad look at how SNA has been used in understanding social mobility, interpersonal violence and terrorism/gangs. By course end, students will have an understanding of the theories and basic measures and methods of SNA.

SOCY 660. Seminar in the Sociology of Gender. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An analysis of the social construction of gender, the social forces that create and maintain gender hierarchy, and how the gender hierarchy intersects with other systems of inequality such as race, class and sexuality.

SOCY 673. Public Sociology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides students an opportunity to reflect on public sociology and develop skills in disseminating their sociological insights to a broader public. Some of the major questions addressed include: What is public sociology? What/who is the sociological audience? What is the relationship between academia and public intellectual life? How does the internet influence the availability of publics? How does style of writing determine our relationship to different publics?

SOCY 690. Practicum in the Teaching of College Sociology. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 credit. Enables students to develop skills in the design and conduct of undergraduate courses in sociology through observation and supervised experiences. Credits not applicable toward the B.S. in Sociology.

SOCY 691. Special Topics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Seminars on current specialized areas of sociological and anthropological interest.

SOCY 692. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. A maximum of 6 credits may be submitted toward the master's degree. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and graduate program committee.

SOCY 693. Internship. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours (50 contact hours per credit). 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Permission of the internship coordinator and graduate director required for enrollment. A graduate-level internship that allows students to explore professional opportunities as related to the discipline of sociology. Students will be required to write a professional paper applying sociological concepts and methodologies to their experiences in the setting, as appropriate.

SOCY 694. Practicum in Sociology. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Provides opportunities for training experiences in sociological applications under faculty supervision leading to progressively greater degrees of skill development. Specific experiences offered vary from semester to semester.

SOCY 698. M.S. Thesis. 1-6 Hours.
1-6 credits. May be repeated.

Spanish (SPAN)

SPAN 533. Spanish for the Professions. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 lecture hours. 1-4 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits. Prerequisites: SPAN 301; SPAN 305 or 307 or 311; SPAN 320 or 321; SPAN 330 or 331; SPAN 404. An intensive study of specialized communication in Spanish. The content of this course will emphasize the knowledge and language skills for particular professions, which may include business, education, health sciences and translation. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topic offered each semester.

SPAN 543. Texts and Contexts in Spain and Latin America. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 lecture hours. 1-4 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 8 credits. Prerequisites: SPAN 301; SPAN 305 or 307 or 311; SPAN 320 or 321; SPAN 330 or 331. Restricted to seniors in Spanish concentration with at least 85 credit hours taken toward the degree. An exploration of themes concerning Spain, Latin America and/or Latinos in the U.S. as reflected in a variety of textual genres, including film.

Statistical Sciences (STAT)

STAT 508. Introduction to Social Statistics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Introduction to statistical methods applicable in a variety of settings, with emphasis on nonexperimental data. Data description and analysis including chi-square and t-tests, using a statistical computing package. Not applicable toward M.S. in Mathematical Sciences or Computer Science. Crosslisted as: SOCY 508.

STAT 513. Mathematical Statistics I. 3 Hours.
Continuous course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 307. Probability, random variables and their properties, distributions, moment generating functions, limit theorems, estimators and their properties; Neyman-Pearson and likelihood ratio criteria for testing hypotheses. Crosslisted as: BIOS 513.

STAT 514. Mathematical Statistics II. 3 Hours.
Continuous course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: STAT 513/BIOS 513. Probability, random variables and their properties, distributions, moment generating functions, limit theorems, estimators and their properties; Neyman-Pearson and likelihood ratio criteria for testing hypotheses. Crosslisted as: BIOS 514.

STAT 543. Statistical Methods I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate standing, or those with one course in statistics and permission of instructor. Basic concepts and techniques of statistical methods, including the collection and display of information, data analysis and statistical measures; variation, sampling and sampling distributions; point estimation, confidence intervals and tests of hypotheses for one and two sample problems; principles of one-factor experimental design, one-way analysis of variance and multiple comparisons; correlation and simple linear regression analysis; contingency tables and tests for goodness of fit. Students may receive degree credit for only one of STAT 541, STAT 543 or BIOS 543, or STAT 641. Neither STAT 543 nor BIOS 543 is applicable toward the M.S. degree in mathematical sciences or the M.S. degree in computer science.

STAT 544. Statistical Methods II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: STAT 314, STAT 541 or STAT 543, or an equivalent. Advanced treatment of the design of experiments and the statistical analysis of experimental data using analysis of variance and multiple-regression. Includes the use of a statistical software package for data analysis.
STAT 546. Linear Models. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: STAT 513 and one applied course in statistics, or permission of instructor. A study of the theory underlying the general linear model and general linear hypothesis. Topics include the general linear model for quantitative responses (including multiple regression, analysis of variance and analysis of covariance), binomial regression models for binary data (including logistic regression and probit models) and Poisson regression models for count data (including log-linear models for contingency tables and hazard models for survival data).

STAT 591. Topics in Statistics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. Course open to qualified undergraduates. Selected topics in statistics.

STAT 608. Statistics for Social Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: STAT/SOCY 508 or SOCY 214 or permission of instructor. Statistical methods applied in social research. Topics include analysis of variance, correlation and regression, including stepwise methods, and the analysis of discrete data. Study of a statistical package, emphasizing manipulation of survey data sets. Not applicable toward M.S. in Mathematical Sciences or Computer Science. Crosslisted as: SOCY 608.

STAT 613. Stochastic Processes. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 3 lecture hours. 3-3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate status in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis, or permission of instructor. Introduction to the theory and applications of stochastic processes. Random walks, Markov processes, queuing theory, renewal theory, birth-death and diffusion processes. Time series, spectral analysis, filter, autocorrelation.

STAT 614. Stochastic Processes. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 3 lecture hours. 3-3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate status in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis, or permission of instructor. Introduction to the theory and applications of stochastic processes. Random walks, Markov processes, queuing theory, renewal theory, birth-death and diffusion processes. Time series, spectral analysis, filter, autocorrelation.

STAT 621. Nonparametric Statistical Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: any two courses of statistics or permission of instructor. Estimation and hypothesis testing when the form of the underlying distribution is unknown. One-, two- and k-sample problems. Tests of randomness, Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests, analysis of contingency tables and coefficients of association. Crosslisted as: BIOS 621.

STAT 623. Discrete Multivariate Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate status in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis, or permission of the instructor. Methods for the analysis of categorical data, including logistic regression and the general log-linear model. Emphasis on social and biomedical applications of these techniques using SPSS and SAS software.

STAT 625. Applied Multivariate Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate status in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis, or permission of instructor. Multivariate statistics is a study of dependent random variables. This course covers methods for analyzing continuous multivariate data, such as numerical and graphical summary of multivariate observations, principal component analysis, factor analysis, classification and discrimination, canonical correlation analysis, and cluster analysis. Students will learn the motivation behind these methods, how to implement them in statistical software packages and how to interpret the results.

STAT 626. Complex Sampling Designs and Variance Estimation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: STAT 544 and 514. The analysis of data from surveys that use multistage samples, and connections to the analysis of observational studies and experiments with missing data. Computer intensive methodologies such as the jackknife and bootstrap will be introduced and applied to the problem of variance estimation in these diverse settings.

STAT 636. Machine Learning Algorithms. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate status in mathematical sciences, systems modeling and analysis, decision sciences and business analytics, or computer science, or by permission of the instructor. Includes an in-depth analysis of machine learning algorithms for data mining, equipping students with skills necessary for the design of new algorithms. Analyses will include framing algorithms as optimization problems and a probabilistic analysis of algorithms. Students will be exposed to current areas of research in the construction of data mining algorithms. Crosslisted as: OPER 636.

STAT 641. Applied Data Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: completion of a multivariate calculus course. Experience with mathematics or statistics software is strongly recommended. Introduction to applied data analysis intended primarily for graduate students in mathematical sciences and engineering. Topics include the fundamental ideas of descriptive statistics, elementary probability theory, statistical inference including tests of hypotheses and confidence intervals, ANOVA, principles of experimental design, correlation and linear regression analysis, categorical data analysis, and quality control. Focus is on the practical side of implementing these techniques using statistical software packages. Students may receive degree credit for only one of STAT 441, STAT 543/BIOS 543 or STAT 641.

STAT 642. Design and Analysis of Experiments I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate status in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis, or permission of instructor. An introduction to the design and analysis of experiments. Topics include the design and analysis of completely randomized designs, one variable block designs, the family of Latin square designs and split-plot designs. Introductions are also given to multiple comparison procedures and contrasts, analysis of covariance and factorial experiments. Applications involve the use of a statistical software package.

STAT 643. Design and Analysis of Experiments II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate status in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis, or permission of instructor. An introduction to the design and analysis of experiments. Topics include the design and analysis of completely randomized designs, one variable block designs, the family of Latin square designs and split-plot designs. Introductions are also given to multiple comparison procedures and contrasts, analysis of covariance and factorial experiments. Applications involve the use of a statistical software package.
STAT 643. Applied Linear Regression. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 200-201, STAT 212 and MATH 310 or equivalents. An introduction to the concepts and methods of linear regression analysis. Topics include simple linear regression, multiple linear regression, the impact of model misspecification, model selection criteria, residual analysis, influence diagnostics, diagnostic plots, multicollinearity, transformations and response surface methodology. Applications involve the use of a statistical software package.

STAT 645. Bayesian Decision Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. Prerequisite: STAT 514 or equivalent. Presents statistical decision theory and Bayesian analysis, with discussions of loss functions, risk, utility, prior information; conjugate families; posterior distributions, estimation, hypothesis testing; empirical and hierarchical Bayes analysis; and robustness.

STAT 648. Systems Reliability Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate status in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis, or permission of the instructor. An introduction to engineering reliability and risk analysis, specifically failure data analysis, maintenance problems, system reliability and probabilistic risk assessment. Applications in computer science and engineering will include stochastic characterization of wear in hardware systems and the development of failure models for software systems. Decision problems such as the optimal maintenance of repairable systems and optimal testing policies for hardware and software systems will be examined. The analysis of risk through fault trees, event trees and accident precursor analysis also will be discussed. Crosslisted as: OPER 648.

STAT 649. Statistical Quality Control. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate status in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis, or permission of the instructor. Demonstrates how statistics and data analysis can be applied effectively to process control and management. Topics include the definition of quality, its measurement through statistical techniques, variable and attribute control charts, CUSUM charts, multivariate control charts, process capability analysis, design of experiments, and classical and Bayesian acceptance sampling. Statistical software will be used to apply the techniques to real-life case studies from manufacturing and service industries. Crosslisted as: OPER 649.

STAT 650. Design and Analysis of Response Surface Experiments. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate status in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis, or permission of the instructor. Philosophy, terminology and nomenclature for response surface methodology, analysis in the vicinity of the stationary point, canonical analysis, description of the response surface, rotatability, uniform information designs, central composite designs and design optimality. Crosslisted as: BIOS 650.

STAT 675. Time Series Analysis I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate status in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis, or permission of instructor. Analysis of data when observations are not mutually independent, stationary and nonstationary time series, ARIMA modeling, trend elimination, seasonal models, intervention analysis, transfer function analysis, prediction and applications in economics and engineering.

STAT 691. Special Topics in Statistics. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. A detailed study of selected topics in statistics.

STAT 696. Applied Project. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours (to be arranged). 1-3 credits. Up to three credits will be applied to the M.S. in Mathematical Sciences (operations research or statistics concentration) per section. Can be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: SSOR 690 or permission of the faculty adviser. Designed to allow students to apply concepts and theories learned in other courses to a practical situation. Includes the selection, written description, completion and written report of the project and a presentation of the findings. Students may not receive credit for both OPER/STAT 696 and OPER/STAT 698. Graded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory. Crosslisted as: OPER 696.

STAT 697. Directed Research. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits per semester. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. Supervised individual research and study in an area not covered in the present curriculum or in one that significantly extends present coverage. Research culminates with an oral presentation and submission of a written version of this presentation to the supervising faculty member.

STAT 698. Thesis. 1-3 Hours.
Hours to be arranged. 1-3 credits. A total of 3 or 6 credits may be applied to the M.S. in Mathematical Sciences/Statistics. (A total of 3 credits for an expository thesis or a total of 6 credits for a research thesis.) May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: Graduate standing. Independent research culminating in the writing of the required thesis as described in this bulletin. Grade of “S,” “U” or “F” may be assigned in this course.

STAT 725. Advanced Multivariate Statistical Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: STAT 625 and STAT 643. This course emphasizes statistical analysis, methodology and theory in modern statistical learning. A variety of multivariate statistical methods, algorithms and software tools will be introduced, with emphasis on conceptual, theoretical and computational aspects. Topics include regularized regression (linear/nonlinear), classification, clustering, sufficient dimension reduction and high dimensional data analysis. Applications involve the use of a statistical software package.

STAT 736. Mathematics of Knowledge and Search Engines. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: STAT 541 or equivalent. Investigates the mathematics, methods and algorithms for searching for and extracting structures of interest (knowledge) from large and possibly high-dimensional datasets. The motivation is the rapid and phenomenal growth of the search engine (as demonstrated by Google) as a major tool for search on the Internet, which has impacted commerce, education and the study of social, financial and scientific datasets. The development of the mathematical and statistical learning algorithms behind these search engines has led to advances in how large, high-dimensional datasets can be effectively analyzed for the extraction of knowledge. Crosslisted as: OPER 736.

STAT 742. Design and Analysis of Experiments II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: STAT 642. Advanced study of the design and analysis of experiments. Topics include the design and analysis of incomplete block designs, factorial designs, fractional factorial designs, asymmetric factorial designs, blocking in fractional factorial designs, nested designs and response surface designs. Applications involve the use of a statistical software package.
STAT 744. Regression II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: STAT 643 or equivalent. Theoretical development and advanced applications of the general linear regression model and nonlinear regression models. Topics include an overview of multiple linear regression, generalized least squares and weighted regression, procedures for diagnosing and combating multicollinearity, advanced model selection criteria, influence diagnostics including multiple observation diagnostics and singular value decomposition, nonlinear regression, Poisson regression, logistic regression, generalized linear models and the exponential family, variance modeling and nonparametric regression. Applications involve the use of a statistical software package.

STAT 745. Advanced Bayesian Statistics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: STAT 546 and STAT 643 or permission of instructor. Introduces modern aspects of Bayesian methodology. Numerical and sampling techniques such as the Gibbs sampler, importance sampling resampling, Monte Carlo integration, Metropolis-Hastings sampling and adaptive sampling methods. Inferential methods including model selection, highest probability models, Bayesian model averaging, Markov chain Monte Carlo model composition. A large portion of the course will survey the current literature in the areas listed above as well as applications of the methods.

STAT 746. Spatial Data Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: STAT 513 and STAT 643 or permission of instructor. The course will introduce graphical and quantitative analysis for spatial data. Topics include data on fixed-grids, point-referenced data, lattice data, point-pattern data and experimental design for spatial data collection. Students will be expected learn how to program in appropriate software packages.

STAT 775. Time Series Analysis II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: STAT 513 and STAT 675, or permission of instructor. Advanced study of time series analysis. Topics include multivariate time series, state-space models and GARCH models. Applications involve the use of a statistical software package.

STAT 791. Special Topics in Statistics. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. A detailed study of selected advanced topics in statistics.

Systems Modeling and Analysis (SYSM)

SYSM 681. Systems Seminar I. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: graduate standing in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis. Designed to help students attain proficiency in academic communication and research in the context of mathematics, operations research and statistics. Focuses on the discipline-specific communication and research skills necessary to excel in graduate studies in these disciplines.

SYSM 682. Systems Seminar II. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: graduate standing in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis. Designed to help students attain proficiency in professional communication and research in the context of mathematics, operations research and statistics. Focuses on the discipline-specific communication and research skills necessary to excel in professional careers in these disciplines.

SYSM 683. Systems Seminar III. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: graduate standing in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis. Designed to help students attain proficiency in literature review and research in the context of mathematics, operations research and statistics. Focuses on the discipline-specific literature review and research skills necessary to write an applied project, thesis or dissertation.

SYSM 697. Systems Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: graduate standing in systems modeling and analysis. Supervised individual research and study. Research culminates with an oral presentation and submission of a written report to the supervising faculty member.

SYSM 780. Stochastic Methods in Mathematical Biology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: STAT 513 or 613, MATH 532. Covers commonly used stochastic methods in mathematical biology, including cellular physiology and related areas. Topics covered include stochastic differential equation models, applications of first passage time (escape time) and applications of density or master equations, diffusion in cells, stochastic ion channel dynamics, and cellular communication. Students will be expected to learn how to program in appropriate software packages.

SYSM 798. Dissertation Research. 1-12 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-12 credits. May be repeated for credit. Research and work leading to the completion of the Ph.D. dissertation in systems modeling and analysis. Graded S/U/F.

World Studies (WRLD)

WRLD 530. Concepts in World Cinema. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Can be repeated for credit with different themes. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and/or graduate standing. Exploration of aspects of film theory combined with a study of cinema across national traditions and movements. Each semester a different thematic focus is engaged to illuminate issues in film composition and reception. Themes will include: the Holocaust, film and screen theory in the digital era, decolonizing the gaze: Black African and Caribbean cinema.

WRLD 535. World Filmmakers. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Can be repeated for credit with different themes. Prerequisites: permission of instructor and/or graduate standing. Centers on the distinct yet interrelated roles of directors (as individual "authors" or as part of a movement or tradition), studios, audiences, national film industries, etc. in the production, development and interpretation of screen media. Each semester a different vantage point, i.e. gender, is used to open new perspectives on film, a critical evaluation of national film traditions and the elements of cinematographic style. Topics include: women filmmakers in world cinema, Spanish and Latin American filmmakers, filmmakers of the "New German Cinema.

WRLD 593. Internship With French Film Festival. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 8 hours per week in festival office during semester and 8 hours per day during festival in Byrd Theatre. 3 credits. Provides students practical hands-on experience working in the French Film Festival office. Students will research and write questions to ask French actors, directors and cinematographers during the festival. The students edit a final audiovisual project of their actor/director interviews. Students work closely with the founders/directors of the French Film Festival.
School of Allied Health Professions

Allied Health Professions (ALHP)

ALHP 573. Teaching in Health Professional Schools. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Study of the relationships between health education and higher education in general, current essentials, standards in education for the health professions and theoretical approaches to the implementation of these standards in both academic and clinical learning. Emphasis will be placed on modes of adapting to future needs of the professions.

ALHP 582. Supervision in the Allied Health Professions. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Study of the supervisory process and staff development, training in communication and interpersonal skills, and public relations within the health facility.

ALHP 591. Special Topics. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Interdisciplinary study through lectures, tutorial study or independent research of selected topics not provided in other courses. Graded as Pass/Fail.

ALHP 594. Health Education Practicum. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 1-6 credits. Preparation, presentation and evaluation of selected educational experiences in the appropriate graduate program. Section 801: general; Section 802: nurse anesthesia; Section 803: clinical laboratory science.

ALHP 596. Supervisory and Administrative Practicum in Allied Health Clinics. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; 60 clinical hours per credit. 1-9 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. The course is designed for the student who will be assuming supervisory and administrative roles. Areas to be covered include clinical personnel management, budgeting and ordering of materials and equipment, consultation with physicians, developing and troubleshooting clinical methods, designing job descriptions and implementation of quality control programs. Section 01: Clinical Laboratory Sciences Section 02: Physical Therapy.

ALHP 701. Health Services Delivery Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Examines the structure and function of the U.S. health-care delivery system, the concepts and processes of health and illness, the institutional and individual providers of health services and related theory. Focuses on interdisciplinary care. Emphasizes meeting the unique needs of ethnically and culturally diverse populations.

ALHP 702. Finance and Economic Theory for Health Care. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Focuses on foundational concepts of micro-economic theory and their application in analyzing health care; understanding the structure and dynamics of health-care markets; and on monitoring and controlling the allocation of resources within health organizations. Emphasizes each of the health-care disciplines and how finance and economics affect the practice of delivery and evaluation.

ALHP 708. Ethics and Health Care. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Applies the principles of biomedical and health-care ethics to develop a more informed understanding of ethical decision making in the formulation of health-care policy as well as within the clinical environment. Focuses on utilizing and searching biomedical ethics literature, current issues in biomedical ethics, the discipline and process of ethical reflection and case consultation.

ALHP 712. Curriculum and Communication Design for Health Care Professionals. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Required course. Examines various aspects of curriculum development, including instructional design and use of multimedia technology for teacher-learner communication and learner growth and development pertinent to doctoral education. Covers relevant learning theories in higher education and implications on curriculum design. Requires students to develop a Web-based interactive, multimedia course.

ALHP 716. Grant Writing and Project Management in Health Related Sciences. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Examines fundamentals of allied health grant writing and proposal preparation in the health related sciences, including funding source determination, responding to an RFP, basic elements of a proposal, proposal review procedures and allocation processes. Requires development of a complete proposal and critique of existing proposals.

ALHP 718. Health Informatics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Analyzes current information and management systems from an allied health sciences perspective. Emphasizes knowledge representation in health care, information needs, storage and retrieval, clinical information systems, standards of health information management and the evaluation of information management systems. Stresses the efficient and innovative use of technology.

ALHP 760. Biostatistical Methods for Health Related Sciences. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Examines basic concepts and techniques of statistical methods, enabling individuals to conduct scientific inquiry as well as critical appraisal of the scientific literature. Includes the collection and display of information, data analysis and statistical measures; variation, sampling and sampling distributions; point estimation, confidence intervals and tests of hypotheses for one- and two-sample problems; principles of one-factor experimental design, one-way analysis of variance and multiple comparisons; and correlation and regression analysis.

ALHP 761. Health Related Sciences Research Design. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Covers the design of experimental and quasi-experimental studies in the health-care field. Emphasizes issues related to measurement, validity of designs, sampling and data collection. Focuses on the logic of causal inference, including formulation of testable hypotheses, and the design, methods and measures that facilitate research.

ALHP 762. Multivariate Statistical Methods for Health Related Sciences Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Examines multivariate statistical analysis and evaluation research methods with application to health related science research. Emphasizes data reduction techniques, factor analysis, principle components, discriminant analysis and logistic regression to analyze data in the health field.

ALHP 763. Clinical Outcomes Evaluation for Health Related Sciences. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Examines fundamental concepts and techniques of health related sciences research, identification of emerging trends in health related sciences research, identification of meaningful research questions based on existing information and the use of primary and secondary data to assess outcomes.
ALHP 764. Advanced Methods for Health Sciences Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Examines the application of multivariate statistical analysis and evaluation methods to health related sciences research. Emphasizes advanced statistical methods (e.g., LISREL, Event History Analysis) and design to analyze panel data in the health field. Elective course.

ALHP 781. Doctoral Seminar in Health Related Sciences. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Student’s desired topic of study must be identified and approved prior to enrollment. Studies specific topics in the area of the student’s specialty track.

ALHP 792. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Offers special individual study or research leading toward investigation in specialty track. Conducted under the guidance of a faculty adviser.

ALHP 793. Research Practicum. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Offers supervised investigation of selected problems in the area of the student’s specialty track. Includes conducting and analyzing field research.

ALHP 890. Dissertation Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Deals with general purpose, content and functions of the dissertation process related to the student’s specialty track. Leads to the preparation of dissertation proposal.

ALHP 899. Dissertation Research. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. Variable credit. Minimum of 9 semester hours required for Ph.D. Prerequisites: Completion of required course work and comprehensive examination. Covers dissertation research under the direction of a faculty adviser.

Clinical Laboratory Sciences (CLLS)

CLLS 500. Concepts and Techniques in Clinical Laboratory Science. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Restricted to candidates in the categorical master’s program. Presents the basic theoretical concepts, laboratory techniques and skills employed in the areas of clinical chemistry, hematology, immunohematology and microbiology.

CLLS 501. Instrumental Methods of Analysis I. 2-4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 2-4 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. A study of modern research and clinical laboratory instrumentation and procedures. Principles, theory and comparison of laboratory instruments are discussed along with the factors affecting their operation. Laboratory exercises are designed to demonstrate the practical applications of the instruments in the research and clinical laboratory. Areas covered include basic electronics, principles of photometry, spectrophotometry, fluorometry, flame emission photometry, atomic absorption spectrophotometry and computerized instrumentation.

CLLS 502. Instrumental Methods of Analysis II. 2-4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 2-4 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. A study of modern research and clinical laboratory instrumentation and procedures. Principles, theory and comparison of laboratory instruments are discussed along with the factors affecting their operation. Laboratory exercises are designed to demonstrate the practical applications of the instruments in research and clinical laboratory. Areas covered include electrophoresis, chromatography, particle counters, radio-isotope counters and clinical laboratory automation.

CLLS 580. Principles of Education/Management. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 practicum hours. 1-3 credits. Introduces fundamental educational theories and practice, principles of management and employee relations and health-care issues from a global perspective with an emphasis on multicultural diversity. Stresses the application in the clinical laboratory. Requires a practicum in education and in management following the completion of the didactic portion.

CLLS 595. Clinical Practicum. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 80-320 clock hours. 1-4 credits. Prerequisite: At least one of the following: CLLS 301-302, 306 and 310, 307-308, 311-312, or by permission of instructor. Individual participation in a hospital laboratory in a selected specialty area: clinical chemistry, hematology, microbiology or immunohematology. Students gain practical experience in the performance of procedures and use of instruments by working with the clinical staff. After gaining competence, the students are expected to perform supervisory duties. Based on advisor’s recommendation and student’s past experience, the course may be taken for less than four credits. Graded as pass/fail.

CLLS 601. Theoretical Blood Banking. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. A comprehensive study of the blood groups in man, including biochemistry, genetics and clinical significance. Topics relating to problems with antibodies to the blood group antigens are discussed.

CLLS 602. Molecular Diagnostics in Clinical Laboratory Sciences. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to students in the M.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences' advanced master’s track or permission of instructor. Provides the basic principles and techniques of molecular diagnostics and information for establishing a molecular diagnostics laboratory. Examines the utilization of molecular techniques in the clinical laboratory for patient diagnosis and therapy. Emphasizes the use of these techniques in the areas of immunology, microbiology, hematology/oncology, and inherited genetic disorders.

CLLS 603. Clinical Immunology. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. Variable credit. Based on adviser’s recommendation and student’s past experience, the course may be taken for less than four credits. Graded as pass/fail.

CLLS 605. Advanced Hematology. 2-4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 2-4 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Discusses advanced laboratory techniques used to analyze blood dyscrasias and hematostatic disorders. Students also may perform related laboratory tests.

CLLS 608. Laboratory Diagnosis of Infectious Diseases. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Applies an organ system approach to the laboratory diagnosis of infectious diseases. Emphasizes diagnostic methods to verify infections because of pathogenic micro-organisms and includes related diagnostic microbiology laboratory issues. Utilizes a distance learning format.

CLLS 610. Interpretative Clinical Hematology. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Principles of hematopoiesis and related pathological and pathophysiological correlation of hematological disorders are discussed.

CLLS 611. Analytical Techniques for Clinical Mass Spectrometry. 2 Hours.
6-week summer session; 12 lecture and 36 laboratory contact hours. 2 credits. Enrollment restricted to student admitted to the M.S. in Clinical Laboratory Sciences program or by permission of the instructor. Focuses on the proper utilization of chemicals and equipment required for the calibration, quality control and operation of clinically relevant mass spectrometry systems. Emphasizes calculations and demonstration of proficiency with quantitative techniques.
CLLS 612. Mass Spectrometry Systems for Clinical Analyses. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: CLLS 611 or permission of the instructor. Focuses on the principles of chemical and instrumental analysis relevant to the detection and quantitation of clinically relevant analytes using mass spectrometry systems. Emphasizes the clinical laboratory applications of different types of mass spectrometry systems, preanalytical sample preparation, and integration of chromatography and mass spectrometry.

CLLS 613. Mass Spectrometry Assay Development for In Vitro Diagnostics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CLLS 611 and CLLS 612 or permission of the instructor. Focuses on the principles of assay development and evaluation of methods for the measurement of clinically relevant analytes using chromatography-mass spectrometry systems. Emphasizes “best practices” as found in CLSI, SOFT and FDA guidance documents.

CLLS 627. Advanced Concepts in Immunology and Immunohematology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CLLS 306, 310 and 496. Presents advanced topics in clinical immunology and immunohematology. Focuses on the integration of advanced concepts in the evaluation of laboratory data and solving clinical and methodological problems related to autoimmune diseases, ABO discrepancies, compatibility testing, hemolytic disease of the fetus and newborn and transfusion reactions.

CLLS 628. Advanced Concepts in Microbiology. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: CLLS 307 and 308; and CLLS 496 or 595. Advances study of pathogenic microbiology principles. Includes application of laboratory data and techniques to solve clinical microbiology problems.

CLLS 629. Advanced Concepts in Hematology. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: CLLS 302, and CLLS 485 or 595. Focuses on developing and expanding the knowledge acquired in the prerequisite courses in hematology and hemostasis. Incorporates case study evaluations, challenging current hematology topics in the literature and the integration of assessing laboratory data and clinical problems. Emphasizes the development of skills in critical thinking and analyzing clinical data.

CLLS 630. Advanced Concepts in Clinical Chemistry and Instrumentation. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: CLLS 311 and 312; and CLLS 483 or 595. Focuses on advanced concepts in clinical chemistry, including endocrinology, measurement of vitamins and tumor markers, method evaluation and laboratory and hospital information systems. Integrates the basic knowledge and skills acquired in the undergraduate sequence of courses with advanced concepts in clinical chemistry/instrumentation to analyze the more complex clinical and analytical problems presented by the aforementioned topics. Includes the design and conduct of library research and laboratory experiments, and data analysis to generate recommendations that are practical and applicable in a real clinical chemistry service.

CLLS 690. Clinical Laboratory Sciences Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Presentation and discussion of current research and topics of interest by the departmental faculty, graduate students and visiting lecturers.

CLLS 691. Special Topics in Clinical Laboratory Sciences. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 credits. This course provides for lectures, tutorial studies and/or library assignments in specialized areas not available in formal courses or research training.

CLLS 694. Molecular Diagnostic Practicum I. 8 Hours.
Semester course; 640 clock hours. 8 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Provides direct observation and practice in a molecular diagnostics laboratory with emphasis on nucleic acid extraction and molecular amplification techniques. Develops proficiency at performing, analyzing and reporting test results. Graded as pass/fail.

CLLS 695. Molecular Diagnostic Practicum II. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 320 clock hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Provides direct observation and practice in molecular diagnostics laboratory. Focuses on molecular hybridization and human identity analyses. Develops proficiency at all stages of nucleic acid analyses including performing, analyzing and reporting test results. Introduces practice issues involved in management of a molecular diagnostics laboratory. Graded as pass/fail.

CLLS 696. Advanced Blood Bank Practicum. 2 Hours.
6 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. A laboratory course with practical experiences in resolving complex blood group serological problems and discussion of these problems. Donor phlebotomy, processing of donor units, component preparation and instruction of undergraduate clinical laboratory sciences students also are performed.

CLLS 761. Research Methodology in Clinical Laboratory Sciences. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on the principles of scientific research as applicable to problems encountered in the clinical laboratory sciences. Also focuses on developing a draft research proposal that would be the foundation for a project that would satisfy the research requirement for the master’s degree in clinical laboratory sciences.

CLLS 790. Research in Clinical Laboratory Sciences. 1-15 Hours.
Semester course; 1-15 credits. Research leading to the M.S. degree.

Gerontology (GRTY)

GRTY 501. Physiological Aging. 3 Hours.
3 credits. This course is taught at an introductory level in contrast to the more substantive background required for GRTY 601. Distinguishes between normal aging and those chronic illnesses often associated with aging in humans. This course would be valuable to those interested in the general processes of human aging.

GRTY 510. Aging. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces the student to the biological, psychological, social, ethical, economic and cultural ramifications of aging. Presents an interprofessional approach to the complex issues and realities of aging. Discusses aging concepts and biopsychosocial theoretical frameworks relevant to the field of aging studies.

GRTY 601. Biological and Physiological Aging. 3 Hours.
3 credits. Biological theories of aging; cellular, physical, systemic and sensory change; health maintenance.

GRTY 602. Psychology of Aging. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires permission of instructor. Students must complete social sciences research methods before taking this course. Psychological adjustment in late life; special emphasis on personality, cognitive and emotional development; life crises associated with the aging process. Crosslisted as: PSYC 602.
GRTY 603. Social Gerontology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Focuses on the sociopsychological and sociological aspects of aging. Various sociopsychological and social theories of aging will be discussed. The course will provide a broad overview of several general topics such as the demography of aging, politics and economics of aging, and cross-cultural aspects of aging. The course will offer an in-depth analysis of particular role changes that accompany aging (i.e., retirement, widowhood, institutionalization).

GRTY 604. Problems, Issues and Trends in Gerontology. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Covers a broad range of topics of critical interest to practitioners, policymakers and researchers working with older persons. Explores how societal trends affect the health and social services systems. Recognizes the importance of interdisciplinary approaches to the study of aging issues. Insights from practitioners and the knowledge of researchers will be combined to investigate viable responses to emerging trends. Provides a multifaceted view of these issues based on research expertise and practical experience. Students will experience a visit to the General Assembly and will follow and critically evaluate current aging-related legislation in state government.

GRTY 605. Social Science Research Methods Applied to Gerontology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate statistics. Application of social science methods and techniques to study of the aged; data sources; types of problems encountered; data analysis; research reporting; use of research findings.

GRTY 606. Aging and Human Values. 3 Hours.
3 credits. Identification and analysis of value systems of the aged, exploration of religious beliefs; death and dying; moral, ethical and legal rights; human values and dignity.

GRTY 607. Field Study in Gerontology. 1-5 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. May be repeated to the required maximum of 4 credits. Focuses on identification and systematic exploration and study of a community-identified need, issue or task germane to the student's gerontology concentration with special attention given to funding opportunities and grant writing. Applies specific concepts and approaches to assessment analysis as determined in consultation with the student's program adviser. Implementation and evaluation of a terminal project and dissemination of the results through a portfolio collection, as well as potential professional presentation, grant submission or manuscript submissions. Graded as S/U/F.

GRTY 608. Grant Writing. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Provides the skills necessary to research and write a grant. Explores how to find grant funding opportunities through both private and public sources. Describes the process of preparing a proposal including writing the narrative and preparing a budget.

GRTY 609. Career Planning. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Focuses on the transition from academia to the professional role and workforce. Identifies individual strengths and evaluates career goals. Prepares students to deliver resume and communication strategy for job seeking in the aging workforce.

GRTY 610. Gero-pharmacology. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: undergraduate course in statistics. Discusses description of medication-related problems that may be experienced by older adults. Identifies strategies to prevent medication-related problems in older adults, defines the role of the pharmacist as a partner in resolving medication-related problems, applies the strategies for preventing medication-related problems to patient cases and evaluates the medication regimen for an older adult residing in assisted living.

GRTY 611. Death and Dying. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on questions surrounding death, dying and bereavement, with a special focus on developmental and cultural issues. Explores concepts through research, experiential learning and reflection.

GRTY 612. Recreation, Leisure and Aging. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 2 credits. Explores the biopsychosocial and ecopolitical aspects of the intersection of aging and being a member of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and/or transgender-identified minority populations. Reviews normative aging factors in the context of being a member of the GLBT population. Discusses the intersection of these with such factors as race, socioeconomic status and other confounding factors.

GRTY 613. GLBT in Aging. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Explores the biopsychosocial and ecopolitical aspects of the intersection of aging and being a member of the gay, lesbian, bisexual and/or transgender-identified minority populations. Reviews normative aging factors in the context of being a member of the GLBT population. Discusses the intersection of these with such factors as race, socioeconomic status and other confounding factors.

GRTY 614. Aging and Mental Disorders. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The course deals with common psychological disorders and problems of late life, their etiology, methods of evaluating psychological status and intervention strategies that have been used successfully with older persons. Topics include epidemiology of psychological disorders and mental health service utilization; late-life stressors and crises; psychology of health, illness and disability; techniques and procedures in the evaluation of the older adult; functional and organic disorders; institutionalization; individual, group and family therapy; behavioral techniques; peer counseling and crisis intervention; and drugs and the elderly. Crosslisted as: PSYC 615.

GRTY 615. Social Gerontology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The course deals with common psychological disorders and problems of late life, their etiology, methods of evaluating psychological status and intervention strategies that have been used successfully with older persons. Topics include epidemiology of psychological disorders and mental health service utilization; late-life stressors and crises; psychology of health, illness and disability; techniques and procedures in the evaluation of the older adult; functional and organic disorders; institutionalization; individual, group and family therapy; behavioral techniques; peer counseling and crisis intervention; and drugs and the elderly. Crosslisted as: PSYC 615.

GRTY 616. Geriatric Rehabilitation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an overview of the process in geriatric rehabilitation with an assessment, psychosocial aspects and rural issues in rehabilitation. Considers major disabling conditions in late life, and emphasizes the nature of the interdisciplinary rehabilitation process with aging clients.

GRTY 618. The Business of Geriatric Care Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Evaluates information and materials needed for a basic understanding of the fundamentals of geriatric care management. Distinguishes and critically evaluates the tasks required of a geriatric care manager and the knowledge and skills needed to perform those tasks. Compares and contrasts multiple geriatric care management business models.
GRTY 619. Geriatric Care Management Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisites: GRTY 601, GRTY/PSYC 602 and GRTY 603. Pairs a student with a geriatric care manager practicing in the field. Applies information learned in gerontology core classes to hands-on clinical experience with a geriatric care manager. Supervises field experience with clients, providing advocacy and supervision, and coordinating needs to ensure independence and safety.

GRTY 620. Geriatric Interdisciplinary Team Training. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Emphasizes interdisciplinary teamwork with a focus on geriatrics. Increases the awareness of the importance of interdisciplinary teamwork when working with older adults. Uses a case-focused approach to discuss care for older adults in a variety of settings, including acute care, long-term care, rehabilitation, PACE and home health care.

GRTY 621. Professional Writing. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Provides instruction on APA guidelines for writing and referencing articles in scholarly papers. Emphasizes critical thinking and awareness skills for reviewing journal articles.

GRTY 624. Community and Community Services for the Elderly. 3 Hours.
3 credits. A conceptual/theoretical overview of community focusing on the ecological, psychological and social dimensions of community and on communities of the aged. Crosslisted as: SOCY 624.

GRTY 625. Aging and the Minority Community. 3 Hours.
3 credits. An analysis of the relationship between the aging process and American minority communities. In addition to the sociological factors, the course will examine demographic, physiological and psychological aspects of minority aging. Attention also will focus on dominant social problems and federal policies toward the aged.

GRTY 627. Psychology of Health and Health Care for the Elderly. 3 Hours.
Focuses on factors in the etiology, course and treatment of illness; patient/practitioner relationship; patient compliance and psychosocial issues in terminal care.

GRTY 629. Spirituality and Aging. 2-3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 or 3 lecture hours. 2 or 3 credits. Explores the spiritual, psychological and social dynamics associated with aging. Provides special attention to the spiritual and emotional impact on caregivers who work with aging patients. Crosslisted as: PSYC 629.

GRTY 638. Long-term Care Administration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores the history and development of the long-term care continuum in the United States. Emphasizes assisted living and the knowledge and skills required to be a successful assisted living administrator. Utilizes the five domains of assisted living administration as the framework. Facilitates learning on leadership and management, with a focus on providing optimal, person-centered care and services to older adults living in a licensed and regulated environment.

Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Provides an introduction and foundation to human resources in aging services geared toward administrative and entrepreneurial gerontologists. Emphasizes leadership theory and utilizes the human resource management domain of practice as a guide for structure. Emphasizes developing the culture of an organization to facilitate effective practices in managing a safe and healthy work environment. Reviews state and federal laws, rules and regulations. Allows students to apply skills through cases and exercises relevant to their intended career path.

GRTY 640. Financial Management for Gerontological Leaders. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Provides an introduction and foundation to financial management in aging services geared toward administrative and entrepreneurial gerontologists. Utilizes the financial management domain of practice as structure for this course. Emphasizes creating and managing organizational finances and multiple payment systems. Reviews state and federal laws, rules and regulations. Allows students to apply skills through cases and exercises relevant to their intended career path.

GRTY 641. Survey of Psychological Assessment and Treatment of the Older Adult. 3 Hours.
3 credits. A combination didactic and skills training course; review of major treatment strategies and techniques for utilization with the older adult client with emphasis on group, individual and paraprofessional delivery systems; evaluation of crisis intervention and consultation team approaches; lectures, demonstration and classroom practice of actual treatment techniques. Crosslisted as: PSYC 641.

GRTY 642. Practicum in Clinical Geropsychology. 3 Hours.
3 credits. An initial practicum geared as an entry to the team practicum experience; focus on familiarizing the student with mental health service delivery systems for the elderly in the Richmond community; rotation through a limited number of facilities such as nursing homes, retirement centers, nutrition sites, emergency hotline services for the elderly and various agencies involved in deinstitutionalization; possible extended placement in a particular facility. Crosslisted as: PSYC 642.

GRTY 691. Topical Seminar. 3 Hours.
3 credits. Seminars on specialized areas of gerontological interest. Examples of special topic courses taught in previous years: nutrition and aging; psychophysicsiology and neurobiology of aging; wellness and aging; and preretirement planning.

GRTY 692. Independent Studies. 1-3 Hours.
1-3 credits. Directed in-depth independent study of a particular problem or topic in gerontology about which an interest or talent has been demonstrated.

GRTY 792. Independent Studies for Master's-/Ph.D.-level Students. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Independent study in selected area under supervision of gerontology faculty. Focuses on in-depth research and analysis of a major focus area of gerontology, leading to a comprehensive, publishable quality review paper. Emphasizes integrating previous graduate training into aging topical area.

GRTY 798. Thesis. 3-6 Hours.
3-6 credits. A research study of a topic or problem approved by the thesis committee and completed in accordance with the acceptable standards for thesis writing.
GRTY 799. Thesis. 3-6 Hours.
3-6 credits. A research study of a topic or problem approved by the thesis committee and completed in accordance with the acceptable standards for thesis writing.

Health Administration (HADM)

HADM 602. Health System Organization, Financing and Performance. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the structure, functioning and financing of the U.S. health services system. Emphasizes foundational concepts for understanding and analyzing patterns of health and illness; health care cost, quality, access and utilization; workforce; competition in health care markets; and supplier, provider and payer effectiveness and efficiency.

HADM 606. Health Care Managerial Accounting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Financial Accounting. A foundation course covering health care financial accounting, financial statement analysis, budgeting, reimbursement, costing and short-term decision making. Emphasizes accounting concepts and using financial data in management of providers and payers.

HADM 607. Financial Management in Health Organizations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HADM 606. Examines theory and techniques of corporate financial management as applied to health services providers and insurers including time value of money, working capital management, capital budgeting techniques, cash flow analysis and capital structure planning.

HADM 608. Seminar in Health Care Finance. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: HADM 606 and HADM 607. Advanced studies of financial issues and the application of analytic tools in case studies and exercises. Designed to enhance and strengthen the knowledge and skills provided in the graduate program's foundation and required courses in accounting and finance.

HADM 609. Managerial Epidemiology. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: undergraduate course in statistics. Introduces and uses analytical techniques to study and measure the health status of populations and to evaluate programs. Topics covered include health status measurement, evaluation design and managerial applications of epidemiology.

HADM 610. Health Analytics and Decision Support. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: undergraduate course in statistics. Applications of analytics and decision support to health services institutions. Applications of operations research and industrial engineering techniques using large institutional data for health care planning, control and decision-making including deterministic and stochastic decision analysis models and their use in health services administration.

HADM 611. Health Care Law and Bioethics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Presents elements of law and legal principles as they apply to the administration of hospitals and health care systems. Emphasizes medical malpractice, medical-legal issues, informed consent, antitrust, health care business law and bioethics. Provides a legal foundation for the practice of health administration and clinical ethics through the use of case law and case analysis.

HADM 612. Information Systems for Health Care Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is restricted to majors only. Introduces and applies basic vocabulary, foundational principles and practical strategies associated with information systems relevant to the health care administrator. Examines health care information and information systems, technology standards and security, as well as management challenges.

HADM 614. Health Care Marketing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Foundational theories, concepts and techniques of marketing applied to the distinctive properties of health care services. Emphasis placed on the role of marketing and aligning organizational capacity and health care needs; market analysis and planning; strategic marketing management; tactical marketing mix design; designing and managing service delivery systems and developing new offerings.

HADM 615. Health Care Politics and Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the political process with particular emphasis on the impact of politics on health care. Focuses on current political issues in the health field, examining conflicts and anticipating effects on the health system.

HADM 621. Advanced Medical Informatics: Technology-Strategy-Performance. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on use of technology for improving operational efficiencies, quality of care and market competitiveness. Explores various application technologies within the framework of technology-strategy-performance including: telemedicine, cyber surgery, Web-enabled clinical information systems, clinical decision support systems, artificial intelligence and expert systems, and risk-adjusted outcome assessment systems.

HADM 624. Health Economics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: ECON 203 with a minimum grade of B and ECON 211. Develops an understanding of (1) economics as a managerial tool in making choices or decisions that will provide for an optimum allocation of limited health care resources and (2) economics as a way of thinking about and approaching issues of public policy in financing and organizing health and medical services. Individual research on crucial or controversial issues in the health care field. Crosslisted as: ECON 624.

HADM 626. International Health. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an overview of and/or introduction to international health. Focus is on the relationship between external factors and the health of populations.

HADM 638. Administration of Long-term Care Facilities and Programs. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on unique knowledge and skills considered essential to effective long-term care administration. Emphasis is on the professional role of the long-term care administrator in providing for the health and social needs of the chronically ill and elderly. Applied skills in addressing the technical, human and conceptual problems unique to LTC are addressed through cases and field exercises.

HADM 645. Structure and Functions of Health Organizations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Surveys concepts from organizational and management theories applicable to health organizations. Considers issues in organizational structure, strategy and processes for health care organizations.
HADM 646. Health Care Organization and Leadership. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores the challenges of managing and leading health care organizations in the 21st century. Introduces concepts, vocabulary and ways of thinking to enable students to be more effective and insightful participants in organizational life in health care. Intended to provide the student with the basic knowledge necessary to benefit from the more detailed and advanced courses that follow in the curriculum.

HADM 647. Management of Health Care Organizations. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HADM 646. Analyzes the current state of management study and practice with the objective of achieving a balanced development of both knowledge and skills in solving the operations problems of health care institutions. Examines critically the managerial process; emphasizes leadership behavior and development, performance improvement, structure and purpose of health care organization subunits, interfunctional coordination, and organizational processes.

HADM 648. Strategic Management in Health Care Organizations. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HADM 647. Integrative seminar on strategic decision making in health care organizations. Considers the concepts and alternative models of strategic management, the strategic management process and the evaluation of strategic decisions.

HADM 649. Human Resources Management in Health Care. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Presents concepts in human resources management as applied to health care organizations. Explores relationships between human resources management and general management, nature of work and human resources, compensation and benefits, personnel planning, recruitment and selection, training and development, employee appraisal and discipline, organized labor issues, and employment and labor law.

HADM 661. Physician Practice Management. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Provides a practical overview of management skills and tools necessary to assist a physician group with an efficient service delivery organization. Discusses issues in the larger health care business environment that affect physician professional practice and the operational factors that define a successful organization now and in the future.

HADM 668. Executive Skills I. 1 Hour. Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Applied course in executive skills and behavior of the health care executive. Focus is on the health care executive leadership development and personal effectiveness.

HADM 683. Executive Skills II. 1 Hour. Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: HADM 682. Advanced applied course in executive skill development. Focus is on the health care executive leader and development of skills relating to the external environment of health care organizations. Emphasizes relationships with physicians, governing boards, regulatory bodies, donors and other key stakeholders.

HADM 690. Departmental Research Seminar. 1-9 Hours. Semester course; variable hours. Variable credit. Research seminar that focuses on research design and methods organized under a single topic or a series of related topics in health services research. Applied research training for master’s-level students.

HADM 691. Special Topics in Health Services Organization and Research. 3 Hours. 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Course is devoted to specialized content area for health administration. Examples include physician practice management and advanced managed care.

HADM 692. Independent Study in Health Administration. 1-3 Hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Special study conducted under the guidance of a faculty sponsor.

HADM 693. Internship in Health Administration. 3 Hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Completion of year one of the MHA curriculum. Restricted to dual-degree students (MHA/MD and MHA/JD). Assesses and examines administrative and organizational structures and cultures of the assigned site with perspectives from macro- and micro-organizational views. Students develop an understanding and gain knowledge of the complex health care industry and the internal and external factors that influence decision-making in the organization. Students will research and prepare a management project with recommendations to assist the organization in decision-making, policy development and/or performance improvement. Graded as S/U/F.

HADM 694. Practicum in Health Administration I. 5 Hours. 5 credits. Course is restricted to students completing a one-year administrative residency. Examines contemporary problems and issues in the organization, administration and evaluation of health services. Focuses on the application of alternative approaches to administrative problem solving. Emphasizes internal and external stakeholder interests and factors that influence decision-making in health care organizations. Graded as S/U/F.

HADM 695. Practicum in Health Administration II. 3-5 Hours. 3-5 credits. Course is restricted to students completing a one-year administrative residency. Students will examine contemporary problems and issues in the organization, administration and evaluation of health services. Focus on the application of alternative approaches to administrative problem solving. Course emphasizes internal and external stakeholder interests and factors that influence decision-making in health care organizations. Students design, conduct and present the results of a management project. Additional projects will be required for students enrolling in more than 3 credits. Graded as S/U/F.

HADM 697. Directed Research. 1-6 Hours. Semester course; variable hours. Variable credit. Special course offered under the guidance of a faculty sponsor for one or more students to design and implement an applied research project in the field setting. Focuses on the application of research methods to policy or operational problems of health care institutions.

HADM 701. Organizational Behavior for Health Services Research. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: HADM 704 and HADM 705, or permission of instructor. Provides intellectual insights into central topics of micro organizational behavior. Requires critical evaluation of organizational behavior and health services research based on organizational behavior topics. Requires identification and application of organizational behavior theoretical perspectives to issues in the health sector.
HADM 702. Research in Health Care Financing and Delivery Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: HADM 701, HADM 704 and HADM 705, or permission of the instructor. Critically reviews and evaluates emerging research in organization, delivery and financing of health care services.

HADM 704. Foundations of Health Service Organization Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the roots of foundational theories and concepts in organization theory and their application to research on health care organizations and systems. Emphasizes the environment and structure of health care organizations and systems.

HADM 705. Advanced Health Service Organization Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HADM 704 or permission of instructor. Covers contemporary perspectives in health organization theory in depth, with emphasis on their research application in health care organizations. Critically assesses current examples of research on health care organizations using these perspectives.

HADM 711. Introduction to Health Services Organization Research I. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Open only to Ph.D. students in health services organization and research. Assists doctoral students in becoming members of the health services research community and developing skills to be successful researchers. Introduces students to health services research as a field, major databases for health services research, career paths and related ethical issues. Develops key foundational skills including database management, statistical software, grant applications and career development. First in a two-course sequence.

HADM 713. Introduction to Health Services Organization Research II. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Open only to Ph.D. students in health services organization and research. Assists doctoral students in becoming members of the health services research community and developing skills to be successful researchers. Introduces students to health services organization research as a field, major databases for health services research, career paths and related ethical issues. Develops key foundational skills including database management, statistical software, grant applications and career development. Second in a two-course sequence.

HADM 760. Quantitative Analysis of Health Care Data. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MRBL 624 and HADM 609, or permission of instructor. Research course emphasizing computer application and statistical analyses of health care data generated from secondary sources, including data envelopment analysis.

HADM 761. Health Services Research Methods I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Upper-division course in statistics. Research as a systematic method for examining questions derived from related theory and/or health service practice. Major focus is on the logic of causal inference, including the formulation of testable hypotheses relating to health services organization and management, the design of methods and measures to facilitate study, and the concepts, principles and methods of epidemiology.

HADM 762. Health Services Research Methods II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: HADM 761 and MRBL 632, or equivalent. Application of multivariate statistical analysis and evaluation research methods to health services research. Emphasis is placed on the use of advanced statistical methods (e.g., LISREL, Event History Analysis) and designs to analyze panel data in the health field.

HADM 763. Applied Health Services Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: HADM 761 and ECON 501, or permission of instructor. Seminar for Ph.D. students who have had courses in quantitative analysis of health care data and research methods. Develops framework for classifying the major topics and issues addressed by health services research. Explores the relationships between health services research, policy analysis and program evaluation. Emphasizes assessment of the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of the health system at various levels of analysis. Stresses the importance of conceptual modeling as a foundation to rigorous empirical research.

HADM 792. Independent Study in Health Services Organization and Research. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. Special study or research leading to a publication. Conducted under the guidance of a faculty sponsor.

HADM 793. Research Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. Available only to second year students. Supervised investigation of selected problems in health services research. Includes conducting and analyzing field research.

HADM 898. Doctoral Dissertation in Health Services Organization and Research. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; 1-9 credits. A minimum of 9 semester hours required for Ph.D. degree. Prerequisite: Completion of required course work and comprehensive examination. Dissertation research under direction of faculty adviser.

HADM 899. Doctoral Dissertation in Health Services Organization and Research. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; 1-9 credits. A minimum of 9 semester hours required for Ph.D. degree. Prerequisite: Completion of required course work and comprehensive examination. Dissertation research under direction of faculty adviser.

Health Administration/Executive (HADE)

HADE 602. Health Systems Organization, Financing and Performance. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Examines the structure, functioning and financing of the U.S. health services system. Emphasizes foundational concepts for understanding and analyzing patterns of health and illness; health care cost, quality, access and utilization; workforce; competition in health care markets; and supplier, provider and payer effectiveness and efficiency.

HADE 606. Health Care Managerial Accounting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. A foundation course covering health care financial accounting, financial statement analysis, budgeting, reimbursement, costing and short-term decision making. Emphasizes accounting concepts and using financial data in management of providers and payers.

HADE 607. Financial Management in Health Organizations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisite: HADE 606. Examines theory and techniques of managerial corporate management as applied to health service providers and insurers including time value of money, working capital management, capital budgeting techniques, cash flow analysis and capital structure planning.
HADE 609. Managerial Epidemiology. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Focuses on analytical techniques to study and measure the health or populations and to evaluate programs. Topics covered include health status measurement, evaluation design and managerial applications of epidemiology.

HADE 610. Health Analytics and Decision Support. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: undergraduate course in statistics. Applications of analytics and decision support to health services institutions. Applications of operations research and industrial engineering techniques using large institutional data for health care planning, control and decision-making, including deterministic and stochastic decision analysis models and their use in health services administration.

HADE 611. Health Care Law and Bioethics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Presents elements of law and legal principles as they apply to the administration of hospitals and health care systems. Emphasizes medical malpractice, medical-legal issues, informed consent, antitrust, health care business law and bioethics. Provides a legal foundation for the practice of health administration and clinical ethics through the use of case law and case analysis.

HADE 612. Information Systems for Health Care Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; blended on-campus/online format. 3 credits. This course is restricted to majors only. Introduces and applies basic vocabulary, foundational principles and practical strategies associated with information systems relevant to the health care administrator. Examines health care information and information systems, technology standards and security, as well as management challenges.

HADE 614. Health Care Marketing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Fundamental theories, concepts and techniques of marketing applied to the distinctive properties of health care services. Emphasizes the role of marketing and aligning organizational capacity and health care needs; market analysis and planning; strategic marketing management; tactical marketing mix design; designing and managing service delivery systems and developing new offerings.

HADE 615. Health Care Politics and Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; blended on-campus/online format. 3 credits. Examines the political process with particular emphasis on the impact of politics on health care. Focuses on current political issues in the health field, examining conflicts and anticipating effects on the health system.

HADE 621. Advanced Medical Informatics: Technology, Strategy and Performance. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: HADE 612 and permission of the instructor. Focuses on using technology for improving operational efficiencies, quality of care and market competitiveness. Explores various application technologies within the framework of technology-strategy-performance including: telemedicine, cyber surgery, Web-enabled clinical information systems, clinical decision support systems, artificial intelligence and expert systems, and risk-adjusted outcome assessment systems.

HADE 624. Health Economics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Foundational concepts of microeconomic theory and their application in analyzing health care policy; understanding the structure and dynamics of health care markets; and monitoring and controlling the allocation of resources within health organizations.

HADE 646. Health Care Organization and Leadership. 3 Hours.
Semester course; blended on-campus/online format. 3 credits. Explores the challenges of managing and leading health care organizations in the 21st century. Introduces concepts, vocabulary and ways of thinking to enable students to be more effective and insightful participants in organizational life in health care. Intended to provide the student with the basic knowledge necessary to benefit from the more detailed and advanced courses that follow in the curriculum.

HADE 647. Management of Health Care Organizations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HADE 646. Analyzes the current state of management study and practice with the objective of achieving a balanced development of both knowledge and skills in solving the operations problems of health institutions. Critically examines the managerial process with emphasis on leadership behavior and development, performance improvement, structure and purpose of health care organization subunits, interfunctional coordination, and organizational processes.

Nurse Anesthesia (NRSA)

NRSA 601. Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces the nurse anesthesia graduate student to concepts necessary to plan and execute safe and individualized anesthetics. Covers formulation of the anesthesia care plan, anesthetic techniques, prevention of complications, fluid management, monitoring and utilization of anesthesia equipment.

NRSA 602. Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 3 credits. Second in a series of six principles and practice courses. Presents fundamental concepts and techniques essential to clinical anesthesia practice focusing on the theoretical and practical considerations involved in the administration and management of major nerve conduction anesthesia and acute pain management.
NRSA 603. Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia III. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Third in a series of six principles and practice courses. Delineates techniques of anesthesia management that are considered situation specific for specialized procedures, diagnostic or individualized procedures including advanced airway management and anesthesia care individualized for the patient with cardiovascular and respiratory conditions.

NRSA 604. Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia IV. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 semester hours. 2 credits. Fourth in a series of six principles and practice courses. Demonstrates internalization of theoretical concepts and techniques and application in anesthetic management toward the achievement of the terminal objectives for competency in entry-level anesthesia practice. NRSA 623 graded as S/U/F.

NRSA 605. Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia V. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Fifth in a series of six principles and practice courses. Intensively covers the advanced concepts and principles of anesthetic management with an emphasis on pediatric, obstetric, endocrine and hematological disorders.

NRSA 606. Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia VI. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Last in a series of six principles and practice courses. Intensively covers the advanced concepts and principles of anesthetic management with an emphasis on crisis management.

NRSA 611. Advanced Physiological Concepts for the Nurse Anesthetist. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Analyzes complex relationships between body systems and anesthesia. Demonstrates how advanced concepts of physiology and biochemistry relate to concepts of anesthesia theory and practice.

NRSA 620. Advanced Health Assessment for Nurse Anesthetists I. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Provides a systematic approach to advanced health assessment emphasizing best research evidence, cultural competence and anesthetic implications. Accentuates advanced pre-operative and postoperative concepts, diagnosis and approaches for the assessment of human systems in the anesthesia setting focusing on the pulmonary (upper and lower airway), hematologic and vascular systems. Reviews cardinal techniques of inspection, palpation, percussion and auscultation.

NRSA 621. Advanced Health Assessment for Nurse Anesthetists II. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Provides a systematic approach to advanced health assessment emphasizing best research evidence, cultural competence and anesthetic implications. Accentuates advanced pre-operative and post-operative concepts, diagnosis and approaches for the assessment of human systems in the anesthesia setting focusing on the neurological, cardiovascular, gastrointestinal and musculoskeletal systems.

NRSA 622. Clinical Practicum I-II. 1 Hour.
Continuous courses; 112 clock hours (I) and 3 lecture hours (II). 1 credit (I) and 3 credits (II). Introduces clinical care with supervised participation in actual administration of anesthesia. Demonstrates internalization of theoretical concepts and techniques and application in anesthetic management toward the achievement of the terminal objectives for competency in entry-level anesthesia practice. NRSA 623 graded as S/U/F.

NRSA 623. Clinical Practicum I-II. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 112 clock hours (I) and 3 lecture hours (II). 1 credit (I) and 3 credits (II). Introduces clinical care with supervised participation in actual administration of anesthesia. Demonstrates internalization of theoretical concepts and techniques and application in anesthetic management toward the achievement of the terminal objectives for competency in entry-level anesthesia practice. NRSA 623 graded as S/U/F.

NRSA 624. Clinical Practicum III. 6 Hours.
675 clock hours. 6 credits. Provides intensive experience in all clinical anesthesia areas. All course work represents an integral phase of sequenced clinical progress toward the achievement of competency in entry-level anesthesia practice. Includes clinical rotations to various affiliate sites to gain experience in management of specialized anesthetic considerations. Emphasis on greater responsibility for a total anesthetic regime along the educational experiential continuum.

NRSA 625. Clinical Practicum IV. 6 Hours.
675 clock hours. 6 credits. Provides intensive experience in all clinical anesthesia areas. All course work represents an integral phase of sequenced clinical progress toward the achievement of competency in entry-level anesthesia practice. Includes clinical rotations to various affiliate sites to gain experience in management of specialized anesthetic considerations. Emphasis on greater responsibility for a total anesthetic regime along the educational experiential continuum.

NRSA 626. Clinical Practicum V. 6 Hours.
675 clock hours. 6 credits. Provides intensive experience in all clinical anesthesia areas. All course work represents an integral phase of sequenced clinical progress toward the achievement of competency in entry-level anesthesia practice. Includes clinical rotations to various affiliate sites to gain experience in management of specialized anesthetic considerations. Emphasis on greater responsibility for a total anesthetic regime along the educational experiential continuum.

NRSA 627. Clinical Practicum VI. 6 Hours.
675 clock hours. 6 credits. Provides intensive experience in all clinical anesthesia areas. All course work represents an integral phase of sequenced clinical progress toward the achievement of competency in entry-level anesthesia practice. Includes clinical rotations to various affiliate sites to gain experience in management of specialized anesthetic considerations. Emphasis on greater responsibility for a total anesthetic regime along the educational experiential continuum.

NRSA 633. Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Covers various pathological conditions and diseases of specific concern to the anesthesia provider with an emphasis on cardiovascular, respiratory, excretory, endocrine, infectious diseases, nutritional, neuromuscular and neurological disorders.

NRSA 642. Professional Aspects of Anesthesia Practice I. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Provides the graduate nurse anesthesia student an opportunity to focus on a variety of professional issues including but not restricted to the history of nurse anesthesia, roles of the nurse anesthetist and the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, professional involvement, governmental and nongovernmental regulations of nurse anesthesia practice and standards of care.
NRSA 645. Professional Aspects of Anesthesia Practice II. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Provides the graduate nurse anesthesia student an opportunity to focus on a variety of professional issues including but not restricted to health care delivery systems, assessing and selecting practice settings and employment options, medical ethics and chemical dependency.

NRSA 647. Professional Aspects of Anesthesia Practice III. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Provides the graduate nurse anesthesia student an opportunity to focus on a variety of professional issues including but not restricted to reimbursement, influencing health care policy, competence, quality assessment, risk management, departmental management, nurse anesthesia and the legal system, documentation of anesthesia care and current issues and their potential effects on the profession of nurse anesthesia.

NRSA 676. Teaching Methodologies for the Nurse Anesthetist. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Covers principles of teacher/learner communication, presentation strategies and methods of evaluation pertinent to nurse anesthesia education and includes instructional tools, their application and instructional design.

NRSA 683. Research Methods in Nurse Anesthesia Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Required of all nurse anesthesia students. Understands and applies the steps involved in the research process. Emphasizes concepts, procedures and processes appropriate for use in research. Develops a research proposal by exploring a topic in the area of anesthesiology. Applies inferential and advanced statistical tests to hypothetical data. Critically analyzes and evaluates anesthesia research studies.

NRSA 684. Evidence-based Decision Making in Nurse Anesthesia. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on providing a foundation in the literature relevant to nurse anesthesia practice. Emphasis placed on establishing a scientific framework for clinical interventions and critiquing the literature in a systematic fashion. Course will culminate in a broad overview of scientific foundations for nurse anesthesia practice in selected domains.

NRSA 701. Human Factors and Patient Safety for Nurse Anesthetists. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores the theoretical basis of human error, patient safety and quality assurance in anesthesia care. Introduces a systems approach to error investigation and analysis. Integrates concepts of teamwork, crisis management, simulation and monitoring systems in anesthesia practice. Crosslisted as: DNAP 701.

DNAP 702. Nurse Anesthesia Patient Safety Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: DNAP/NRSA 701. Focuses on analysis of adverse anesthesia events from a systems perspective, use of multidisciplinary teams to solve management problems and constructive techniques for communicating with patients, families and health care providers who are involved in medical errors.

DNAP 703. Health Services Delivery Systems for the Nurse Anesthetist. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides the necessary scientific foundation, both in theory and practice application, to explore the structure and function of the U.S. health care delivery system as it specifically relates to specialized nurse anesthesia practice, the components of select theories and the translation of these theories to practice.

DNAP 704. Advanced Physiology/Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines normal human physiology and pathophysiology using a body-systems approach, with emphasis on the interrelationships between form and function at the gross and cellular levels of organization. Includes analysis of cellular structure and function as well as the individual components of body systems.

DNAP 705. Advanced Physiology/Pathophysiology for Nurse Anesthetists II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an opportunity to focus on the advanced principles of anesthesia related to pharmacology. Presents in-depth material on the pharmacology of various classes of anesthetics and adjuvant therapeutics employed by nurse anesthetists, with an emphasis on general anesthetics.

DNAP 706. Advanced Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthetists I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an opportunity to focus on the advanced principles of anesthesia related to pharmacology. Presents in-depth material on the pharmacology of various classes of anesthetics and adjuvant therapeutics employed by nurse anesthetists, with an emphasis on local anesthetics.

DNAP 711. Policy and Practice for Nurse Anesthetists. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines governmental and non-governmental issues that influence nurse anesthesia practice. Focuses on developing skills that contribute to leadership and personal effectiveness in implementing change in nurse anesthesia and health care. Emphasizes interdisciplinary relationships between CRNAs, nurses, physicians, administrators, policy-makers and other key stakeholders.

DNAP 712. Leadership in Nurse Anesthesia Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines principles of teaching and learning applicable to the anesthesia didactic and clinical environment. Presents strategies in teacher/learner communication, presentation development and strategies, curriculum design and methods of evaluation pertinent to nurse anesthesia education.
DNAP 716. Advanced Chemistry and Physics Concepts for Nurse Anesthetists. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Provides advanced theoretical foundations of chemistry, biochemistry and physics relevant for critical application to the practice of anesthesia nursing utilizing the hybrid (blended learning) format.

DNAP 717. Advanced Physiological Concepts for Nurse Anesthetists. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Explores properties of advanced physiology including physiology terms, levels of organization of the human body, homeostasis and feedback systems, anatomic terms, planes and sections, cell physiology and diffusion, transport systems, pressure-volume relationships, pressure-flow-resistance relationships, Fick's principle, the Frank-Starling relationship, and math for physiology utilizing the hybrid (blended learning) format.

DNAP 718. Advanced Health Assessment for Nurse Anesthetists. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides a systematic, evidence-based, advanced physical, psychosocial and cultural evaluation of human systems to acquire and analyze relevant information for the development of a comprehensive patient assessment. Emphasizes advanced preoperative and postoperative techniques in a process whereby the learner translates information pertinent to anesthesia care into practice. Focuses on the symptom and health problem assessment and selection and interpretation of screening and diagnostic tests in order to implement an informed plan of care. Utilizes the hybrid (blended learning) format.

DNAP 721. Clinical Practicum I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 300 clocked clinical hours. 3 credits. Introduces clinical care with supervised participation in actual administration of anesthesia. Demonstrates internalization of theoretical concepts and techniques and application in anesthetic management toward the achievement of the terminal objectives for competency in entry-level anesthesia practice. Graded S/U/F.

DNAP 722. Clinical Practicum II. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 400 clocked clinical hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: DNAP 721. Introduces clinical care with supervised participation in actual administration of anesthesia. Demonstrates internalization of theoretical concepts and techniques and application in anesthetic management toward the achievement of the terminal objectives for competency in entry-level anesthesia practice. Graded S/U/F.

DNAP 723. Clinical Practicum III. 5 Hours.
Semester course; 500 clocked hours. 5 credits. Prerequisite: DNAP 722. Provides intensive experience in all clinical anesthesia areas. Represents an integral phase of sequenced clinical progress toward the achievement of competency in entry-level anesthesia practice. Includes clinical rotations to various affiliate sites to gain experience in management of specialized anesthetic considerations. Emphasizes increased responsibility for the delivery of a comprehensive anesthetic regime along the educational/experiential continuum. Graded S/U/F.

DNAP 724. Clinical Practicum IV. 5 Hours.
Semester course; 500 clocked clinical hours. 5 credits. Prerequisite: DNAP 723. Provides intensive experience in all clinical anesthesia areas. Represents an integral phase of sequenced clinical progress toward the achievement of competency in entry-level anesthesia practice. Includes clinical rotations to various affiliate sites to gain experience in management of specialized anesthetic considerations. Emphasizes increased responsibility for the delivery of a comprehensive anesthetic regime along the educational/experiential continuum. Graded S/U/F.

DNAP 725. Clinical Practicum V. 5 Hours.
Semester course; 500 clocked clinical hours. 5 credits. Prerequisite: DNAP 724. Provides intensive experience in all clinical anesthesia areas. Represents an integral phase of sequenced clinical progress toward the achievement of competency in entry-level anesthesia practice. Includes clinical rotations to various affiliate sites to gain experience in management of specialized anesthetic considerations. Emphasizes increased responsibility for the delivery of a comprehensive anesthetic regime along the educational/experiential continuum. Graded S/U/F.

DNAP 731. Professional Aspects of Nurse Anesthesia Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an opportunity to focus on a variety of professional issues including but not restricted to the history of nurse anesthesia, professional practice roles, settings and responsibilities of the nurse anesthetist, effective communications, accountability and patient advocacy, cultural competency, professional involvement, code of ethics, regulations, and standards of practice using a hybrid (blended learning) format.

DNAP 733. Evidence-based Decision-making in Nurse Anesthesia. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides a foundation of literature relevant to nurse anesthesia practice. Emphasizes a systematic framework that is termed "evidence-based practice" for clinical interventions and critiquing the literature in an appropriate and manageable fashion. Culminates in a broad overview of scientific foundations for nurse anesthesia practice in selected domains. Utilizes the hybrid (blended learning) format.

DNAP 734. Research Methods and Statistical Measures in Nurse Anesthesia Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines relationships among theory, research and causal inference; quantitative and qualitative methodologies will be considered. Surveys issues relevant to research design, measurement, data collection, statistical analysis, interpretation and ethical issues in conducting research — and grounded in work in the domain of anesthesia and critical care. Prepares students to access, critically evaluate and utilize research-based literature and independently initiate a systematic approach to addressing a research hypothesis or research question. Utilizes a hybrid (blended learning) format.

DNAP 735. Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia Practice I. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 3 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Introduces the nurse anesthesia student to concepts necessary to plan and execute safe and individualized anesthetics. Covers formulation of the anesthesia care plan, anesthetic techniques, prevention of complications, fluid management, monitoring and utilization of anesthesia equipment. Provides guided practical experience associated with course concepts, including practice with and evaluation of task-specific skills in both simulated and actual operating room environments.

DNAP 736. Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia Practice II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: DNAP 735. Delimits techniques of anesthesia management that are considered situation-specific for specialized procedures, diagnostic or individualized procedures, including advanced airway management and anesthesia care individualized for the patient with cardiovascular or respiratory conditions.
DNAP 737. Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia III. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: DNAP 736.
Presents fundamental concepts and techniques essential to clinical
anesthesia practice focusing on the theoretical and practical
considerations involved in the administration and management of
regional anesthesia and pain management.

DNAP 738. Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia IV. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: DNAP 737.
Covers the advanced concepts and principles of anesthetic management
in obstetrics, pediatrics, hematologic disorders and endocrine disorders.

DNAP 739. Principles and Practice of Nurse Anesthesia V. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: DNAP 738.
Covers the advanced concepts and principles of anesthetic management
including anesthesia delivery in specialty settings and other specialty
topics.

DNAP 789. Nurse Anesthesia Professional Practice. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; variable clinical hours. 1-6 credits (100 clinical hours
per credit). May be repeated up to six credits. Emphasizes analysis and
evaluation of experiential learning through the use of critical thinking
skills and reflection. Explores concepts of competency and expertise.
Focuses on methods of determining best anesthesia practices through
identification of problems, review and systematic evaluation of current
research, and consideration of economic and other factors that may
impact patient outcomes. Graded as S, U or F.

DNAP 799. Nurse Anesthesia Capstone Project. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-6 credits. May be repeated up
to six credits. Prerequisites: DNAP 701 and ALHP 708. Focuses on
identification of relevant clinical issues in anesthesiology with attendant
formulation of critically applicable questions and examination of the
relevant research evidence that addresses those questions. Students
implement and evaluate a terminal project and disseminate the results
through an oral and/or poster presentation, manuscript submission to a
peer-reviewed journal or another appropriate medium. Graded as S, U or F.

Occupational Therapy (OCCT)

OCCT 520. Occupational Therapy Applications: Kinesiology. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Addresses
basic components of motion, biomechanics, joint structure, specific
muscle groups and muscle function. Analyzes functional activities
necessary to carry out the tasks and roles of productive living using these
principles.

OCCT 521. Neuroscience Applications to Occupational Therapy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 lab hours, 3 credit hours. Links
basic structure and organization of nervous system to function in
typical individuals. Examines neuroscience correlates of diseases
and disabilities. Relies on current review of neuroscience literature in
matching function and dysfunction with structure and organization.
Case examples across the life span used to understand these potential
relationships and link material to OT theories and frames of reference
guiding practice.

OCCT 522. Interdisciplinary Medical Lectures. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Presents information on
medical conditions commonly seen by occupational therapists, providing
diagnostic features, associated conditions, prevalence and course for
each. Addresses value and limitations of this knowledge to occupational
therapy process, and need for therapists to search out information about
other conditions. Introduces medical terminology and therapeutic uses,
side effects and precautions of medication. Describes occupational
therapy interventions and clinical pathways for certain impairments.

OCCT 530. Nature of Occupational Therapy. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Provides an overview
of fundamentals of occupational therapy through use of official
documents of the American Occupational Therapy Association and other
authoritative sources. Introduces practice definitions, philosophical and
ethical underpinnings, professional roles, and organizations in the field of
occupational therapy.

OCCT 531. Interpersonal Communication and Group Dynamics. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Introduces
oral and written communication skills and group process techniques.
Addresses interpersonal relationships, principles of therapeutic
involvement, observation, analysis of communication patterns, interview
methods and OT terminology. Provides experiences in group leadership,
assertiveness techniques. Laboratory exercises chart path of personal
development, professional socialization.

OCCT 532. Life Span Occupational Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Explores
principles and theories of normal growth and development and their
influence on occupational performance across the life span. Presents
all domains of development and life span roles. Focuses on work/
productivity, leisure/play and activities for daily living. Explores
importance of significant others and environment, maintaining balance
between performance areas and fulfilling expected and desired social
roles. Stresses influence of temporal and environmental contexts.

OCCT 533. Occupational Therapy Principles, Values and Theories. 4
Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Examines theoretical
constructs used in various models of occupational therapy practice
along with legislation, advocacy and empowerment using an historical
framework. Addresses influence of legislation relevant to clients and
the profession, their dynamic impact on practice patterns and advocacy
issues. Emphasizes concepts integral to understanding and using human
occupation as a basis for practice as well as the dynamic relationship
among occupational therapy principles, values and theories.

OCCT 534. Occupational Therapy Evaluation and Intervention Overview. 3
Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Provides
an introduction to evaluation and the intervention process as it
relates to performance components, areas and contexts. Focuses on
general evaluation of assessments for various treatment settings and
environments. Emphasis on use of assessment data to determine
appropriate treatment intervention and discharge planning for individuals.
Verbal communications and written documentation will be covered.
OCCT 580. Introduction to the Profession of Occupational Therapy. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Provides an overview of fundamentals of occupational therapy through use of the Official Documents of the American Occupational Therapy Association and other authoritative sources. Introduces practice definitions, philosophical and ethical underpinnings, professional roles and organizations, and the clinical reasoning process, as well as characteristics and values recommended for successful performance as a professional occupational therapist.

OCCT 589. Advanced Functional Anatomy. 5 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 6 laboratory hours. 5 credits. Taught as an intensive six-week course with one lecture and three lab hours, five days a week. Addresses the anatomy of the human body relevant to occupational therapy practice including, but not limited to, the skeletal system, muscle tissue and the muscular system, and the cardiovascular system. Anatomical/medical terminology including anatomical planes, anatomical position, abbreviation of terms and terms of movement are covered.

OCCT 590. Functional Movement Analysis in Occupational Therapy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: OCCT 589. Addresses kinesiology and functional anatomy including the basic components of palpation, joint structure and the study of kinematics, specific muscle groups and muscle function. Functional activities necessary to carry out the tasks and roles of productive living are analyzed and emphasized using these principles.

OCCT 591. Neuroscience Applications to Occupational Therapy. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Focuses on structures, basic function and inter-relationships; lecture addresses structure-function relationships, system organization and structure relationships, and higher order functions in the typical nervous system. Case examples across the lifespan will link function with dysfunction, and application to injury, disorder, disease processes common to occupational therapy practice. Course relies on a current review of neuroscience literature in matching function and dysfunction with structure and organization.

OCCT 592. Introduction to Injury, Illness and Disability. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Presents information on medical conditions commonly seen by occupational therapists, providing diagnostic features, associated conditions, prevalence and course of disease for each. Addresses value and limitations of this knowledge to the occupational therapy process and need for therapists to search out information about other conditions. Introduces medical terminology and therapeutic uses, side effects, and precautions of medication. Describes occupational therapy interventions for certain impairments.

OCCT 593. Analysis of Human Occupation. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 2 laboratory hours. 1 credit. Explores activities and occupation and related professional terminology, activity analysis and therapy as a teaching/learning process. Emphasizes analysis of occupational performance skills and the transaction between client factors, activity demands and context.

OCCT 594. Theoretical Foundations of Occupational Therapy. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: OCCT 580. Examines theoretical constructs underlying occupational therapy practice. Uses a historical framework to critically examine the ideas put forth by earlier frames of reference and current conceptual models of practice. Emphasizes concepts integral to the understanding and use of human occupation as a basis for practice as well as the dynamic relationships among occupational therapy principles, values and theories.

OCCT 613. Adult Occupational Performance I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: OCCT 592. Examines adult evaluation and treatment fundamentals that support occupational performance interventions. Covers evaluation and treatment content underlying and applicable to all areas of occupational performance. Includes specific assessments, practical information on understanding clients with a variety of conditions and therapist skills.

OCCT 614. Pediatric Occupational Performance I. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: OCCT 522. Focuses on occupational performance of young children (infants, toddlers and preschoolers) with disabilities. Explores principles and theories of normal development as a baseline for identifying the impact of illness, injury or environmental factors on occupational engagement. Examines a variety of frames of reference, evaluative and intervention approaches for children and their families in medical, home, community and educational settings. Uses a holistic approach to develop a child's abilities to engage in their occupations while meeting expectations of family and environment.

OCCT 615. Level I Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 54 clinical hours. 1 credit. Enriches classroom learning by providing directed observation and participation in clinical practice settings. Provides experiences supervised by professionals working in one of a variety of clinical settings (e.g., early intervention, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies or mental health settings). Arranges placements to complement the treatment intervention courses. Prepares students for the more complex level II fieldwork clinical experience.

OCCT 616. Research Process in Occupational Therapy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Covers basic steps in research process, including problem definition, literature review, design, data collection and analysis, and dissemination of findings. Addresses qualitative and quantitative research approaches, critical analysis of literature and reviews statistical concepts.

OCCT 617. Therapeutic Process in Occupational Therapy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Focuses on essential knowledge of therapeutic use of self, group process techniques, interview methods, therapist interaction skills, assessment of process and social interaction occupational performance skills, and individual and group intervention applicable to core and specialty psychosocial practice with youth and adults in support of participation in occupation.

OCCT 620. Occupational Therapy Practice Activities I: Activity Analysis. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 2 laboratory hours. 1 credit. Explores activities and occupation and related professional terminology, activity analysis, and therapy as a teaching/learning process. Emphasizes analysis of occupational performance skills and the transaction between client factors, activity demands and context.
OCCT 621. Occupational Therapy Practice Activities II: Assistive Technologies. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 2 laboratory hours. 1 credit. Focuses on the evaluation, activity analysis and intervention process with a range of assistive technology, including software, hardware and low-tech solutions. Includes the development of skills for adaptation of activities and contexts.

OCCT 623. Occupational Therapy Practice Activities III: Activity and Occupational Synthesis. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 2 laboratory hours. 1 credit. Emphasizes altering, adapting and modifying activities and contexts to increase occupational performance. Includes experiential learning in the community and exposure to adapted leisure activities.

OCCT 630. Adult Evaluation and Intervention I: Foundations. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Examines adult evaluation and treatment fundamentals that support occupational performance interventions. Covers evaluations and treatment content underlying and applicable to all areas of occupational performance. Includes specific assessments, practical information on understanding clients with a variety of conditions and therapist skills.

OCCT 633. Adult Evaluation and Intervention II: Facilitating Function With Disability Across the Continuum of Care. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Introduces students to assessment and intervention strategies, tools and equipment typically used in adult physical disability settings across the continuum of care. Focuses on occupational performance while considering client factors, tasks and context. Draws on practical experience and application of materials taught in previous adult physical disability course work. Working with the instructor, clinical faculty and people with disabilities in laboratory and lecture sessions, utilizes clinical reasoning skills, technologies and strategies typically employed to treat a variety of adult functional disability conditions across the continuum of care, including ADL, IADL, community living vocational training, play and leisure.

OCCT 635. Psychosocial Evaluation and Intervention I: Foundations. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Examines fundamental knowledge of adolescent and adult psychosocial evaluation and intervention to support adaptation and participation in occupation. Includes core and specialty practice psychosocial knowledge, information on stigma and stereotyping, therapist skills, specific assessments and interventions, and leadership of a community-based group intervention.

OCCT 636. Fieldwork I in Psychosocial Occupational Therapy. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1.5 lecture and .5 clinical hours. 2 credits. Focuses on occupational performance of adolescents and adults with psychosocial dysfunction. Provides service-learning fieldwork I experiences applying clinical reasoning, and conceptual practice models to plan, implement and evaluate evidence-based intervention in community-based mental health settings. Preliminary step to the more complex level II fieldwork experience.

OCCT 640. Pediatric Evaluation and Intervention I: Infant and Preschool Children. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Focuses on occupational performance of infants, toddlers and preschoolers with disabilities. Explores a variety of frames of reference and evaluative and intervention approaches for children and their families in medical, home, community and educational settings. Uses a holistic approach to develop child’s abilities to play/perform basic ADLs while meeting expectations of family and environment.

OCCT 641. Pediatric Evaluation and Intervention II: Ages 6 to 12. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Focuses on occupational performance of children with disabilities ages six through adolescence. Explores a variety of frames of reference, evaluative and intervention approaches for children, their families in multiple practice arenas emphasizing the child’s performance in educational settings. Uses a holistic approach to develop child’s competence in school, activities of daily living, play, work and community while meeting expectations of family and environment. Includes field-based experiences.

OCCT 650. Occupational Therapy in Health Care. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces contemporary issues, trends in occupational therapy health-care settings. Covers principles of managed care and impact on occupational therapy practice. Focuses on changes in practice sites, service delivery models and patient demographics. Emphasizes how occupational therapists can influence health policy, advocate for change and address emerging professional ethical issues. Encourages consideration of integrating holistic/biopsychosocial nature of occupational therapy into biomedical health-care systems.

OCCT 651. Administration and Supervision of Occupational Therapy Services. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Covers management of human and non-human resources to provide efficient and effective occupational therapy services; nature of formal and informal organizations, administrative process and administrative tasks. Includes supervision, consultation and the planning of occupational therapy fieldwork education.

OCCT 654. Children and Young Adult Advanced Assistive Technology Applications in Occupational Therapy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Provides an in-depth view of assistive technology and human-environment/technology interface for children and young adults. Focuses on the use of AT in occupational therapy evaluation and intervention. Exposes students to tools and strategies for integrating computer hardware and software, augmentative communication devices, ECUs, powered mobility, toys and low technology solutions into home, school, recreation, community and work environments. Requires student problem-solving relative to their area of pediatric or young adult research and clinical practice.

OCCT 655. Older Adult Advanced Assistive Technology Application in Occupational Therapy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Provides an in-depth view of assistive technology and human-environment/technology interface for older adults with disabilities. Focuses on use of assistive technology in occupational therapy evaluation and intervention. Exposes occupational therapy students to tools and strategies for integrating environmental control units, powered mobility, computer hardware and software, augmentative communication devices, low vision, hearing impaired and low technology solutions into the lives of elderly assistive technology consumers. Requires students to problem solve within their area of gerontology research and clinical practice.
OCCT 656. Advanced Neuroscience Applications in Occupational Therapy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Requires instructor’s permission for non-occupational therapy majors. Briefly reviews basic structure and organization of nervous system in typical individuals. Emphasizes student examination of current neuroscience literature relative to diseases and disabilities encountered in clinical practice, matching function and dysfunction with structure and organization. Students explore individual topics of interest; present to other professionals. Addresses specific cases from participants’ clinical and professional experience, and links this to contemporary OT theories and frames of reference guiding practice.

OCCT 660. Level I Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 45 clinical/seminar hours. 1 credit. Enriches classroom learning by providing directed observation and participation in clinical practice settings. Provides experiences supervised by professionals working in one of a variety of clinical settings (e.g., early intervention, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies or mental health settings). Placements arranged to complement the treatment/intervention courses. A preliminary step to the more complex Level II Fieldwork clinical experience.

OCCT 661. Occupational Therapy in the Schools. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Registration open to other professional students with permission of the instructor. Studies the roles and functions of occupational therapists in school settings as defined by the educational model, government regulations and service provision patterns. Emphasizes person-centered planning, parent and professional collaboration and educationally relevant approaches. Integrates the use of research and clinical reasoning to provide occupation-based practice for students with disabilities of all ages.

OCCT 662. Neuroscience Review and Sensory Integration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Reviews neuroscience basics related to function and dysfunction. Overviews brain structures and function on both gross and cellular levels. Examination of the sensory integration neuroscience theory base which provides foundation for additional study of brain structure as it relates to function and dysfunction. Links understanding of neuroscience with occupation and occupational performance.

OCCT 663. Beyond the Basics: Advanced Evaluation and Intervention in Pediatric Occupational Therapy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Restricted to post-professional master’s level students. Provides in-depth view of selected occupational therapy assessment and intervention techniques for children and youth with disabilities. Exposes students to practical tools and strategies for integrating treatment into home, school, recreation, community and work environments. Requires students to investigate their own clinical reasoning skills relative to their area of pediatric interest, clinical practice and research. Specifically focuses on use of sensory integration theory and practice for infants and children, issues related to feeding and play, and the transition of adolescents with disabilities into postsecondary, work and community environments.

OCCT 670. Case-based Clinical Reasoning in Occupational Therapy. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 4 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Utilizes case studies to develop clinical reasoning skills and examine evaluation and treatment alternatives for persons with occupational performance limitations. Focuses on life-span development issues. Uses cases designed to integrate and develop strategies based on previously presented material. Incorporates assistive technology as an intervention tool into the case-based learning process. Graded as Pass/Fail.

OCCT 671. Advanced Theory in Occupational Therapy. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 lecture hours. 1-4 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 4 credits. Integrates examination of historical and current theoretical constructs reflected in professional literature and published conceptual models of practice with the clinical expertise of experienced occupational therapists. Examines the clinical reasoning process and fosters high-level theoretical and clinical thinking. Builds upon entry-level study of theory to emphasize dynamic relationship between theory, clinical reasoning and client-based and occupation-based practice.

OCCT 673. Health Care Delivery and Occupational Therapy Practice Models. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to post-professional master’s level students. Introduces contemporary issues and trends in occupational therapy health-care settings. Covers principles of managed care and impact on occupational therapy practice. Focuses on changes in practice sites, service delivery models and patient demographics. Emphasizes on how occupational therapy influences health policy, advocates change and addresses emerging professional and ethical issues. Encourages consideration of integrating holistic/ biopsychosocial nature of occupational therapy into biomedically oriented health-care system.

OCCT 680. Level II Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy: A. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; students must complete 480 clinical hours. Variable credit. Maximum of 9 credits per semester. Clinical experience must be different from that offered in OCCT 681. Expands experience in delivering occupational therapy services to a variety of individuals across the lifespan and in a variety of settings. Promotes interpretation of previously learned skills and knowledge through clinical reasoning and reflective practice. Extends skills of professionalism and competence as entry-level occupational therapists. Graded as P/F or PR.

OCCT 681. Level II Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy: B. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; students must complete 480 clinical hours. Variable credit. Maximum of 9 credits per semester. Clinical experience must be different from that offered in OCCT 680. Expands experience in delivering occupational therapy services to a variety of individuals across the lifespan and in a variety of settings. Promotes interpretation of previously learned skills and knowledge through clinical reasoning and reflective practice. Extends skills of professionalism and competence as entry-level occupational therapists. Graded as P/F or PR.

OCCT 685. Advanced Clinical Reasoning: Asking the Right Questions. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides foundation and understanding of the source of clinical reasoning as a basis of clinical practice in occupational therapy through case-based learning. Promotes clinical reasoning within the practice of occupational therapy, bridging practice theories, evidence-based practice and clinical skills. Requires examination of existing knowledge and data, and development of a clinical project proposal.

OCCT 686. Advanced Clinical Reasoning Applications. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: OCCT 685. Forms the application component of clinical reasoning process; offers opportunity to experience clinically based project implementation within the context of ongoing practice. Facilitates mentoring relationships with colleagues in an identified specialty area to promote leadership in clinical reasoning. Implements project proposals developed in OCCT 685; data will be collected, interpreted and summarized.
OCCT 689. Occupational Therapy Assessment and Evaluation. 3 Hours. Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: OCCT 592. Provides introduction to evaluation and intervention process as it relates to areas of occupation, occupational performance skills (i.e., motor, process and social interaction), client factors and context. Focuses on general evaluation of assessments for various clients, treatment settings and environments. Emphasizes oral and written communication, accurate documentation and use of assessment data to develop appropriate treatment intervention and discharge planning for individuals.

OCCT 690. Occupational Therapy Seminar. 1-3 Hours. Variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 4 credits. Investigation, presentation and discussion of current problems and issues in the field of occupational therapy.

OCCT 691. Special Topics in Occupational Therapy. 1-3 Hours. Semester course; 1-3 credits. Designed around the interests of students, faculty expertise, and availability and expertise of Richmond-area occupational therapists or visiting lecturers. Format may include intensive mini-courses or workshops, an advanced course with some opportunity for election and development of knowledge and skills in a specialized area of occupational therapy.

OCCT 692. Assistive Technologies for Occupational Engagement. 2 Hours. Semester course; 4 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: OCCT 593. Focuses on the evaluation, activity analysis and intervention process with a range of assistive technology, including software, hardware and low-tech solutions. Includes the development of skills for adaptation of activities and contexts.

OCCT 693. Occupational Synthesis and Adaptations. 2 Hours. Semester course; 1 lecture 2 lab hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: OCCT 593 and 692. Builds upon activity analysis skills. Emphasizes altering, adapting and modifying activities and contexts to promote increased occupational performance. Includes development of planning and construction skills, experiential learning and exposure to adapted leisure activities in the community, and design and production of an adaptive project for an individual with a disability, therapist or facility.

OCCT 695. Fieldwork: Specialty (Optional). 1-9 Hours. Twelve weeks full-time experience in programs providing occupational therapy services. 1-9 credits. Minimum total required for all fieldwork courses is 18 semester hours. Determination of the amount of credit and permission of the instructor and department chair must be secured prior to registration for the course. Supervised fieldwork experiences are arranged in various settings for the application of academically acquired knowledge. Placements include experiences in prevention, health maintenance, remediation, daily life tasks and vocational adjustment. Fieldwork settings may include hospitals, rehabilitation centers, school systems, community agencies, camping programs, penal systems and the like. Fieldwork experiences are arranged individually, but placement in a specified location cannot be guaranteed. In the event of failure, the course may be repeated only upon recommendation by the academic and clinical faculty. Fieldwork must be completed no later than 24 months following completion of the academic phase.

OCCT 697. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours. 1-3 credits. The student will submit a proposal for investigating some area or problem in occupational therapy not ordinarily included in the regular curriculum. The student’s desired study must be described in a contract written by the student and approved by the faculty member. The results of the study will be presented in a written or oral report.

OCCT 698. Research in Occupational Therapy. 1-3 Hours. Semester course; 1-3 credits. Completion of a proposal for a research project relevant to occupational therapy.

OCCT 700. Enabling Occupational Performance: The Canadian Perspective. 3 Hours. International study course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Introduces guiding principles for enabling occupation within a Canadian context. Examines client-centered practice from perspective of Canadian occupational therapists and publications by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists. Focuses on theory and implementation. Characteristics of components of the Canadian Occupational Performance Model will be examined as determinants of health, well-being and participation of individuals, groups and communities. Examines issues pertaining to Canadian society, culture and history, trends that have affected the Canadian health and social services system, and comparisons between Canadian and American systems. Course takes place in summer semester in London, Ontario, Canada.

OCCT 709. Research Process and Statistical Analysis in Occupational Therapy. 4 Hours. Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Restricted to entry-level master’s students. Prepares students to write research proposal for completion of the requirements of the master’s degree. Covers basic steps in research process, including problem definition, literature review, design, data collection and analysis, and dissemination of findings. Students will demonstrate understanding of statistical analysis after completing a review of introductory statistical concepts. Addresses quantitative and qualitative approaches. Students will review and critically analyze literature in preparation for subsequent research experiences.

OCCT 710. Quantitative Research Processes. 3-4 Hours. Semester course; 3-4 lecture hours. 3-4 credits. Prepares students as critical consumers of research. Provides overview to basic steps in research process, including problem definition, literature review, design, data collection and data dissemination. Students critically analyze each step and compare across different examples. Discussion of strengths and weaknesses in all areas of research. Focus on quantitative approaches with general introduction to basics of qualitative research for comparison.

OCCT 711. Research Process in Occupational Therapy: Qualitative Methods. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces qualitative methods of research with goals of understanding the theoretical underpinnings, gaining practical experience and developing an understanding of the “self” as an instrument. Focuses on qualitative methods in occupational therapy research and their application to practice.

OCCT 713. Adult Occupational Performance II. 4 Hours. Semester course; 2 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: OCCT 613. Expands the depth and breadth of content introduced in prerequisite course. Analyzes assessment and intervention strategies, tools and equipment typically used in adult occupational therapy settings across the continuum of care. Examines evaluation and treatment of functional disability for adults in clinical and natural environments. Focuses on occupational performance, while considering client factors, tasks and context. Stresses application of knowledge of clinical reasoning, theoretical practice models and cultural and contextual issues in evaluating and planning treatment.
OCCT 714. Pediatric Occupational Performance II. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: OCCT 614. Focuses on occupational performance of children with disabilities ages 6 through adolescence. Explores a variety of frames of reference and evaluative and intervention approaches for children and their families in multiple practice arenas, emphasizing the child’s performance in educational settings. Uses a holistic approach to develop the child’s competence in school, activities of daily living, play, work and community while meeting expectations of family and environment. Includes field-based experiences.

OCCT 715. Level I Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 54 clinical hours. 1 credit. Enriches classroom learning by providing directed observation and participation in clinical practice settings. Provides experiences supervised by professionals working in one of a variety of clinical settings (e.g., early intervention, schools, hospitals, nursing homes, home health agencies or mental health settings). Arranges placements to complement the treatment intervention courses. Prepares students for the more complex level II fieldwork clinical experience.

OCCT 716. Evidence-based Practice in Occupational Therapy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines one of the roots of clinical practice: the existence of evidence. Provides an overview of evidence-based practice in general, and more specifically, in occupational therapy. Emphasizes in-depth information on levels of evidence, developing practice questions and understanding available resources. Analyzing existing evidence is included. Addresses clinical application and resources for further study. Emphasizes practical application of EBP concepts to OT, laying groundwork for best practice.

OCCT 717. Level I Fieldwork in Psychosocial Occupational Therapy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: OCCT 617. Focuses on occupational performance of adolescents and adults with psychosocial dysfunction. Provides service learning level I fieldwork experiences to apply knowledge of clinical reasoning and conceptual practice models to plan, implement and evaluate evidence-based group intervention in community-based mental health settings. Prepares students for the more complex level II fieldwork clinical experience.

OCCT 720. Policy, Advocacy and Management for Occupational Therapy Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Addresses the principles and application of leadership and management skills within the context of occupational therapy services, federal and state legislation and regulations, national requirements, and the various contexts of service delivery. Focuses on knowledge and skills for the management of human and nonhuman resources for efficient and effective occupational therapy services. Evaluates contemporary policy issues, including trends in occupational therapy settings. Covers principles of reimbursement systems with analysis on the impact on occupational therapy practice. Focuses on changes in practice sites, service delivery models and patient demographics. Emphasizes how occupational therapists can influence policy, advocate for change and address emerging professional ethical issues. Encourages consideration of integrating holistic/biopsychosocial nature of occupational therapy into biomedical health care systems.

OCCT 721. Clinical Reasoning in Occupational Therapy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: OCCT 617, OCCT 713, OCCT 714. Utilizes case studies to develop clinical reasoning skills and evaluate treatment alternatives for persons with occupational performance limitations. Focuses on lifespan development issues. Uses cases designed to integrate and develop strategies based on previously presented material.

OCCT 729. Research Practicum. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. Supervised investigation of selected problems in occupational therapy. Explores students to varied tasks integral to research implementation. Addresses overall research design and implementation process and skills needed for publication and presentation of research. Students complete an individualized learning contract. Graded as "S," "U" or "F.

OCCT 735. Evidence Bases for Occupational Therapy Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines one of the roots of clinical practice: the existence of evidence. Provides an overview of evidence-based practice (EBP) in general and, more specifically, in occupational therapy. Provides in-depth information on levels of evidence; developing practice questions, understanding available resources and analyzing existing evidence is included. Ties in with clinical reasoning skills, extending them to understanding the literature. Clinical application and resources for further study will be addressed. Emphasis on practical application of EBP concepts to OT, laying groundwork for best practice.

OCCT 736. Developing Fundable Projects. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the environment and opportunities for seeking and obtaining external funding in the area of health-related sciences. Will address proposals for program development and evaluation, training and research. Studies components of typical proposals and supports proposal development by student. Analyzes and critiques student proposals using both peer and instructor review. Discusses relationships between proposal writing and leadership skills and knowledge.

OCCT 739. Program Development and Evaluation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores basic program development, program evaluation and needs-assessment methods necessary for developing upcoming capstone leadership projects. Focuses on conceptualization, design, models and approaches, and operational procedures used in program development and evaluation. Presents the planning and evaluation cycle, categories of evaluation, program development models and needs-assessment techniques used in creating programs. Explores ideas for program development from a variety of perspectives, including potential for evaluation of processes and outcomes, social and clinical indicators of need, asset mapping, and potential impact of the program. Emphasizes the roles of key stakeholders, regulatory bodies and evaluators, development and use of program theory, and dissemination of evaluation results for improvement of programs and policies.

OCCT 740. Concepts in Disability Leadership for Occupational Therapists. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides basic descriptions of leadership and innovation, especially as they apply to the disability community, and presents theoretical concepts of organizational leadership. Presents concepts of change in organizational, community, political and social action/social movement contexts. This is the first of a series of three courses on leadership in disability for occupational therapists.
OCCT 741. Disability Leadership Applications for Occupational Therapists. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Fosters development of skills needed to assume leadership roles in disability-related areas of practice by creating detailed proposals for the practicum in disability leadership for occupational therapists, to be implemented in the third course in the series. Students increase understanding of leadership concepts by conducting needs assessments and collecting other pilot data in community settings that provide services for people with disabilities. The second of a series of three courses on leadership in disability for occupational therapists, course focuses on application of theoretical concepts learned in the first leadership course.

OCCT 742. Practicum in Leadership for Occupational Therapists. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 3 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Builds leadership skills in occupational therapists for work in health care, education and disability-focused organizations. Emphasizes relationships with other professionals, governing boards, regulatory bodies and other key stakeholders through an identified and pre-approved leadership project. Promotes exploration of personal styles of leadership. Serves as applied practicum course in leadership development.

OCCT 743. Synthesis and Evaluation of Capstone Leadership Project. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Culminating course in the four-part leadership series. Focuses on synthesis and evaluation of capstone leadership project. Leads to assessment and critique of project implementation through compilation and analysis of project results. Re-examines leadership theories, personal leadership styles and their relationship to program outcomes. Proposes and critiques resources for project sustainability, clinical application and dissemination. Requires written and verbal presentation of final project and assessment of its value to the health care community.

OCCT 759. Fieldwork Education Seminar. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: OCCT 715. Promotes professional formation through the integration of foundation concepts and skills necessary for succeeding in fieldwork II and professional practice. Emphasizes policies and procedures, self-awareness and growth, and supervision and communication skills. Extends skills of professionalism and preparation for level II fieldwork experiences.

OCCT 760. Level II Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours (54 clinical hours/credit). 1-9 credits, Prerequisites: IPEC 501, OCCT 580, OCCT 589, OCCT 590, OCCT 591, OCCT 592, OCCT 593, OCCT 594, OCCT 613, OCCT 614, OCCT 615, OCCT 616, OCCT 617, OCCT 689, OCCT 693, OCCT 713, OCCT 714, OCCT 715, OCCT 716, OCCT 717, OCCT 720, OCCT 721, OCCT 759, OCCT 752, OCCT 780, OCCT 781. Expands experience in delivering occupational therapy services to variety of individuals across the lifespan in a variety of settings. Promotes interpretation of previously learned skills and knowledge through clinical reasoning and reflective practice. Students extend skills of professionalism and competence as entry-level occupational therapists. Students must complete 480 clinical hours of OCCT 760.

OCCT 761. Level II Fieldwork in Occupational Therapy. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours (54 clinical hours/credit). 1-9 credits, Prerequisite: OCCT 760. Clinical experience must be different from that offered in OCCT 760. Expands experience in delivering occupational therapy services to variety of individuals across the lifespan in a variety of settings. Promotes interpretation of previously learned skills and knowledge through clinical reasoning and reflective practice. Students extend skills of professionalism and competence as entry-level occupational therapists. Students must complete 480 clinical hours of OCCT 761.

OCCT 780. OTD Leadership Seminar. 2 Hours.
Seminar course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. A six-week intensive course that focuses on exploration of special topics integral to advancement of occupational therapy practice including, but not limited to, principles of leadership theory, research, emerging practice areas, teaching and learning, and advanced theory.

OCCT 781. Program Development and Evaluation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Six-week intensive course. Prerequisite: OCCT 616. Explores basic program development, program evaluation and needs assessment methods necessary for developing upcoming leadership-based doctoral practicum. Focuses on conceptualization, design, models and approaches, and operational procedures used in program development and evaluation. Presents the planning and evaluation cycle, categories of evaluation, program development models and needs assessment techniques used in creating programs. Explores ideas for program development from a variety of perspectives including potential for evaluation of processes and outcomes, social and clinical indicators of need, asset mapping and potential impact of the program. Emphasizes the roles of key stakeholders, regulatory bodies and evaluators, development and use of program theory, and dissemination of evaluation results for improvement of programs and policies.

OCCT 782. Professional Development Portfolio. 2 Hours.
Seminar course; 3 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: OCCT 761. Provides development of independent proposal for professional development based on selection of leadership topic of interest. Guided by a contract written by student and approved by faculty member. Results in an individual professional development portfolio.

OCCT 783. Doctoral Practicum. 10 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours (54 clinical hours/credit). 1-10 credits. Prerequisite: OCCT 761. Provides practical leadership opportunity and advanced skills in one or more areas of interest in clinical practice, administration, research, program or policy development, advocacy, education or theory development. Implements previously proposed, developed and approved project. Completes individualized specific learning objectives and evidence of learning under direct supervision or mentorship. Student must complete 540 practicum hours.

OCCT 784. Practicum Evaluation and Dissemination. 2 Hours.
Seminar course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: OCCT 761. Focuses on synthesis and evaluation of doctoral practicum experience, compilation and analysis of practicum outcomes, and interpretation and application of findings or outcomes. Requires development and critique of dissemination products, written and verbal presentation.
OCCT 793. Clinical Specialty Practicum. 2-4 Hours.
Three to nine hours of concentrated clinical experience in the student's chosen area of specialization under the supervision of an experienced clinician (minimum three hours per week for each credit), and one credit hour for guided library research related to topic of practice with preparation of a paper examining the theoretical and empirical bases of practice in specialty area. A contract is prepared by the student and approved by a faculty adviser and clinical supervisor.

OCCT 798. Thesis. 3-6 Hours.
3-6 credits. Completion of a proposal for a master's degree thesis relevant to occupational therapy.

OCCT 799. Thesis. 1-6 Hours.
1-6 credits. Completion of a master's degree thesis relevant to occupational therapy.

**Patient Counseling (PATC)**

PATC 501. Introduction to Health Care Ministry. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 1 practicum hours. 1 credit. Introduces the student to the hospital environment through observation, reading and reflection. Taught jointly with seminary faculty. Required course for dual degree program.

PATC 510. Introduction to Patient Counseling. 3-5 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and optional clocked clinical hours. 3-5 credits. Introduces the student to the development and practice of spiritual care of patients and families. Includes case review and peer interaction. Assignment to the hospital is available to those seeking clinical pastoral education credit. Designed for the nonspecialist.

PATC 511. The Professional Caregiver. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours and 150 clocked clinical hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: PATC 510. Focuses upon development of professional identity and growth within the helping professions. Emphasizes the context of the health-care environment and its impact upon caregivers, patients and families. Includes practical application of theory. Incorporates the use of clinical material. Designed for the nonspecialist.

PATC 515. Basic Patient Counseling. 9 Hours.
7 lecture and 300 clocked clinical hours. 9 credits. Provides an intensive course of study toward the development of pastoral skills in the hospital context. Assigns students to select clinical areas with faculty supervision. Utilizes group process and individual supervision for the review of clinical material.

PATC 551. Selected Issues in Health Care. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. May be repeated to a maximum of 2 credits. Exposes the student to a number of current trends and topics relevant to the contemporary U.S. health care delivery system. Content changes from semester to semester. Utilizes the expertise of hospital personnel.

PATC 592. Independent Study in Patient Counseling. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 4 credits. Provides opportunity to increase clinical and interpersonal skills in specialty areas through patient care, parallel reading and individual faculty supervision.

PATC 611. Theory and Practice of Patient Counseling I. 5 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 300 clocked clinical hours. 5 credits. Prerequisite: PATC 515 or equivalent. Emphasizes the theological foundations of pastoral care and counseling. Provides an in-depth examination of clinical material in a seminar setting.

PATC 612. Theory and Practice of Patient Counseling II. 5 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 300 clocked clinical hours. 5 credits. Prerequisite: PATC 515 or equivalent. Emphasizes psychological foundations of pastoral care and counseling. Provides an in-depth examination of clinical material in a seminar setting.

PATC 613. Group Process I. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: PATC 515 or equivalent. Explores, in a small group setting, the dynamics common to group behavior. Reflects upon the use of group process learning. Utilizes an experiential method of learning.

PATC 614. Group Process II. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: PATC 515 or equivalent. Focuses upon the various theories of group process. Focuses upon application of theory to a variety of clinical and administrative settings. Utilizes an experiential method of learning.

PATC 615. Theory of Group Leadership. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: PATC 613 or 614. Explores various theories of group leadership. Provides opportunity to test skill development within a peer context.

PATC 617. Supervised Clinical Practice I. 5 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 300 clocked clinical hours. 5 credits. Prerequisites: PATC 611 and 612. Provides the opportunity to apply and practice pastoral care skills with patients and their families under faculty supervision. Emphasizes professional competence toward an integration of theological, psychological and sociological aspects of spiritual care in varied clinical contexts.

PATC 618. Supervised Clinical Practice II. 5 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 300 clocked clinical hours. 5 credits. May be repeated for a total of 10 credits. Prerequisites: PATC 611 and 612. Provides the opportunity to apply and practice clinical skills in a pastoral care specialty under faculty supervision. Utilizes university and hospital personnel in specialty areas.

PATC 619. Spiritual and Social Integration Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. This course is a summary course required for persons in the dual-degree program. Provides in-depth reflection on the theological and social implications of ministry within the health-care environment. Course is taught jointly with seminary faculty.

PATC 620. Religious and Social Factors in Patient Counseling. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Provides an understanding of the theological and social factors related to hospitalization. Focuses on the use of ritual and tradition in caring for persons in crisis.

PATC 621. Care of the Dying. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Explores the spiritual and psychological dynamics associated with loss for patients and families. Offers special attention to the emotional and spiritual impact on caregivers that work with dying patients. Includes the use of clinical material within a group experience.

PATC 627. Living Well. 2-3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 or 3 lecture hours. 2 or 3 credits. Focuses on the development, facilitation and leadership of support groups for bereaved families. Provides students the opportunity to increase interpersonal and clinical skills in supporting families who have experienced a significant death. Special attention is offered to the needs of children. Requires participation in "Living Well," a contracted component of VCU Health System's bereavement program that utilizes art and group discussion.
PATC 629. Spirituality and Aging. 2-3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 or 3 lecture hours. 2 or 3 credits. Explores the spiritual, psychological and social dynamics associated with aging. Provides special attention to the spiritual and emotional impact on caregivers who work with aging patients. Crosslisted as: GRTY 629.

PATC 635. Clinical Ethics. 2-3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2-3 credits. Applies the principles of biomedical and health-care ethics to a more informed understanding of ethical decision making in the clinical environment. Concerned with the identification, analysis and resolution of ethical problems that arise in planning for the care of patients. Emphasizes the ethical responsibilities of clinical and pastoral caregivers.

PATC 636. Professional Identity and Ethics. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Focuses on guidelines for professional ethics in the development and maintenance of professional and personal integrity, leadership ability and the enhancement of a congruency between spiritual, psychological and physical maturity.

PATC 639. Pastoral Care Management. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Surveys the theory and practice of pastoral-care management within the present health-care environment including personnel management, process improvement, benchmarking and qualitative research design. Taught cooperatively with hospital personnel.

PATC 640. Research Basics for Hospital Chaplains. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Provides an overview of research basics within the context of hospital chaplaincy. Emphasizes the methodological issues in health services research that involve hospital chaplains.

PATC 641. Evidence-based Inquiry for Hospital Chaplains. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: PATC 640. Provides an overview of data collection, data quality and data usage within the context of hospital chaplaincy. Emphasizes an understanding of the use of data by health services administrators in operational and strategic decisions and for performance improvement.

PATC 642. Developing and Presenting Chaplaincy Research. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: PATC 640. Provides an overview of how to analyze and present evidence-based project findings and recommendations within a hospital or academic environment. Emphasizes understanding different objectives and dissemination routes for evidence-based chaplaincy projects as well as demonstrating an understanding of dissemination of evidence-based project results to relevant audiences.

PATC 653. Patient Counseling Evaluation I. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 6 practicum hours. 4 credits. Focuses upon the theory and practice of case based education and clinical evaluation relevant for pastoral supervision. Observation of and reflection upon the work of ACPE supervisors are required.

PATC 654. Patient Counseling Evaluation II. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 6 practicum hours. 4 credits. Continues the theoretical and practical focus of PATC 653. Students move from observation to participation in clinical evaluation of pastoral care interns.

PATC 661. History of Pastoral Supervision. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on the history and development of clinical pastoral education as a movement. Exposes the student to theoretical basis of clinical pastoral education as established in professional and organizational standards.

PATC 663. Theory of Pastoral Supervision I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on the literature in pastoral supervision. Emphasizes the applicability of educational and personality theory relevant for clinical pastoral education.

PATC 664. Theory of Pastoral Supervision II. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Focuses on the literature related to cultural and gender factors relevant for pastoral supervision.

PATC 665. Selected Topics in Pastoral Supervision. 2 Hours.
2 lecture hours. 2 credits. May be repeated for a total of 4 credits. Presents a variety of topics on supervisory theory and practice for persons seeking certification by the ACPE. Utilizes ACPE supervisors as well as university and local seminary faculty.

PATC 669. Independent Study in Pastoral Supervision. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 credits. May be repeated for a total of 4 credits. Provides individual focus and direction of student readings in theories of pastoral supervision. Readings are selected from bibliography of the ACPE Certification Commission.

PATC 692. Clinical Research. 1-5 Hours.
Semester course; 1-5 credits. May be repeated. Provides the opportunity to test the practical application of research methodology in collaboration with university and local seminary faculty.

Physical Therapy (PHTY)

Semester course; 4 lecture and 6 laboratory hours. 7 credits. Examines the structural and functional anatomy of the human musculoskeletal system through lecture and cadaver dissection. Develops understanding of fundamental facts and principles that apply to professional practice through lecture, dissection, radiographic examination and clinical correlation.

PHTY 502. Kinesiology. 4 Hours.
3 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Introduces the student to the kinematics and kinetics of human movement. Emphasis is placed on osteokinematics, arthrokinematics and the structures that limit and/or guide movement.

PHTY 503. Applied Exercise Physiology for Wellness and Health Promotion. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Restricts to students in the professional Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Integrates principles and practices of applied physiology, health promotion, wellness and adult fitness. Emphasizes the underlying physiology with assessing physical fitness and developing therapeutic exercise prescriptions which meet recommended guidelines for achieving and maintaining optimal physical fitness and health.
PHTY 505. Applied Microscopic Anatomy for Physical Therapy. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Examines the basic components of cells in terms of their structure and function. Cells and tissues of greatest importance to physical therapists are studied in detail, and their response to injury is explored. Reviews methods of studying cells.

PHTY 506. Functional Neuroanatomy. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Examines the basic structure and function of the nervous system with special emphasis on topics of greatest concern to physical therapists. Uses neurobiological approach to integrate the basic health sciences of neuroanatomy, neurophysiology and clinical neuroscience.

PHTY 508. Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy I. 6 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 6 credits. Teaches some of the basic evaluation methods and measurement procedures used by physical therapists in history taking and physical examination. Includes lecture, demonstration and practice in measurement of the length and girth of body parts, manual and mechanical muscle testing, joint range of motion, accessory motion testing, and palpation.

PHTY 510. Rehabilitation I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Introduces basic clinical skills and procedures, including measurement of vital signs, patient lifting and moving techniques, progressive mobilization, medical asepsis and principles of bandaging. Introduces medical documentation, record keeping and professional communication. Introduces communication methods and skills appropriate for interaction with patients, families and colleagues.

PHTY 512. Health Care Systems. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Restricted to students in the professional Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Introduces students to issues in health care related to organization, finance, access and regulation of services for individuals, groups and communities. Provides a general overview of inter-relationships among health care consumers, providers, organizations, regulators and third-party payers. Discusses implications for public policy and legislative action. Critically reviews supplemental readings to illustrate key concepts and their relevance to the practice of physical therapy.

PHTY 520. Clinical Education I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour and 80 clinic hours. 3 credits. Introduces the profession of physical therapy. Emphasizes professionalism, ethics, professional behaviors, physical therapy extends role and individual differences that may impact patient care. Provides an introduction to the Guide to Physical Therapy Practice and educational concepts that are related to personal growth and patient management. Includes a part-time experience in local acute care hospitals and/or home health and long-term care facilities designed to introduce the student to physical therapy practice. Allows students to develop interpersonal skills with patients, peers and other health care professionals while applying and practicing skills learned in the first professional year of education in a clinical setting.

PHTY 531. Evidence-based Practice Concepts. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Introduces concepts and principles of the research process including question, theory and hypothesis development, research design and methodology, and statistical reasoning and analysis. Discusses the basis of critical review of professional literature and determination of the relevance and applicability of research findings to specific patients with the goal of promoting evidence-based practice.

PHTY 532. Evidence-based Practice II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Restricted to students in the professional Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Presents evaluation and treatment methodology for the acute care patient. Focuses on the rehabilitation phase of patient care for different patient diagnoses. Provides interprofessional opportunities with other health care professional students.

PHTY 540. Psychosocial Aspects of Physical Therapy. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Introduces the student to sociocultural and psychosocial characteristics of patient populations that impact the rehabilitation process. Addresses the patient and family in the health care system, including sexuality, impact of disability, grief processes, death and dying, and selected counseling techniques.

PHTY 601. Advanced Measurement Concepts. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Investigates the principles of measurement theory as applied to clinical practice. Reviews basic principles guiding electronic instrumentation and electromyography. Examines the theoretical bases for the examination and treatment approaches used in orthopedic physical therapy or neurologic physical therapy.

PHTY 603. Evidence-based Practice I. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Introduces concepts and principles of the research process including question, theory and hypothesis development, research design and methodology, and statistical reasoning and analysis. Introduces critical review of professional literature and determination of the relevance and applicability of research findings to specific patients with the goal of promoting evidence-based physical therapy practice. Teaches how to access and implement electronic search engines to locate and retrieve professional literature. Twelve lecture hours will be provided on site at the beginning of the semester; the remainder of the course will be distance-based.

PHTY 604. Evidence-based Practice II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHTY 603. Continuation of PHTY 603. Provides an advanced review of the concepts and principles of the research process and evidence-based practice. Focuses on skills needed to develop relevant clinical questions for specific patient scenarios, perform a critical appraisal of professional literature and determine the applicability of the research findings for patient management. Includes preparation of a publication-ready paper on a topic relevant to the student’s practice interests. Course is entirely distance-based.

PHTY 605. Foundations for Pathokinesiology. 3,4 Hours.
Semester course; 3-4 lecture hours. 3-4 credits. A study of the principles that form a foundation for understanding pathokinesiology and therapeutic kinesiology. Integration of principles of motor development, control and learning with emphasis on abnormal motor behavior and its remediation.

PHTY 606. Therapeutic Kinesiology. 2-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture and 3 clinical hours. 2-4 credits. A study of motor behavior in both normal and pathological conditions. Reading and discussion of the basic literature of current neurologic approaches to therapeutic exercises and an integration of these concepts into a comprehensive model of human movement.
The entire course is distance-based. The student will receive evidence on selected topics of the evaluation and interpretation of published studies in the area of orthopaedic physical therapy. Promotes development of skills needed for the acquisition, reading and self-paced tutorials, develops skills to screen for conditions that merit physician referral when practicing in the direct access setting. Eight lecture hours will be provided on site; the remainder of the course will be distance-based.

PHTY 610. Physical Therapy Evaluation in the Direct Access Setting. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Covers critical physical therapy evaluation skills necessary for autonomous practice in the adult outpatient orthopaedic setting; recognition of the clinical manifestations of medical problems that may mimic mechanical neuromusculoskeletal seen by physical therapists and screening for medical referral. Through topic discussions, case presentations and self-paced tutorials, develops skills to screen for conditions that merit physician referral when practicing in the direct access setting. Eight lecture hours will be provided on site; the remainder of the course will be distance-based.

PHTY 611. Research Process. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Readings, discussions and reports on the current status of professional literature and validation of clinical practice, clinical administration and professional education. A model for professional development, the role of research in the validation process and the basis of research design are presented non-mathematically. Required of all advanced master of science degree students unless excused by the faculty.

PHTY 612. Advanced Biomechanics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: REMS/HEMS 611 or permission of instructor. Designed for students in the interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science. Covers advanced biomechanics techniques for the evaluation and quantification of human performance. Encourages scientific thought with practical applications. Crosslisted as: REMS 612.

PHTY 613. Evidence for Orthopaedic Practice. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: PHTY 603. Evidence-based medicine course for orthopedic physical therapy. Through presentations, topic discussions and case presentations students will acquired evidence on selected topics of the evaluation and treatment of musculoskeletal dysfunctions in physical therapy practice. Promotes development of skills needed for the acquisition, reading and interpretation of published studies in the area of orthopaedic physical therapy. The entire course is distance-based.

PHTY 614. Evidence for Neurologic Practice. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: PHTY 603. Evidence-based medicine course for neurologic physical therapy. Through Web-based presentations, topic discussions and case presentations, students will acquire evidence for selected topics related to the evaluation and treatment of neurologic dysfunctions in physical therapy practice. Promotes the development of skills in the acquisition, reading and interpretation of published studies in the area of neurologic physical therapy. The entire course is distance-based.

PHTY 615. Pharmacology (Physical Therapy). 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Restricted to students in the Professional Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Series of lectures on the integrated approach to the study of human disease and pharmacotherapeutics. Covers the pharmacological management of common disease states affecting physical function. Emphasizes the utilization of subjective and objective patient data for the assessment, monitoring and optimization of pharmacotherapy.

PHTY 616. Evidence of Tissue Healing and Therapeutic Modalities. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: PHTY 603. Distance-based course that focuses on current trends and topics of tissue healing including the effects of physical therapy interventions on healing tissues using an evidence-based approach. Reviews histology and cytology concepts relevant to clinical practice or necessary for interpreting scientific literature on the topic.

PHTY 617. t-DPT Gross Anatomy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Focuses on musculoskeletal anatomy with high clinical relevance for physical therapists. Incorporates introductory material on diagnostic imaging of the spine and extremities. Self-directed distance learning modules will be augmented with a series of on-campus cadaver dissection laboratories over a four-day visit to campus.

PHTY 621. Therapeutic Agents. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Examines the theoretical bases for and therapeutic application of thermal, mechanical and electrical agents. Emphasizes the physical and physiological effects, indications and contraindications for electrical current, diathermy, superficial heat and cold, massage, ultraviolet, traction, ultrasound, laser and compression therapy. Analyzes relative current scientific literature and uses laboratories for practice and clinical problem-solving.

PHTY 622. Pharmacology (Physical Therapy). 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Applies principles of pathophysiology of the cardiovascular and respiratory systems; includes physical therapy assessment and treatment of patients with cardiac and respiratory disorders.

PHTY 623. Cardiopulmonary Physical Therapy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Applies principles of pathophysiology of the cardiovascular and respiratory systems; includes physical therapy assessment and treatment of patients with cardiac and respiratory disorders.

PHTY 624. Clinical Problem-solving I. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Restricted to students in the Professional Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Provides an advanced review of the concepts and principles of the research process and evidence-based practice. Focuses on skills needed to perform a critical appraisal of professional literature and to determine the relevance and applicability of research findings to a specific patient or series of patients based on information collected during the first summer clinical experience. Provides opportunity to develop oral patient case presentation skills.

PHTY 625. Clinical Problem-solving II. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Restricted to students in the Professional Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Provides an advanced review of the concepts and principles of the research process and evidence-based practice. Focuses on skills needed to perform a critical appraisal of professional literature and to determine the relevance and applicability of research findings to a specific patient or series of patients based on information collected during the first summer clinical experience. Provides opportunity to develop oral patient case presentation skills.
PHTY 627. Lifespan II. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Discusses age related changes in physical structure, motor control and psychosocial/cognitive issues in humans from middle adulthood to the end of life. Emphasizes the geriatric population and the physical therapy management of problems with the integumentary system. Highlights the role of the physical therapist in making program modifications based on age related changes.

PHTY 629. Special Topics in Physical Therapy. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Provides an opportunity to pursue and present a topic of interest that is related to physical therapy evaluation and treatment.

PHTY 640. Neurologic Physical Therapy. 6 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 6 credits. Applies principles of motor development, control and learning to the evaluation and remediation of motor disorders. Critically surveys current theory and practice of neuromotor therapeutics.

PHTY 644. Orthotics and Prosthetics. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prepares the student to participate as a member of the professional prosthetic or orthotic clinic team, integrates material from other courses, and teaches basic skills in orthotic and prosthetic assessment, prescription, and training and performing initial and final prosthetic and orthotic checkouts.

PHTY 646. Clinical Medicine. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Covers topics in clinical medicine and the sciences relevant to the practice of physical therapy. Medical practitioners from the VCU Medical Center and surrounding areas participate.

PHTY 648. Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy II. 5 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture and 2 laboratory hours and 24 clinical hours. 5 credits. Examines principles and techniques used by physical therapists for the treatment of patients with orthopaedic disorders. Uses scientific evidence and theoretical rationale in a problem-solving approach to develop treatment plans for patients with orthopaedic musculoskeletal disorders. Provides opportunities for students to gain hands-on experiences with patients in a clinical setting.

PHTY 650. Clinical Education II. 8 Hours.
Semester course; 320 clock hours. 8 credits. Restricted to students in the Professional Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Eight-week, full-time clinical experience designed to develop competency in physical therapy evaluation and treatment. Teaches the use of sound scientific rationale and problem solving skills in aspects of patient care. Promotes the development of an independent professional through synthesis and utilization of advanced academic theory in evaluation and treatment. Encourages the exploration of interest areas in a variety of practice settings.

PHTY 651. Professional Issues in Physical Therapy. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Restricted to students in the Professional Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Discusses professional issues facing the modern physical therapy practitioner, including ethical decision making, state and national current physical therapy issues, and legislative efforts. Provides opportunity for advancing skills in educational techniques, assertiveness skills, conflict resolution, as well as preparation for employment via resume and portfolio writing and interview skills.

PHTY 654. Clinical Problem-solving II. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Restricted to students in the Professional Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Provides the opportunity to review, integrate and develop strategies using previously presented material and research to present an oral case study of a patient or patients from the clinical experience in the previous summer.

PHTY 660. Musculoskeletal Physical Therapy III. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: PHTY 508 and PHTY 648. Synthesizes information from the prerequisite classes through case study examples, hands-on practice and lecture on the incorporation of musculoskeletal evaluation and treatment. Emphasizes clinical reasoning in determining individualized physical therapy interventions based off of a comprehensive physical therapy evaluation. Focuses on case study examples of complicated patient presentations to help better prepare students to treat patients with multiple co-morbidities and impairments. Highlights commonly seen movement pattern dysfunctions throughout the course to help students to both identify and treat regional interdependent impairments related to the patient’s primary complaint.

PHTY 661. Administration and Management in Physical Therapy. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Restricted to students in the Professional Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Provides students with a basic understanding of operational issues related to physical therapy practice in a variety of settings. Topics include leadership, operational and business success measures, reimbursement, quality assurance, performance improvement, utilization review, risk management, documentation and marketing. Skill sets include, at an introductory level, supervision, delegation, hiring practices, budget development and analysis, peer review, outcomes measurement, and ethical decision making.

PHTY 670. Clinical Integration of Physical Therapy Concepts. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 credits. Restricted to students in the Professional Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Uses case studies in a problem-based learning approach, which will allow students to integrate knowledge about patient evaluation and assessment with treatment design, implementation, and progression. Utilizes current literature to support treatment interventions. Includes topic areas: pediatrics, orthopaedics, neurology, oncology, cardiac rehabilitation, integumentary systems and acute care/ICU.

PHTY 674. Clinical Problem-solving III. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture 1 credit. Restricted to students in the Professional Doctor of Physical Therapy program. Integrates material from D.P.T. courses with clinical research. Provides experience in writing individual case reports dealing in depth with the history, current status and problems in a given area of clinical specialization.

PHTY 676. Comprehensive Study of Physical Therapy Practice. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Reviews topics in practice patterns of neuromuscular, musculoskeletal, cardiovascular, integumentary and professionalism relative to physical therapy practice. Prepares students for the national physical therapy examination.

PHTY 680. Clinical Education III. 12 Hours.
Semester course; 480 clinical hours. 12 credits. Twelve-week full-time clinical experience designed to allow the student to develop entry-level competence in physical therapy evaluation and treatment techniques. Includes the use of sound scientific rationale and problem-solving skills in all aspects of patient care. Promotes the development of an independent professional through synthesis and utilization of advanced academic theory in evaluation and treatment. Graded P/F.
PHTY 690. Physical Therapy Graduate Seminar. 16 Hours.
Semester course; 1 credit. Provides opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in evaluating published scientific literature related to physical therapy, developing researchable questions and orally presenting the material in a professionally appropriate manner.

PHTY 691. Special Topics in Physical Therapy. 1-4 Hours.
1-4 credits. Guided independent study of specific topics not discussed in courses or discussed in less detail in courses. Student's desired topic of study must be identified and approved prior to enrollment.

PHTY 692. Clinical Specialty Seminar. 0.5-3 Hours.
Semester course; 0.5-3 credits. Individual reports dealing in depth with the history, current status and problems in a given area of clinical specialization.

PHTY 693. Clinical Specialty Practicum. 1-9 Hours.
60 clock hours per credit. 1-9 credits. Concentrated clinical experience under the guidance of an approved preceptor.

PHTY 695. Clinical Education IV. 12 Hours.
Semester course; 480 clinical hours. 12 credits. Twelve-week full-time clinical experience designed to allow the student to develop entry-level competence in physical therapy evaluation and treatment techniques. Includes the use of sound scientific rationale and problem-solving skills in all aspects of patient care. Promotes the development of an independent professional through synthesis and utilization of advanced academic theory in evaluation and treatment. Graded P/F.

PHTY 798. Research in Physical Therapy. 1-15 Hours.

Rehabilitation and Movement Science (REMS)

REMS 540. Cardiovascular Pathophysiology and Pharmacology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: HPEX 375 and HPEX 440 or equivalents. Presents theoretical principles of electrocardiography and the effects of pharmacological intervention in the treatment of cardiovascular disease. Specific emphasis placed on myocardial ischemia, myocardial infarction and their treatment through exercise rehabilitation protocols. The impact of pharmacological agents on the ECG and on exercise are explored. Crosslisted as: HEMS 540.

REMS 608. Advanced Musculoskeletal Sciences. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the structure and function of tissues of the musculoskeletal system. Investigates mechanisms of healing of these tissues and explores the effects of various modalities, altered use and disease on the structure and function of musculoskeletal tissues. Crosslisted as: PHTY 608.

REMS 611. Biomechanics of Human Motion. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOL 205 or equivalent. Recommended: PHYS 201, or HPEX 374 or 373, or equivalents. Application of the knowledge and methods of mechanics in the study of the structure and function of the human body as applied to sport, physical activity and rehabilitation. Topics include kinematics, kinetics and methods of biomechanical analysis. Crosslisted as: HEMS 611.

REMS 612. Advanced Biomechanics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: REMS/HEMS 611 or permission of instructor. Designed for students in the interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science. Covers advanced biomechanics techniques for the evaluation and quantification of human performance. Encourages scientific thought with practical applications. Crosslisted as: PHTY 612.

REMS 660. Neuromuscular Performance. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: HEMS/REMS 601 and HEMS 611. Examines the interrelationships between the musculoskeletal and neuromuscular systems. Includes examination of normal and abnormal biomechanics of the musculoskeletal system, biomechanical factors related to human performance, as well as acute and chronic adaptations of the neuromuscular system. Emphasizes how these principles can be applied to physical training in healthy and diseased populations and treatment and rehabilitation in the sports medicine setting. Crosslisted as: HEMS 660.

REMS 665. Instrumentation in Motion Analysis. 3 Hours.
2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Designed for students in the interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science Program. Examines theories, principles, and applications of systems used to qualify and characterize movement.

REMS 690. Research Seminar in Rehabilitation and Movement Science. 0.5 Hours.
Seminar course; 0.5 credit. Seminar course designed for students in the interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science Program. Presentation and discussion of research reports and topics of interest. Advances skills in critical analysis and discussion leadership. Topics and research presentations vary from semester to semester and are coordinated by the instructor of record. May be repeated. Graded as pass/fail.

REMS 692. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for 6 credits. Determination of the amount of credit and permission of the instructor and division head must be procured prior to registration. Cannot be used in place of existing courses. An individual study of a specialized issue or problem in health or movement sciences. Crosslisted as: HEMS 692.

REMS 701. Advanced Exercise Physiology I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHIS 501 or other graduate-level mammalian physiology course or permission of instructor. Investigates the effect of acute and chronic exercise stimuli on human performance and select disease states. Topics to be addresses include exercise bioenergetics, metabolic responses to exercise, contributions to substrate selection and utilization during exercise, muscular performance and adaptations to exercise training, cardiovascular adaptation to exercise, aerobic and anaerobic training programs, and effects of training on fitness and performance.

REMS 702. Advanced Exercise Physiology II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHIS 501 or other graduate-level mammalian physiology course or permission of instructor, and REMS 701. Investigates the effect of physiological stressors on human performance and health through lecture and article discussion. Topics to be addressed include exercise in the heat and cold, effects of altitude on physical performance, acute and chronic endocrine responses to exercise, role of adipokines in chronic disease conditions, the use of ergogenic aids in sport.

REMS 703. Cardiovascular Exercise Physiology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires permission of instructor. Investigates the structural, functional and cellular principles of human cardiovascular physiology as applied to health and human performance. Emphasis will be placed on the metabolic, contractile and hemodynamic adaptations to acute and chronic exercise training.
REMS 704. Psychobiology of Physical Activity. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires permission of instructor. "Psychobiology" is defined as the integrative study of behavior from the social, cognitive and biological levels of analysis. This course will include an examination of the research that encompasses psychophysiology, psychoneuroendocrinology, psychoneuroimmunology, neuroscience, physiological psychology and behavioral genetics applied to exercise.

REMS 705. Metabolic Aspects of Physical Activity. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires permission of instructor. This course is designed to explore the thermic effects of physical activity in apparently healthy individuals, as well as those with increased risk for cardiovascular, metabolic or other inflammatory diseases. Additionally, the relationship between physical activity and food intake, resting metabolic rate and dietary-induced thermogenesis will be reviewed. The examination of gastrointestinal function during dietary manipulation will also be assessed to address performance enhancement in several types of physical activities. This course will emphasize the metabolic control of ATP synthesis, which includes carbohydrate, lipid and protein metabolism and their interaction with one another in response to biological needs during rest and physical activity.

REMS 710. Research Techniques in Rehabilitation and Movement Science. 1-3 Hours.  
50 hours of laboratory times per credit hour. 1-3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor required. Examines and explores laboratory techniques used in rehabilitation and movement science research. Provides opportunity to begin transitioning clinical problems to research questions. Opportunities in laboratories of the rehabilitation and movement science program or other laboratories approved by the adviser or program directors. Focuses on individual student learning needs. Graded as pass/fail.

REMS 793. Teaching Practicum in Higher Education. 1 Hour.  
50 hours of contact/preparation time for each credit. 1-3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor required. Practicum designed for students in the interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science degree program. Develops skills necessary for classroom teaching including preparing and presenting selected topic(s), writing test questions, and grading examinations. May be repeated for additional teaching experience. Graded as pass/fail.

REMS 794. Research Presentation Seminar. 1 Hour.  
1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Seminar course designed for students in the interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Rehabilitation and Movement Science Program. Develops presentation skills. Requires preparation and presentation of research at a public research forum scheduled by the instructor of record. Students are expected to submit their research for presentation at a selected regional, national or international conference in a related field. Graded as pass/fail.

REMS 798. Research in Rehabilitation and Movement Science. 1-12 Hours.  
Semester course; 1-12 credits. Research leading to the Ph.D. degree and elective research projects for students in the Rehabilitation and Movement Science doctoral program. May be repeated. Graded as "S," "U" or "F.

**Rehabilitation Counseling (RHAB)**

RHAB 502. American Sign Language I. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 credits. Introduces the rules and grammatical structure of ASL with a focus on grammar and vocabulary to increase the learner's expressive and receptive understanding of the language. Provides an introduction to Deaf culture and crosscultural interactions, and to tactile and close-vision communication techniques used by individuals who are deaf-blind.

RHAB 503. American Sign Language II. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 credits. Provides continued study of the grammatical structure of ASL; introduction of additional vocabulary with emphasis on expressive and receptive competence; continued study of the tactile and close-vision communication techniques used by individuals who are deaf-blind; and continued study of the Deaf culture.

RHAB 521. Addiction Counseling. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides a biopsychosocial overview of addiction and addictive disorders. Reviews contemporary theories of addiction, pharmacological classification of psychoactive substances and contemporary approaches toward assessment, diagnosis, treatment and community support. Reviews cultural, legal and historical factors regarding substance use and addictive processes.

RHAB 522. Clinical Evaluation, Assessment and Treatment Planning in Substance Abuse Rehabilitation. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: RHAB 521. Stresses development of professional competencies. Focuses on systematic approach to screening and on-going assessment; diagnostic criteria for dependence and abuse; testing and interviewing; co-morbidity; collaborative approaches to individualized clinical treatment planning; awareness of treatment resources.

RHAB 523. Contemporary Issues in Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: RHAB 521. Examines current issues and research in the field. Includes topics such as denial, social isolation, intervention; lifelong nature of recovery, support needs, relapse prevention; legal, political and ethical issues; special populations (e.g., physical disability); poly-drug abuse; perinatal addiction; program administration; professional readiness.

RHAB 525. Introduction to Rehabilitation Counseling. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an overview of history, philosophy, legislation, organizational structure and trends in the rehabilitation profession. Focuses on attitudinal, social and environmental barriers to the inclusion of people with disabilities; professional identity, roles and functions; CRC Code of Ethics; CRC Standards of Practice; and career options.

RHAB 526. Introduction to Mental Health Counseling. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an overview of history, philosophy, legislation, organizational structure and trends in mental health counseling. Focuses on advocacy; professional identity, roles and functions; ethics; counseling certification and licensure; and career options.

RHAB 533. Directed Readings in Rehabilitation. 1-3 Hours.  
Semester course; 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Provides intensive study in one or more topical areas of rehabilitation through directed readings under the supervision of a faculty member.
RHAB 611. Theories of Professional Counseling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides a deep understanding of the major theoretical approaches, models and strategies to effective counseling, consultation, prevention, advocacy and wellness programs with an emphasis on common factors and evidence-based effectiveness. The intent is to assist students in developing an ethical and culturally relevant yet personal model of counseling.

RHAB 612. Group Counseling Theories and Techniques. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Reviews theoretical foundations of group work, group dynamics and processes, group therapeutic factors, and characteristics and functions of effective group leaders. Reviews ethical and culturally relevant strategies for designing, implementing and facilitating a variety of group approaches. Provides experience in group participation and development of group leadership skills.

RHAB 613. Advanced Rehabilitation Counseling Seminar. 3-9 Hours.
3-9 lecture hours. 3-9 credits. Prerequisites: RHAB 611 and RHAB 612 or permission of instructor. This course is designed to provide an opportunity for students to undertake a more in-depth study of selected approaches to individual and/or group counseling of rehabilitation clients. Principles and techniques relevant to vocational, educational, and personal adjustment problems related to severe and multiple disabilities will be systematically explored and studied. Audio visual tape experience will be offered.

RHAB 614. Counseling, Death and Loss. 3 Hours.
3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: RHAB 611 or permission of instructor. Explores the psychosocial processes of adaptation to severe losses such as those occasioned by the onset of disability, death and developmental life changes. Emphasizes the knowledge and skills required by rehabilitation counselors in dealing with losses experienced by their clients.

RHAB 615. Human Growth and Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the major themes of research on human development over the lifespan – from conception through adulthood. Focuses on the physical, emotional, social and cognitive aspects across the lifespan. Emphasizes how developmental processes relate to persons with disabilities and impact the work of rehabilitation and other helping professions.

RHAB 616. Couples and Family Counseling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an overview of approaches to couples and family counseling. Instruction in the theoretical foundation and interventions in couples and family therapy will be examined.

RHAB 623. Career Counseling and Job Placement. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an overview of major theories of career development with emphasis on theories relevant to rehabilitation practice. Explores occupational information and job matching systems, career counseling techniques, and major job placement approaches and techniques, with emphasis on demand-side job placement.

RHAB 624. Assessment and Evaluation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines principles of measurement, assessment and diagnosis in rehabilitation and mental health counseling; test selection, administration and interpretation; accommodating individuals with disabilities in the testing process. Includes an overview of the major domains in assessment.

RHAB 625. Research and Program Evaluation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines basic principles of rehabilitation research and program evaluation, including an emphasis on the critical review of published research for use in rehabilitation and mental health counseling practice. Focuses on students’ understanding of the application of research and program evaluation tools to enhance the quality of rehabilitation services delivered.

RHAB 633. Case Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores history, theory, practice and ethics of case management as well as the full range of community resources as these contribute to successful outcomes. Reviews and critically analyzes benefit systems, treatment and life care planning, coordination and delivery of services, disability management, documentation, and case studies.

RHAB 640. Medical and Psychosocial Aspects of Disabilities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an overview of the major disabilities encountered by rehabilitation and mental health counselors. Focuses on functional limitations and the process of psychological adjustment.

RHAB 642. Diagnosis and Treatment of Mental Health Disorders. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the major mental disorders and their etiology, prevalence, diagnosis and impact on individuals and society. Reviews the prevailing multiaxial classification systems and diagnostic processes, procedures and nomenclatures currently used in clinical practice. Provides an overview of rehabilitation and mental health treatment planning and interventions using a biopsychosocial framework.

RHAB 644. Alcohol and Human Behavior. 3 Hours.
3 credits. Prerequisites: RHAB 521, RHAB 522, RHAB 523 and RHAB 695, or permission of instructor. Understanding the significance of behavior as a tool in diagnosing, treating and/or referring the addict; appreciation of particular cues to observe the predominant behavior associated with living problems and reflected by the alcohol or drug abuser.

RHAB 654. Multicultural Counseling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an overview of multicultural counseling theories and techniques. Provides an understanding of how human development, family, gender, race and ethnicity impact upon the process of adjustment to disability.

RHAB 681. Institutes and Workshops in Rehabilitation. 1-3 Hours.
Orientation institutes and other short-term training programs are offered for rehabilitation counselors newly recruited to the rehabilitation field and for the further professional development of those already employed. Content will vary according to the aims of the institutes or workshops. Length of time and number of credits are announced prior to each institute or workshop.

RHAB 682. Institutes and Workshops in Rehabilitation. 1-3 Hours.
Orientation institutes and other short-term training programs are offered for rehabilitation counselors newly recruited to the rehabilitation field and for the further professional development of those already employed. Content will vary according to the aims of the institutes or workshops. Length of time and number of credits are announced prior to each institute or workshop.
RHAB 683. Institutes and Workshops in Rehabilitation. 1-3 Hours. Orientation institutes and other short-term training programs are offered for rehabilitation counselors newly recruited to the rehabilitation field and for the further professional development of those already employed. Content will vary according to the aims of the institutes or workshops. Length of time and number of credits are announced prior to each institute or workshop.

RHAB 684. Institutes and Workshops in Rehabilitation. 1-3 Hours. Orientation institutes and other short-term training programs are offered for rehabilitation counselors newly recruited to the rehabilitation field and for the further professional development of those already employed. Content will vary according to the aims of the institutes or workshops. Length of time and number of credits are announced prior to each institute or workshop.

RHAB 685. Institutes and Workshops in Rehabilitation. 1-3 Hours. Orientation institutes and other short-term training programs are offered for rehabilitation counselors newly recruited to the rehabilitation field and for the further professional development of those already employed. Content will vary according to the aims of the institutes or workshops. Length of time and number of credits are announced prior to each institute or workshop.

RHAB 686. Institutes and Workshops in Rehabilitation. 1-3 Hours. Orientation institutes and other short-term training programs are offered for rehabilitation counselors newly recruited to the rehabilitation field and for the further professional development of those already employed. Content will vary according to the aims of the institutes or workshops. Length of time and number of credits are announced prior to each institute or workshop.

RHAB 687. Institutes and Workshops in Rehabilitation. 1-3 Hours. Orientation institutes and other short-term training programs are offered for rehabilitation counselors newly recruited to the rehabilitation field and for the further professional development of those already employed. Content will vary according to the aims of the institutes or workshops. Length of time and number of credits are announced prior to each institute or workshop.

RHAB 688. Institutes and Workshops in Rehabilitation. 1-3 Hours. Orientation institutes and other short-term training programs are offered for rehabilitation counselors newly recruited to the rehabilitation field and for the further professional development of those already employed. Content will vary according to the aims of the institutes or workshops. Length of time and number of credits are announced prior to each institute or workshop.

RHAB 689. Institutes and Workshops in Rehabilitation. 1-3 Hours. Orientation institutes and other short-term training programs are offered for rehabilitation counselors newly recruited to the rehabilitation field and for the further professional development of those already employed. Content will vary according to the aims of the institutes or workshops. Length of time and number of credits are announced prior to each institute or workshop.

RHAB 691. Counseling Techniques. 3 Hours. Semester course. 3 credits. Provides experience and practice in the basic counseling skills related to the helping process. Examines the variety of clinical settings available for professional preparation. Provides the necessary level of skill development for students to participate in internship.

RHAB 692. Advanced Professional Issues in Counseling. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: RHAB 691. Provides an advanced overview of professional identity, roles and functions; counseling practice issues; supervision; and specialized counseling techniques in rehabilitation and mental health counseling. Includes 100 hours of supervised rehabilitation and mental health counseling practicum.

RHAB 693. Introduction to Field Experiences for Rehabilitation Counselors. 3 Hours. 3 credits. This course provides for concurrent field experience and is designed for students who have no training or experience in interviewing and counseling in rehabilitation settings.

RHAB 694. Job Placement in Rehabilitation. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores occupational information, job matching systems and job placement approaches. Focuses on demand-side job development, job seeking skills training, supported employment, transitional work and placement techniques including job analyses, ADA implementation and labor market surveys.

RHAB 695. Supervised Clinical Practice in Substance Abuse Rehabilitation. 1-6 Hours. Semester course; 1-6 credits. (1 credit per 100 hours of supervised internship.) May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits. Prerequisites: Completion of 24 graduate credits including RHAB 691. Requires completion of Certified Rehabilitation Counselor examination and a total of six credits for degree completion. Emphasizes mastery of substance abuse setting specific roles and functions of the professional rehabilitation counselor. Stresses ethical decision making in practice. Involved scheduled seminars and meetings with faculty and agency supervisor.

RHAB 696. Supervised Clinical Practice in Rehabilitation and Mental Health. 3-9 Hours. Semester course; 3-9 credits (3 credits per 200 hours of supervised internship). Prerequisite: Completion of 36 graduate credits including RHAB 691. Emphasizes mastery of setting-specific roles and functions of the professional rehabilitation and mental health counselor. Stresses ethical decision-making in practice. Involved scheduled seminars and meetings with faculty and agency supervisor. Requires completion of Certified Rehabilitation Counselor examination and a total of 9 credits for degree completion.

RHAB 697. Supervised Clinical Practice in Counseling. 1-6 Hours. Semester course; 1-6 credits. (1 credit per 100 hours of supervised internship.) May be repeated to a maximum of 9 credits. Prerequisite: Admission into advanced certificate in professional counseling program. Emphasizes advanced development of counseling skills pursuant to licensure or other post-master's training needs. Stresses ethical decision making in practice. Involved scheduled seminars and meetings with faculty and agency supervisor.

School of the Arts
Applied Music (APPM)

APPM 571. Choral Pedagogy. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Teaching competencies relative to the choral training and use of the unchanged, changing and matured voice will be stressed. Included are consideration of vocal production, pronunciation, aural skills, reading skills and stylistic interpretation.
APPMM 575. Score Reading. 1 Hour.
Continuous courses; 2 laboratory hours. 1-1 credit. Prerequisite: APPM 274 or the equivalent. No degree credit for graduate composition majors. A progressive course in reducing scores at the keyboard, beginning with simple choral scores and progressing to full orchestra and band.

APPMM 576. Score Reading. 1 Hour.
Continuous courses; 2 laboratory hours. 1-1 credit. Prerequisite: APPM 274 or the equivalent. No degree credit for graduate composition majors. A progressive course in reducing scores at the keyboard, beginning with simple choral scores and progressing to full orchestra and band.

APPMM 585. Opera Theatre. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 4 studio hours. 2 credits. May be repeated up to four times for credit. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Explores aspects of opera through study, written research and fully staged public performances of operatic scenes and/or one-act operas.

APPMM 663. Advanced Pedagogy. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Further study in pedagogical systems and techniques with emphasis on materials for intermediate and advanced-level students. Studio observation will be included. Sections: (1) piano, (2) voice, (3) organ, (4) percussion, (5) brass, (6) woodwinds and (7) strings.

APPMM 670. Large Ensembles. 0.5, 1 Hours.
Semester course; 3 or 4.5 laboratory hours. 0.5 or 1 credit. Each section may be repeated up to six times for credit. Auditions required for sections 1, 3, and 4. Sections: (1) orchestra, (2) University band, (3) symphonic band, (4) chorus and (5) Choral Arts Society.

APPMM 671. Piano Technique Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Physiology of piano playing. Alternative approaches to building and reconstructing technique.

APPMM 673. Piano Literature and Performance Practice. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2, 2 credits. To familiarize the student with a broad repertoire of performing and teaching material. Discussion of approaches to styles and idioms of various periods, solution of technical and musical problems encountered in specific pieces, evaluation of various editions of piano literature.

APPMM 674. Piano Literature and Performance Practice. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2, 2 credits. To familiarize the student with a broad repertoire of performing and teaching material. Discussion of approaches to styles and idioms of various periods, solution of technical and musical problems encountered in specific pieces, evaluation of various editions of piano literature.

APPMM 675. Teaching Practicum. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. A semester of supervised studio teaching consisting of intermediate and advanced piano literature.

APPMM 681. Group Piano Methods and Management. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Management, methods and materials for group teaching. Includes beginning students of all ages, intermediate level students and college keyboard skills classes.

APPMM 690. Small Ensembles. 0.5, 1 Hours.
Semester course; 2 or 3 laboratory hours. 0.5 or 1 credit. Each section may be repeated up to six times for credit. Auditions required for all sections. Sections: (1) ensemble for new music, (2) the madrigalists, (3) collegium musicum, (4) women's chorus, (5) vocal ensembles, (6) piano ensembles, (7) accompanying, (8) percussion ensemble, (9) percussion lab ensemble, (10) woodwind ensembles, (11) brass ensembles, (12) chamber orchestra, (13) string ensemble, (14) guitar ensembles, (15) small jazz ensembles, (16) jazz orchestra I, (17) jazz orchestra II, (18) jazz orchestra III, (19) basketball pep band.

APPMM 799. Recital. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1, 3 and 6 credits. Public presentation of a full recital or lecture recital. Content to be approved by graduate committee. Graded as "S," "U" or "F.

Art Education (ARTE)

ARTE 501. Art Education Elementary Materials and Practicum. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the art teacher preparation program. A preparatory experience with observation and participation in art programs in elementary grades prior to student teaching. This course consists of studio art materials and teaching methods suitable for this level and analyzes evaluation strategies appropriate for art.

ARTE 502. Art Education Secondary Materials and Practicum. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the art teacher preparation program. A preparatory experience with observation and participation in art programs in middle school, high school or nontraditional settings prior to student teaching. This course explores art materials and techniques suitable for these levels, examines developmental performance levels and analyzes evaluation methods appropriate for art.

ARTE 508. Two-dimensional Art Experiences. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 seminar and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Not offered for credit for studio art majors. The course explores the media, techniques and concepts of drawing, painting and printmaking.

ARTE 509. Three-dimensional Art Experiences. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 seminar and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Not offered for credit for studio art majors. Exploration of sculptural concepts with three-dimensional materials such as wood, metal, clay, fiber, plaster, plastic and glass.

ARTE 550. Art for the Exceptional Learner. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 laboratory hours. 3 credits. A study of exceptional learners including handicapped, gifted, talented, aged and others, and their participation in and appreciation for the visual arts. Courses may include practicum and field experiences.

ARTE 591. Topics in Art Education. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits with different topics. The course will explore selected topics of current interests or needs relative to art education. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

ARTE 592. Independent Study in Art Education. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 credits. Prerequisite: Approval from department chair. Art education majors only. An in-depth study of a selected art education topic.

ARTE 600. Seminar: Issues in Art Education. 3-6 Hours.
Semester course; 3-6 lecture hours. 3-6 credits. The course investigates contemporary issues and identifies problems in art education. Students prepare oral and written reports that explore new directions and discuss the implications for teachers and art programs.

ARTE 601. Elementary Art Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 3 laboratory hours. 3 credits. An inquiry into the nature of art and its importance in the elementary curriculum. Through personal experiences with art concepts and media, students learn about themes, form and expression and develop a broader understanding of the value of art for children.
ARTE 611. Theory and Literature in Art Education. 3 Hours.
Semester courses; 3,3 seminar hours. 3, 3 credits. An introduction to the body of literature and key issues within the field of art education. Students will also develop an overview of the history of art education as well as an understanding of the major roles that theory plays in the crafting of literature within the field, including the roles of conceptual and theoretical frameworks in conducting and consuming research.

ARTE 612. Theory and Literature in Art Education. 3 Hours.
Semester courses; 3,3 seminar hours. 3, 3 credits. An introduction to the body of literature and key issues within the field of art education. Students will also develop an overview of the history of art education as well as an understanding of the major roles that theory plays in the crafting of literature within the field, including the roles of conceptual and theoretical frameworks in conducting and consuming research.

ARTE 665. Curriculum Development and Evaluation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. A review of curriculum development including: needs assessment, determination of goals and objectives, curriculum writing, evaluation, and feedback processes. Theoretical approaches in the visual arts will be studied and curriculum models designed, developed and analyzed.

ARTE 670. Technology in Art Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The students examine diverse aspects of new technologies in relation to art programs. These aspects include media and computer-assisted learning, and applications of computer graphics and other technology to artistic expression.

ARTE 680. Teaching Laboratory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Observations and experimental teaching experiences with children in art. Group discussions and evaluation of ideas, objectives and methods.

ARTE 690. Issues and Methods of Inquiry in Art Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Readings and discussions of studies in art education and related research emphasizing possibilities for implementation by art teachers. Methods of research in the field will be reviewed and sample research proposals will be developed by the students.

ARTE 691. Topics in Art Education. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits with different content. The course will explore selected topics of current interests or needs relative to art education. See Schedule of Classes for specific topic to be offered each semester.

ARTE 692. Independent Study in Art Education. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 credits. Prerequisite: Approval from department chair. Art education majors only. An in-depth study of a selected art education topic.

ARTE 701. Issues in Art Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Readings and discussions of current issues in art education, art and education. This course emphasizes contemporary issues and research in the field and makes connections between theory and practice.

ARTE 702. History of Art Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is a survey of the history of art education, its major theories and influences. The emphasis is on the influence of education, art, society and politics on the shaping of art education. While the history of art education from Plato to the present is surveyed, the emphasis is on the past 50 years.

ARTE 703. Contemporary Philosophies and Art Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Readings and discussions of philosophical writings that affect contemporary art education, art and education.

ARTE 704. Research in Art Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Advanced readings and discussions of studies in art education. Advanced methods of research in the field will be reviewed and students will develop a beginning dissertation proposal.

ARTE 780. Cultural Diversity in Art and Society. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Recognizing the complex intersections of art, culture and social issues, this course explores the diverse social and cultural landscape in which art is produced. Students will consider recent and historical examples of how policies and social issues have shaped art production in both U.S. and global contexts.

ARTE 799. Thesis. 1,3 Hour.
Semester course; 1 or 3 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: completion of all formal course work, candidacy and approval of the department chair. Preparation of a thesis is based upon independent research.

ARTE 800. Advanced Seminar in Art Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum total of 9 credits. The course investigates contemporary issues and identifies problems in art education. Students prepare oral and written reports to explore new directions and discuss the implications for teachers and art programs.

Art History (ARTH)

ARTH 591. Special Topics in Art History. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. An in-depth study of a particular aspect of art history or art made in a particular time or place, or by a specific artist or group of artists. Course may include extended off-campus trips to sites and collections throughout the United States or abroad. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

ARTH 598. German for Art Historical Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course. 3 practicum hours. 3 credits. A sustained and progressively complex sequence of exercises in reading and translating art historical research that is written and published in German. Graded P/F.

ARTH 621. Historical Preservation and Architectural History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An introduction to the methods or research, record keeping and reporting used in architectural history, and to the evolution of the discipline, especially in relation to historic preservation.

ARTH 622. Studies in Architectural History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. An advanced, in-depth study of a selected period of architectural history in Europe and/or America. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

ARTH 681. Museums and Communities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. An examination of relationships between museums and communities, focusing on critical/theoretical analyses of how museums have constructed community identities, histories of place and cross-cultural relations. Also provides understanding of organizational structures and the roles and responsibilities of museum administrators.
ARTH 682. The Museum as Educational Institution. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. An overview of the history, theory and practice of museums as educational institutions, focusing on education philosophies and teaching methods as well as criteria for evaluating the educational merit of exhibits and programs. Also provides an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of museum educators and the structural organization of museum departments of education.

ARTH 683. Museum Collections. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. An examination of the history, motivations and procedures of museums collecting. Considers the ethical and logistical issues involved in acquiring objects (through bequests and purchase), in releasing objects (through restitution and deaccessioning) and in stewardship of objects (through conservation and registration). Also provides understanding of the roles and responsibilities of curators, collections managers, registrars and conservators, as well as an understanding of the structural organization of curatorial/collections staff.

ARTH 684. Curating Museum Exhibitions. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ARTH 681, ARTH 682, ARTH 683 or ARTH 691. Students work collaboratively to develop an exhibit script that reflects a contemporary museological issue through the display of artworks and/or artifacts.

ARTH 690. Historiography and Methodology of Art History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. Historiographic overview of art history since the mid-18th century that provides a foundational understanding of the changing methodological and theoretical bases for its disciplinary practices in academia and museums. Critical reading and writing skills and research methods will be developed through class discussion, small assignments and an independent research project in the student's primary area of interest.

ARTH 691. Special Topics in Museum Studies. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. An advanced, in-depth study of museum histories, theories or practices in a particular time period, region or culture.

ARTH 693. Graduate Museum Internship. 3-6 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 3-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor, chair of the graduate committee and/or chair of the Department of Art History. Professionally supervised work in a local, regional, national or international museum.

ARTH 694. Art History and Pedagogy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of teaching philosophies and methods that have been enacted in the development of art history curricula, course design, classroom activities and gallery programs within higher education and museum contexts.

ARTH 695. Writing Seminar I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. An investigation and practical application of rhetorical styles of writing for various audiences and purposes in academic, museum and/or online contexts, with particular focus on scholarly writing.

ARTH 721. Seminar in Early Modern Art. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. An advanced, in-depth study of a selected aspect of Renaissance or Baroque art in Europe. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

ARTH 722. Seminar in 19th-century Art. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. An advanced, in-depth study of a selected aspect of 19th-century art in Europe and/or America, including though not limited to movements, artists, new techniques, technologies or display venues. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

ARTH 723. Seminar in 20th-century Art. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. An advanced, in-depth study of a selected aspect of 20th-century art in Europe and/or America, including though not limited to movements, artists, new techniques, technologies or display venues. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

ARTH 725. Seminar in Pre-Columbian Art and Architecture. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Advanced research on specific topics related to the study of pre-Columbian art in the Mesoamerican and Andean regions. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics offered each semester.

ARTH 726. Seminar in African Art. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. In-depth study of specific topics related to the study of Renaissance art in the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America or South America. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics offered each semester.

ARTH 727. Seminar in Latin American Art. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. In-depth study of specific topics related to the study of Renaissance art in the Caribbean, Mexico, Central America or South America. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics offered each semester.

ARTH 728. Seminar in Asian Art. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. An advanced, in-depth study of a selected aspect of the art of India, Southeast Asia or the Middle East. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

ARTH 741. Seminar in Art and Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. An advanced, detailed investigation of critical, aesthetic or social theories as they relate to the history of art. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics offered each semester.

ARTH 742. Seminar in Trans-millennial Art and Ideas. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. An advanced, detailed investigation of an issue, idea or topic that transcends millennia in the history of art. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics offered each semester.

ARTH 743. Seminar in Art and Representation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. An advanced, detailed investigation of an issue, idea or topic that considers artworks as representations of people, places, ideas, cultural values, etc. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics offered each semester.

ARTH 749. Seminar in Diasporic Art. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. An examination of African-inspired cultural and artistic traditions in North and South America and the Caribbean. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics offered each semester.
ARTH 771. Writing Seminar II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ARTH 695. Provides Master of Arts students with a structure in which to complete a qualifying paper that fulfills degree requirements. Students meet periodically as a group while also working independently with a faculty adviser to articulate a paper topic, conduct research and refine a paper of publishable quality.

ARTH 772. Major Field Exam. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 research hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires permission of director of graduate studies. Provides doctoral students with opportunities to investigate research areas related to their major field of study. Students work with a faculty adviser to establish a bibliography for independent reading and study in preparation for the major field exam. Graded as Pass/Fail.

ARTH 773. Minor Field Exam. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 research hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires permission of director of graduate studies. Provides doctoral students with opportunities to investigate research areas related to their minor field of study. Students work with a faculty adviser to establish a bibliography for independent reading and study in preparation for the minor field exam. Graded as Pass/Fail.

ARTH 774. Dissertation Proposal. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 research hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires permission of director of graduate studies. Students prepare a dissertation proposal under the direction of the dissertation adviser. Graded as S/U/F.

ARTH 791. Special Topics in Art History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. An in-depth investigation of a topic or issue in art history. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics offered each semester.

ARTH 797. Directed Research Project. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor, director of graduate studies and chair of the Department of Art History. Advanced individual work on a subject to be formulated by the student in collaboration with and/or approved by the instructor.

ARTH 798. Museum Thesis Project. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1, 3 or 6 credits. Prerequisite: completion of all formal course work, comprehensive examinations, foreign language examination and permission of departmental graduate committee and museum studies program. The practical application of museological issues, concepts or theories in exhibit curation, education program development, exhibit or program evaluation, collections planning, or policy analysis. A written account of the museological significance of the project is required. Graded as S/U/F.

ARTH 799. Thesis. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Completion of all formal course work, comprehensive examinations, foreign language examination, and approval of the departmental chair of graduate studies and department chair. Preparation of a thesis based on independent research.

ARTH 899. Dissertation Research. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. Variable credit. A minimum of 6 semester hours required; may be repeated for a maximum of 15 credits. Enrollment restricted to students who have achieved Ph.D. candidacy. Preparation of a dissertation based on independent research and in consultation with a faculty dissertation director. Graded S/U/F.

Arts (ARTS)

ARTS 591. Special Topics. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. May be repeated with different topics for a maximum of 6 credits. Prerequisite: approval of the instructor. Topical course offering a variety of subjects that are not offered as a part of the standard curriculum of any individual department within the School of the Arts. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered.

ARTS 592. Individual Projects/Fieldwork. 1-6 Hours.
Semester courses; 1-6 credits. By appointment with director of graduate studies after approval by department chair. (Obtain individual research project form from the dean's office prior to enrollment.) Individual work for graduate students.

ARTS 601. Seminar in Art. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. Discussion and research in the visual arts providing experience and involvement in the various studio areas for students not concentrating in these areas.

ARTS 602. Seminar in Art. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 3 seminar hours. 3 credits. Discussion and research in the visual arts providing experience and involvement in the various studio areas for students not concentrating in these areas.

ARTS 690. Methods of Art Research. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 research hours. Review of selected research methods relevant to the composition of a thesis in the student's master's degree area. Preparation of a proto-thesis concludes course work.

ARTS 692. Individual Projects/Fieldwork. 1-6 Hours.
Semester courses; 1-6 credits. By appointment with director of graduate studies after approval by department chair. (Obtain individual research project form from the dean's office prior to enrollment.) Individual work for graduate students.

ARTS 705. Research in the Arts. 3 Hours.
Semester courses; 3 research hours. 3 credits. By appointment with director of graduate studies after approval by department chair. (Obtain individual research project form from the dean's office prior to enrollment.) Individual research for graduate students.

ARTS 706. Research in the Arts. 6 Hours.
Semester courses; 3, 6 credits. By appointment with director of graduate studies after approval by department chair. (Obtain individual research project form from the dean's office prior to enrollment.) Individual research for graduate students.

Craft and Material Studies (CRAF)

CRAF 591. Special Topics and Practicum. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. A topical seminar/workshop offered in a variety of craft subjects or issues not included in the regular curriculum. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

CRAF 601. Graduate Studies in Metal. 3-9 Hours.
Semester course; 9, 18 or 27 studio hours. 3, 6 or 9 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 36 credits. Personal investigation of materials, processes and attitudes relating to the creative production of metal and/or jewelry forms.

CRAF 621. Graduate Studies in Wood. 3-9 Hours.
Semester course; 9, 18 or 27 studio hours. 3, 6 or 9 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 36 credits. Design, research and experimentation in wood and varied materials relating to a body of work demonstrating the student's mastery of ideation and material.
CRAF 641. Graduate Studies in Clay. 3-9 Hours.
Semester course; 9, 18 or 27 studio hours. 3, 6 or 9 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 36 credits. This course is an intensive focus on glass experimentation and its associative properties with the expected outcome of the materialization and realization of each individual's original research into their studio practice.

CRAF 651. Graduate Studies in Glass. 3-9 Hours.
Semester course; 9, 18 or 27 studio hours. 3, 6 or 9 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 36 credits. This course is an intensive focus on glass experimentation and its associative properties with the expected outcome of the materialization and realization of each individual's original research into their studio practice.

CRAF 661. Graduate Studies in Fiber. 3-9 Hours.
Semester course; 9, 18 or 27 studio hours. 3, 6 or 9 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 36 credits. Work in contemporary and traditional textile techniques.

CRAF 680. Graduate Critique. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 9 studio hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. This course explores the meaning and application of critique as it relates to both students' own work and the work of others as preparation for thesis or candidacy exhibitions. There will be emphasis placed on the production and presentation of artwork and artist statements.

CRAF 681. Candidacy Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 9 studio hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. This course will provide directed studio work and research. Students will take risks, hone skills, figure out what questions, issues and ideas direct creative work and receive guidance and support from their graduate committee. To be taken the first two semesters of graduate program; in the second semester the student will work with their graduate committee to prepare for candidacy review and exhibition.

CRAF 682. Thesis Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 9 studio hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. This course will provide directed studio work and research. Students will take risks, hone skills, figure out what questions, issues, and ideas direct creative work and receive guidance and support from the their graduate committee. To be taken the final two semesters of graduate program with approval of the department chair and graduate committee; in the second semester the student will work with their graduate committee to prepare for thesis exhibition and the written thesis according to the established written thesis timeline.

CRAF 690. Graduate Seminar. 1,3 Hour.
Seminar course; 1 or 3 lecture hours. 1 or 3 credits. May be repeated. Degree requirement for graduate students in the Department of Crafts. A weekly seminar for the purpose of discussing contemporary issues in the arts as they affect the artist-craftsperson.

CRAF 692. Directed Research. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Approval of supervising faculty member and department chair necessary prior to registration. This course will be limited to graduate students in the Department of Craft and Material Studies in high standing within the program. Learning experiences will be designed with the supervising faculty member in the form of a contract between student and instructor.

Design (DESI)

DESI 510. Materials and Methods Studio. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of program director. A studio-based examination of design research methods with emphasis placed on new technology of three-dimensional digital design and fabrication. The studio will utilize recently installed and existing facilities, faculty and resources at Digital Fabrication Lab at VCUQatar.

DESI 511. Studio in Digital Design and Fabrication Technology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of program director. A studio-based examination of design research methods with emphasis placed on time-based media production. The course is designed to provide a lab/studio opportunity for students to develop media skills while focusing on individual production, collaborative projects and critical discussion. The studio will utilize recently installed and existing facilities, faculty and resources at Media Lab at VCUQatar.

DESI 520. Design Research Methodologies. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of program director. A studio-based examination of design research methods with emphasis placed on linking knowledge, comprehension and application of historic and emerging methods of experimentation to generative and iterative studies.

DESI 601. Interdisciplinary Design Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A seminar to examine the theories and practices related to the contemporary designer's role in the technological, psychological, cultural and aesthetic environment. The seminar will include exploration of historical and contemporary art, architecture, communications, cultural theory and design criticism. The course involves intensive professional debate of various aspects of interdisciplinary design practice, ongoing group discussion, and exercises in critical writing. Professionals at the university and outside of the university will be invited for participation.

DESI 605. Design Strategies and Ethics for Business. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An investigation of precedents and potentials for application of design methods and processes to the development of business strategies and ethics.

DESI 611. Design Studio One. 6 Hours.
Semester course; 12 studio hours. 6 credits. A topical studio focusing on research, experimentation and problem-solving methods from a cross section of design disciplines.

DESI 612. Design Studio Two. 6 Hours.
Semester course; 12 studio hours. 6 credits. Studio course focusing on interdisciplinary, team-based approaches to identifying and solving advanced design problems.

DESI 613. Design Studio Three. 6 Hours.
Semester course; 12 studio hours. 6 credits. Prerequisites: successful completion of 30 credits of graduate study and permission of the program director. Studio course focusing on experimentation, analysis and development of creative projects that directly contribute to a design brief to be used as a basis for the final thesis.
DESI 620. Design Thesis Research and Formulation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: successful completion of 30 credit hours of graduate study and permission of the program director. Students examine applied research methods with emphasis placed on comprehension and analysis of case studies and then apply design research methods to test original proposals in a studio environment. Through development of design processes, students define an individual or team project of complex scope and intensity.

DESI 621. Design Research Studio: Leadership and Entrepreneurship. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 6 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: successful completion of 30 credit hours of graduate study and permission of the program director. Students evaluate emerging leadership methodologies by applying lessons from case studies and emerging fields of knowledge. Course provides collaborative and presentation opportunities.

DESI 630. Teaching Practicum in Design. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 6 practicum hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: completion of 18 credit hours of graduate study. Exploration of philosophical, informational and technical aspects of design education. Observation, instruction and practice in teaching. Topics include effective teaching strategies, curriculum development, learning styles and evaluation techniques. Graded as P/F.

DESI 631. Design Internship. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 6 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: successful completion of 30 credit hours of graduate study and permission of the program director. Provides supervised practical work experience that is coordinated with professional designers under the guidance of the design faculty. Internship placement is based upon research interest. Graded as P/F.

DESI 690. Thesis Studio. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours (2 studio hours per credit; 1 seminar hour per 3 credits). 1, 3, 6 or 9 credits. Prerequisites: successful completion of 30 credit hours of graduate study and permission of the program director. This course will support and assist the student in the development and completion of the final thesis project. Executed under the supervision of a graduate adviser and review committee. Graded as S/U/F.

DESI 692. Interdisciplinary Design Research/Individual Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 3-9 studio hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated. The structuring, research, execution and presentation of an independent project in interdisciplinary design under the guidance of a faculty member.

Graphic Design (GDES)

GDES 567. Visual Interface Design. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 3 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. A course concentrating on the visual design and development of human-computer interface systems. Emphasis is placed on visual design processes and methods in the diverse arena of user interface design.

GDES 591. Advanced Studio Topics in Visual Communications. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Topical studio focusing on research and experimentation in specialized visual communication media.

GDES 593. Visual Communications Internship. 3,6 Hours.
Semester course; 3 or 6 credits. May be repeated to a maximum of 6 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of chair required. Supervised study in cross-disciplinary visual communications research projects to integrate theory with practice. Training is provided under the direction and supervision of qualified professional practitioners and a faculty adviser.

GDES 610. Visual Communications Workshop. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 3 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: permission of the graduate director. A studio course focusing on the philosophical, communicative and aesthetic relationships of visual communications problem-solving and the effective articulation of concepts.

GDES 611. Visual Communications Workshop. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 3 studio hours. 4 credits. May be repeated for a maximum total of 16 credits. Prerequisite: permission of the graduate director. A studio course focusing on the philosophical, communicative and aesthetic relationships of visual communications problem solving and the effective articulation of concepts.

GDES 612. Research Methods in Visual Communications. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 3 studio hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: permission of program director. A studio-based examination of design research methods with emphasis place on linking knowledge, comprehension and application of historic and emerging methods of experimentation to generative and iterative studies. The course culminates in the writing and presentation of a research proposal for the second year of study.

GDES 621. Visual Communications Seminar. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. May be repeated. A detailed examination of selected theoretical, historical, aesthetic and social areas of concern to the designer. Scholarly research, critical analysis and discussion are expected.

GDES 631. Visual Communications Teaching Practicum. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 6 practicum hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of department chair. Observation, instruction, and practice to develop skills in the design, organization, and conduct of courses in visual communications. Explores multiple teaching strategies, student development, learning styles, and evaluation techniques.

GDES 692. Visual Communications Research/Individual Study. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 3 credits. May be repeated. The structuring, research, execution, and presentation of an independent project in visual communications under the guidance of a faculty adviser.

GDES 698. Research Documentation and Exhibition Design. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of program director. A studio-based course focusing on the design and production of final research documentation in both book and exhibition formats.

Semester course; variable hours (three studio hours per credit). 1, 4 or 8 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Prerequisites: successful completion of 30 credit hours of graduate study and permission of department chair. Supervised investigation and presentation of selected problems in visual communications. Executed under the supervision of a graduate adviser and review committee.
**Interior Design (IDES)**

**IDES 500. Art and Design Methods Workshop. 3 Hours.**
Semester course; 1 lecture and 4 studio hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a total of 12 credits. Open only to first-professional track graduate students in interior environments. Provides accelerated instruction in art and design methods for the student with no art background by fully immersing the student in a rigorous studio environment. Focuses on the development of 2-D and 3-D art and design skills including 2-D design methods, 3-D design methods, color theory, and drawing and presentation methods.

**IDES 501. Introductory Graduate Design Studio I. 6 Hours.**
Semester course; 2 lecture and 8 studio hours. 6 credits. Corequisite: IDES 511. Open to professional entry-level track graduate students in interior environments only. Provides accelerated studio and graphics instruction for designing interior environments for the entering professional entry-level track student that does not have previous experience in interior design. Introduces theories, methods and processes of interior design, facilitates specific interior design applications and focuses on analysis and evaluation of interior environments. Course work is highly sequenced and accelerates in complexity as the semester progresses and combines the development of technical skills with conceptual thinking and design development processes. Course emphasizes interior design development through studio projects and the development of the skills and practices of interior design.

**IDES 502. Introductory Graduate Design Studio II. 6 Hours.**
Semester course; 2 lecture and 8 studio hours. 6 credits. Corequisite: IDES 512. Open to professional entry-level track graduate students in interior environments only. Provides accelerated studio and graphics instruction for designing interior environments for the entering professional entry-level track student that does not have previous experience in interior design. Introduces theories, methods and processes of interior design, facilitates specific interior design applications and focuses on analysis and evaluation of interior environments. Course work is highly sequenced and accelerates in complexity as the semester progresses and combines the development of technical skills with conceptual thinking and design development processes. Course emphasizes interior design development through studio projects and the development of the skills and practices of interior design.

**IDES 511. Introductory Graduate Graphics I. 3 Hours.**
Semester courses; 1 lecture and 4 studio hours. 3 credits. Corequisite: IDES 501 for IDES 511, IDES 502 for 512. Open to professional entry-level track graduate students in interior environments only. Provides accelerated manual and computer graphics instruction for designing interior environments for the entering professional entry-level track student who does not have previous experience in interior design graphics. Course work is highly sequenced and accelerates in complexity as the semester progresses.

**IDES 512. Introductory Graduate Graphics II. 3 Hours.**
Semester courses; 1 lecture and 4 studio hours. 3 credits. Corequisite: IDES 501 for IDES 511, IDES 502 for 512. Open to professional entry-level track graduate students in interior environments only. Provides accelerated manual and computer graphics instruction for designing interior environments for the entering professional entry-level track student who does not have previous experience in interior design graphics. Course work is highly sequenced and accelerates in complexity as the semester progresses.

**IDES 521. Advanced Material Studies for Interior Environments. 2 Hours.**
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Open only to first-professional track graduate students in interior environments. Investigation, selection and practical application of materials and textiles in interior environments.

**IDES 522. Environmental Factors for Interior Environments. 2 Hours.**
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Open to first-professional track students only. Contemporary theories and techniques in the design of buildings as related to interior design, small structural considerations, HVAC, acoustics, plumbing and the attributes of building materials.

**IDES 591. Topics in Interior Design. 3 Hours.**
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Explores selected topics of current and relevant interest in interior design. Topics will vary each semester and focus on the needs of the student.

**IDES 601. Graduate Interior Environments Studio. 6 Hours.**
Semester course; 12 studio hours. 6 credits. May be repeated twice. Open to graduate students in interior environments; graduate students from other School of the Arts graduate programs may enroll with the consent of the instructor. Prerequisites: IDES 501, 502, 511, 512 for professional entry-level students; none for post-professional students. Provides advanced studio for designing in specialized areas of interior environments. Topics will vary each semester.

**IDES 611. Advanced Graphics for Interior Environments I. 2 Hours.**
Semester course; 4 studio hours. 2 credits. Open only to first-professional track graduate students in interior environments. Provides advanced graphics instruction for designing interior environments for the first-professional track student. Course work is highly sequenced and accelerates in complexity as the semester progresses and focuses on the development of technical drawing, rendering and presentation skills for the interior designer.

**IDES 612. Advanced Graphics for Interior Environments II. 2 Hours.**
Semester course; 4 studio hours. 2 credits. Open only to first-professional track graduate students in interior environments. Provides advanced graphics instruction for designing interior environments for the first-professional track student using the computer. Course work is highly sequenced and accelerates in complexity as the semester progresses and focuses on the development of computer-based skills and programs such as AutoCAD, 3-D Viz and Form Z.

**IDES 621. Advanced Design Studies. 3,6 Hours.**
Semester course; 3 or 6 lecture/seminar hours. 3 or 6 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisites: IDES 501, 502, 511, 512 for professional entry-level students; none for post-professional students. Interior design majors only. Supervised investigation and presentation of selected problems and issues in interior design.

**IDES 624. Advanced Furniture Design. 2 Hours.**
Semester course; 4 studio hours. 2 credits. For first-professional track students only. Advanced study of furniture design and custom millwork as related to the design of interior environments. Original student designs are developed through the study of structure and materials.

**IDES 626. Advanced Light and Color for Interior Environments. 2 Hours.**
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Open only to first-professional track graduate students in interior environments. The study of illumination and its impact on people in interior spaces; theory and practical applications.
IDES 631. Ethics and Business Procedures for Interior Environments. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Open only to first-professional track graduate students in interior environments. Advanced study of the interior design profession as related to professional and business practices including: responsibilities, services, ethics, business and project management, and marketing.

IDES 635. Teaching Practicum in Interior Environments. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 6 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Completion of one graduate studio. Familiarizes students with different types of teaching methods and practices in interior design curriculums. Observation, instruction and practice in the design, organization, and conduct of courses in interior design. Explores multiple teaching strategies, student development, learning styles and evaluation techniques.

IDES 651. History and Theory of Interior Environments I. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Open only to first-professional students. Study of the major paradigms, theories and styles of the built environment (interior design, furniture and architecture) from antiquity to the late-19th century.

IDES 652. History and Theory of Interior Environments II. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Study of the major paradigms, theories and styles of architecture, interior environments and furniture from the beginnings of modernism to the present day.

IDES 690. Graduate Seminar in Interior Environments. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A detailed selected investigation of theoretical, historical, aesthetic and social areas of concern to the interior designer. Scholarly research, critical analysis and discussion are expected. The course requires investigative work using resources such as library and archive materials, journals, Internet sources, surveys, oral histories, interviews, case study design, and field documentation and evaluation.

IDES 692. Independent Study in Interior Environments. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 lecture hours. 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Interior environments majors only. Prerequisite: approval from department chair. An in-depth study of a selected interior design topic.

IDES 693. Interior Design Internship. 3,6 Hours.
Semester course; 6, 8 or 12 studio hours. 3, 4 or 6 credits. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor. Interior design majors only. Provides supervised practical work experiences that are coordinated with professional interior designers under the guidance of interior design faculty. Formal arrangements must be made. Graded P/F.

IDES 699. Creative Project - Thesis. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 2, 6 or 12 studio hours. 1, 3 or 6 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Approval of Departmental Review Committee. The project must test an original design theory synthesized through the development of a design process, investigative research and an individual project of complex scale and scope.

IDES 800. Research Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate status and permission of chair. Explores the foundation and procedures of architectural and design research. Evidence-based design, alternate research methodologies and their philosophical and epistemological limitations.

IDES 801. Theories of Art and Design. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate status and permission of chair. Development of art, architectural and design theories from antiquity to present. Emphasis is on the writings of contemporary leading theorists and historians. Students will apply these theories to contemporary current solutions as related to the creation of a healing environment; or students may explore the history of medicine or healing as expressed in the fine and applied arts.

IDES 811. Interdisciplinary Health Care Design Workshop I. 3 Hours.
One-week workshop. 3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate status and permission of chair. Contemporary issues in health care professions, health care design and environmental stewardship. Course consists of a one-week workshop that offers lectures from leading experts on a selected issue and an interdisciplinary design problem. Students receive reading assignments to be completed prior to the workshop. After the workshop, during exam week, students meet to present their solution to the design problem to the class and invited guest critics. Students also complete an original research paper on the design problem.

IDES 812. Interdisciplinary Health Care Design Workshop II. 3 Hours.
One-week workshop. 3 credits. Prerequisites: IDES 811, graduate status and permission of chair. Contemporary issues in health care professions, health care design and environmental stewardship. Course consists of a one-week workshop that offers lectures from leading experts on a selected issue and an interdisciplinary design problem. Students receive reading assignments to be completed prior to the workshop. After the workshop, during exam week, students meet to present their solution to the design problem to the class and invited guest critics. Students also complete an original research paper on the design problem.

IDES 820. Selected Topics in Health Care Design I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate status and permission of chair. Selected topics in health care design and health care administration.

IDES 821. Selected Topics in Health Care Design II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: IDES 820 and graduate status. Continued exploration of selected topics in health, health care design and health care administration.

IDES 899. Dissertation. 3-12 Hours.
Variable hours. 3-12 credits. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: ABD status. Research and work leading to the completion of the dissertation thesis or dissertation project. Graded S/U/F.

Kinetic Imaging (KINE)

KINE 500. Graduate Studio. 8 Hours.
Semester course; 16 lab/studio hours. 8 credits. May be repeated for a total of 16 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the kinetic imaging track of the MFA in Fine Arts program or permission of graduate adviser. Emphasis on individual creative production focusing on video, animation and sound, with periodic exposure of student's work and ideas to the critical attention of the teaching faculty of the Department of Kinetic Imaging. Degree requirement for first-year graduate students in department.

KINE 510. Foundations in Media. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the kinetic imaging track of the MFA in Fine Arts program or permission of graduate adviser. A seminar focusing on a historical overview of media arts, including video art, experimental animation, sound art, performance, installation and critical theory. Designed to equalize the base of knowledge among graduate students from various backgrounds and levels of familiarity with issues in contemporary media.
KINE 591. Topics in Contemporary Media. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lab/studio hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a
total of 16 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the kinetic imaging track of the MFA in Fine Arts program or permission of graduate adviser. Explores selected topics of current interests or needs relative to digital media. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

KINE 600. Graduate Studio. 8 Hours.
Semester course; 16 lab/studio hours. 8 credits. May be repeated for a
total of 16 credits. Prerequisite: KINE 500. Emphasis on individual
creative production focusing on video, animation and sound, with periodic exposure of student's work and ideas to the critical attention of the teaching faculty of the Department of Kinetic Imaging. Degree requirement for second-year graduate students in the department.

KINE 690. Graduate Seminar. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. May be repeated for a
total of 12 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the kinetic imaging track of the MFA in Fine Arts program or permission of graduate adviser. Weekly seminar for the purpose of exploring recent developments in media and conducting critiques in which students can discuss the ideas and attitudes manifest in their work. Degree requirement for graduate students in the Department of Kinetic Imaging.

KINE 691. Independent Study. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. May be repeated for a
maximum of 12 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor and kinetic imaging area head. Students will pursue advanced, individually directed study under the guidance of a faculty adviser. Includes project research, creative execution and presentation.

KINE 692. Graduate Seminar. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. May be repeated for a
total of 12 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the kinetic imaging track of the M.F.A. in Fine Arts program or permission of a kinetic imaging graduate adviser. Weekly seminar for the purpose of exploring artistic developments and critical issues in media. Provides students with critical evaluation of their work in relation to contemporary practice while focusing on their final thesis exhibition. Degree requirement for graduate students in the Department of Kinetic Imaging.

KINE 695. Advanced Sound. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lab/studio hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a
total of 12 credits. Prerequisite: experience with multichannel sound software such as Pro Tools. Focuses on sound as a medium and its connection to animation and video. Designed as an advanced studio course where students develop their own aesthetic in sound and explore creative possibilities. Expands on recording and mixing techniques with a particular focus on 5.1 surround sound mixing for video, animation and sound art.

Music Composition (MUSC)

MUSC 611. Analysis for Performance and Composition. 2 Hours.
Continuous courses; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Analysis of the
organization, combination, and manipulation of elements devices of music from the 18th century to the present with demonstration of this knowledge through performance.

MUSC 612. Analysis for Performance and Composition. 2 Hours.
Continuous courses; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Analysis of the
organization, combination, and manipulation of elements devices of music from the 18th century to the present with demonstration of this knowledge through performance.

MUSC 620. Composition Seminar. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. May be repeated up to four times for credit. Discussion, analysis, and criticism of selected compositions pertinent to the improvement of student skills and understanding.

Music Education (MUED)

MUED 583. Special Workshop in Music Education. 0.5-3 Hours.
Semester course; 0.5-3 credits. Flexible term courses on selected aspects of music education. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

MUED 591. Topics in Music Education. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a
maximum of 6 credits with different topics. Flexible semester courses in selected topics in music education philosophy, curriculum, integrated and interdisciplinary arts, technology and selected topics of current interest or needs relative to music education. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

MUED 600. Seminar in Music Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated up to two
with different topics. Investigation of contemporary issues and problems in music education. Students will present oral reports and written papers, which explore new directions and implications for music educators and music education programs.

MUED 604. Choral Conducting and Rehearsal Techniques. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course will seek to
develop the skills of the choral conductor in rehearsal and performance. Instruction in rehearsal technique and pacing, conducting technique and interpretive gesture, choral diction, score analysis and preparation, performance practices, and the affective/effective conductor will be applied to individual student performance at the podium.

MUED 606. Choral Literature and Style. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course will provide the practicing choral musician with a survey of choral repertoire through the ages, highlighting various genres within each historical period. Emphasis will be placed on stylistic considerations and performance practices. Students will be engaged in determining the standards which define quality choral repertoire.

MUED 608. Teaching the Adolescent Singer. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. In this course students will study psychological, behavioral and developmental aspects of the young singer. An in-depth look at the characteristics of the changing male and female voice will include research and conclude with observations of adolescent voices. The class will also cover range, registration and choral repertoire appropriate for the various stages of the adolescent singer.

MUED 610. Psychology of Music. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an introduction of the psychological foundations of music behavior. Topics will include functions of music in human society and culture, psychoacoustics of musical sound, cognitive processes of music perception and the creation/recreation of music, affective response, music learning theories and measurement of musical ability and learning.
MUED 614. Instrumental Conducting Techniques. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Students in this class will discuss literature, score study strategies, rehearsal techniques and ensemble motivation issues. Conducting technique and rehearsal technique will be developed by hands-on experiences with a workshop band, as well as through guided discussions and classroom sessions. The goal is personal musical growth and enhanced podium effectiveness for each participant.

MUED 616. Researching the Wind Band: Strategies and Resources. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This class is designed to enable students to gain greater access to information relative to all aspects of the wind band. Students will become familiar with a wide variety of sources including written materials, Web-based materials, recordings, video, and organizations. There will also be assignments to acquaint students with methods used in the various facets of wind band research.

MUED 618. History and Literature of the Wind Band. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. In this class students will study the historical development of wind bands and wind band repertoire. The result of this study will be to enable students to evaluate new repertoire by comparison to masterworks and to be able to place pieces into a historical continuum. Studying the history of wind bands is necessary to understand the current state of the profession and how wind bands fit into the broader spectrum of music history.

MUED 620. Introduction to Research in Music Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Development of fundamental skills necessary to understand and evaluate research in music education. Focuses on the basic principles, concepts and techniques of research methodology applied specifically to music education. Includes introduction to quantitative, qualitative, ethnographic and historical methodology.

MUED 676. School Music Supervision and Administration. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. The study of the organization, curriculum, course content, administration, and personnel problems in public school music.

MUED 783. Final Project in Music Education. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 laboratory hour. 1 credit. May be repeated for a total of 5 credits. The final project is an intensive experience in identifying and developing a topic of interest and value to the student and the profession, and the final presentation of that topic. This course is part of the culminating process for the music education track in the Master of Music program. As an individualized project/course, the faculty chair provides initial approval and gauges progress toward completion of the final project. It is the responsibility of the student to maintain consistent communication with their chair throughout the semester to ensure adequate progress is being made. Completion is determined by the final approval of the faculty chair and committee (if applicable). Completion of the final project is not determined by total number of credits earned in the course. Graded as S/U/F.

MUED 799. Thesis. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Permission of the music education coordinator. Preparation of a thesis based on independent research.

Music History, Literature and Theory (MHIS)

MHIS 513. Arranging. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Practical, technical, and conceptual considerations of arranging and transcribing for vocal and instrumental groups will be explored. Students will demonstrate competence in these creative areas to the optimum level of school and/or church music organizations.

MHIS 551. Orchestral Repertoire. 1.2 Hour.
Semester courses; 1 lecture or 1 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 1 or 2 credits. Performance and study of selected major symphonic works from historical, analytical, and stylistic perspectives. Research reports will include comparisons of interpretations. Repertoire will consist of basic audition pieces selected by orchestras. Laboratory sessions will utilize available instrumentation for performance.

MHIS 552. Orchestral Repertoire. 1-2 Hours.
Semester courses; 1 lecture or 1 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 1 or 2 credits. Performance and study of selected major symphonic works from historical, analytical, and stylistic perspectives. Research reports will include comparisons of interpretations. Repertoire will consist of basic audition pieces selected by orchestras. Laboratory sessions will utilize available instrumentation for performance.

MHIS 566. Jazz History and Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of the evolution of jazz from its beginnings through the Swing Era. Students will transcribe and analyze improvised solos and compositions by the tradition's principal innovators.

MHIS 591. Topics in Music. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. Flexible term courses in selected aspects of music performance, theory, literature, or history. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

MHIS 592. Individual Project. 1-6 Hours.
Semester courses; 1-6 credits. Prerequisites: permission of supervising faculty member, adviser and department chair. Open only to degree-seeking graduate students in music. Individual work in an area not otherwise available to the student.

MHIS 615. Seminar in Music Theory. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. May be repeated up to four times with different topics. Topical discussions and relevant research appropriate to the principal eras of music development.

MHIS 650. Seminar in Music History. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. May be repeated up to four times with different topics. Prerequisite: MHIS 690. An intensive study of a limited phase or segment of music history through examination of relevant materials and extended class discussion.

MHIS 666. 20th-century Music. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: MHIS 690 (may be taken concurrently). Impressionistic, expressionistic, neoclassic, and neo-romantic influences and styles of music. Development of new sound-generating techniques and methods for ordering the new tonal materials.

MHIS 667. Music of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: MHIS 690 (may be taken concurrently). Principal musical developments from the first through the 16th centuries. Sacred and secular monophonic, homophonic, and polyphonic forms and styles; the development of instrumental idioms and forms.
MHIS 668. Music of the Baroque. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: MHIS 690 (may be taken concurrently). Principal developments, c. 1590-1750; accompanied monody and the beginning of opera; forms and styles of sacred and secular compositions.

MHIS 669. Music of Rococo and Classical Eras. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: MHIS 690 (may be taken concurrently). Major development in sacred and secular forms and styles, c. 1730-1828; social and artistic influences on music; dominance of instrumental music; Mozart, Beethoven, and the German Symphony.

MHIS 670. Music of the Romantic Era. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: MHIS 690 (may be taken concurrently). Influence of the Romantic Era on concepts of musical forms and styles; the development of the art song, the growth of opera, the exploitation of instruments and tonality.

MHIS 690. Bibliography and Methods of Research. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. A course to introduce graduate students to the chief bibliographic materials in music and music education to help develop skills of research and writing necessary to produce a thesis or other formal research paper.

MHIS 692. Individual Project. 1-6 Hours.
Semester courses; 1-6 credits. Prerequisites: permission of supervising faculty member, adviser and department chair. Open only to degree-seeking graduate students in music. Individual work in an area not otherwise available to the student.

MHIS 798. Research Project. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 credits. Corequisite: APPM 799 Final research or expository document for performance and composition majors. Content to be approved by graduate committee.

Painting and Printmaking (PAPR)
PAPR 525. Issues in Contemporary Visual Arts. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Prerequisite: Painting and printmaking majors only. The investigation of content and meaning of major directions in contemporary art as they relate to the studio. Students will relate their own work to major movements in contemporary visual art.

PAPR 527. Art and Critical Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester courses; 3 lecture hours. 3, 3 credits. Prerequisite: General art history or equivalent. Major themes in art criticism and theory from 1940 to the present. This course provides an introduction to the literature of art criticism as well as artists' writings in relation to studio production.

PAPR 528. Art and Critical Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester courses; 3 lecture hours. 3, 3 credits. Prerequisite: General art history or equivalent. Major themes in art criticism and theory from 1940 to the present. This course provides an introduction to the literature of art criticism as well as artists’ writings in relation to studio production.

PAPR 591. Topics in Painting and Printmaking. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits with different content. This course will explore selected topics of current interests or needs relative to painting and printmaking. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

PAPR 605. Graduate Painting. 3,6 Hours.
Semester course; 6 or 12 studio hours. 3 or 6 credits. May be repeated. A studio class in which primary emphasis is placed on the creative disciplines of contemporary painting. Special attention is given to the development of personal expression through individual criticism.

PAPR 615. Graduate Printmaking. 3,6 Hours.
Semester courses; 6 or 12 studio hours. 3 or 6 credits. May be repeated. Specialization in one printmaking medium with emphasis upon technical research and the aesthetic suitability of design to medium.

PAPR 621. Graduate Drawing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 3 credits. May be repeated. A studio class with individual criticism. Special attention is given to contemporary concepts. Permission of instructor required for non-painting and printmaking majors.

PAPR 690. Graduate Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 or 3 lecture hours. 1 or 3 credits. May be repeated. Degree requirement for graduate students in the Department of Painting and Printmaking. Weekly seminar for the purpose of discussion of recent artistic developments in painting and printmaking. Critiques dealing with student work will take place.

Photography and Film (PHTO)
PHTO 500. Photographic Studio and Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 6 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. A seminar that examines the technical and aesthetic components of photography and filmmaking processes and the language and theories of photography and film criticism.

PHTO 601. Photographic Studio. 3,6 Hours.
Semester course; 6 or 12 studio hours. 3 or 6 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Nonmajors may enroll with permission of instructor. Students will work on specific problems relating to the areas of their major interests. Options will be available in black and white photography, color photography, and motion picture photography.

PHTO 621. Research in Photography and Film. 3,6 Hours.
Semester course; 6 or 12 studio hours. 3 or 6 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Nonmajors may enroll with permission of instructor. Students will engage in appropriate theoretical, experimental, or historical research in a specific area.

PHTO 690. Seminar in Photography and Film. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated. An examination of contemporary issues and developments in photography and film. Students will have a chance to discuss their work and the work of others.

PHTO 692. Independent Study in Photography and Film. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable lecture hours. 1 to 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of six credits. Individual instruction and supervision of a special project. Learning experiences should be designed with the supervising faculty member in the form of a contract between student and instructor.

PHTO 693. Fieldwork, Internship. 3,6 Hours.
Semester course; 6 or 12 studio hours. 3 or 6 credits. May be repeated. Professional field experience in the theoretical and practical applications of photography and/or film through cooperative organizations. Formal arrangements will be made with state agencies, industries, community organizations, and professionals in the field.

PHTO 699. Graduate Exhibition. 1,3 Hour.
Semester course; 1 or 3 lecture hours. 1 or 3 credits. May be repeated. To be taken after M.F.A. candidacy with the approval of the graduate director and department chair and review of the student’s record. Students prepare and execute a public exhibit of their creative work and provide complete documentation of the sources and ideas presented.
**Theatre (THEA)**

**THEA 501. Basic Voice and Speech Pedagogy. 3 Hours.**
Semester course; 3 credits. Exploration of methodologies used in teaching basic principles of body alignment, breath support, resonance and dynamics of voice and speech. A review of IPA as it applies to American speech and dialect study.

**THEA 502. Basic Voice and Speech Pedagogy With Application to Dialect Study. 3 Hours.**
Semester course; 3 credits. Review of IPA. Study of six dialects while investigation a variety of teaching methodologies.

**THEA 505. Advanced Scene Design III. 3 Hours.**
Semester course; 1 lecture and 4 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: THEA 306 and permission of instructor. Intensive study of the professional standards and practices expected of scene designers.

**THEA 506. Advanced Scene Design IV. 3 Hours.**
Semester course; 1 lecture and 4 studio hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: THEA 505 and permission of instructor. Continued intensive study of the professional standards and practices expected of scene designers.

**THEA 508. Scene Painting. 3 Hours.**
Semester course; 10 studio hours. 3 credits. May be repeated with permission of instructor for up to 12 credits. Study of the materials and techniques of scenic painting as well as the practices and expectations of those pursuing careers as scenic artists.

**THEA 509. Theatre History. 3 Hours.**
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Study of modern theatre practice, dramatic literature and theory from the development of naturalism through the late 20th century.

**THEA 510. Theatre Historiography. 3 Hours.**
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Study of how theatre history is documented and researched, and the theoretical perspectives that inform its writing.

**THEA 513. Graduate Acting. 3 Hours.**
Continuous courses; 6 studio hours. 3-3 credits. Graduate-level studio performance courses that utilize monologues and scenes as a venue to explore rotating topics in performance technique which may include Constantin Stanislavski, Michael Chekov, Uta Hagen, Sanford Meisner and Stella Adler.

**THEA 514. Graduate Acting. 3 Hours.**
Continuous courses; 6 studio hours. 3-3 credits. Graduate-level studio performance courses that utilize monologues and scenes as a venue to explore rotating topics in performance technique which may include Constantin Stanislavski, Michael Chekov, Uta Hagen, Sanford Meisner and Stella Adler.

**THEA 517. Physical Acting. 3 Hours.**
Semester course; may be repeated for a total of 12 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Exploration and discovery of the principles of movement and their practical application to the stage. Emphasis on character development, solo and group scene work, physical comedy, and stage combat.

**THEA 518. The Pedagogy of Movement. 3 Hours.**
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 3 credits. Exploration of the principles of teaching movement and its practical application to the stage, with special emphasis on the links between physical theatre and the vocabulary of the Stanislavski system of acting.

**THEA 593. Professional Internship. 3-9 Hours.**
Semester course; 3-9 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Permission of department chair. Majors only. A practicum in theatre conducted in cooperation with selected professional or semiprofessional theatre organizations.

**THEA 601. Advanced Voice and Speech Pedagogy: Shakespeare. 3 Hours.**
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An exploration of a variety of methodologies used in teaching the speaking of Shakespeare’s texts. Focus on scansion, rhetorical devices, full voicing and support of Shakespeare’s language for the stage.

**THEA 602. Advanced Topics in Voice and Speech Pedagogy. 3 Hours.**
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An exploration of a variety of specialty topics which may include but is limited to vocal extremes, archetypes and the voice, voice in the out of doors.

**THEA 603. Dramatic Literature and Theory. 3 Hours.**
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Multicultural study of selected plays in the history of dramatic literature, criticism and theory.
THEA 604. Modern Theatre: Theory and Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Seminar in the performance practices, texts and theories that have shaped the theatre throughout the 20th century.

THEA 605. Advanced Studies in Stage Design. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 1 lecture and 4 studio hours. 3-3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. An advanced study in specific problems in stage design.

THEA 606. Advanced Studies in Stage Design. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 1 lecture and 4 studio hours. 3-3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. An advanced study in specific problems in stage design.

THEA 607. Problems in Scenic Techniques. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 1 lecture and 4 studio hours. 3-3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. An advanced, detailed study of selected problems in contemporary theory and practice of scenic techniques.

THEA 608. Problems in Scenic Techniques. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 1 lecture and 4 studio hours. 3-3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. An advanced, detailed study of selected problems in contemporary theory and practice of scenic techniques.

THEA 609. Seminar in Production Process. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 3 credits. May be repeated with different topics for a maximum of 9 credits. Students and faculty in design, technical theatre, and performance working together in studio situations to identify and solve problems relating to the planning, preparation, and realization of productions.

THEA 613. Advanced Problems in Acting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated with permission of instructor. Focus on acting problems related to the actor’s needs to develop proficiency in craft areas.

THEA 614. Pedagogy of Acting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course guides students through creating and implementing a curriculum appropriate for a beginning acting class. Discussions of acting theory and teaching practice are interspersed with teaching demonstrations complete with peer feedback and instructor critique.

THEA 617. Special Topics in Physical Acting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 3 credits. Rotating topics in physical acting, which may include mask, mime, physical comedy, clowning and other approaches to physical theatre.

THEA 618. Special Topics in Choreography and Directing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 6 studio hours. 3 credits. Rotating topics in choreography and directing, which may include dance, stage combat, battle scenes, musicalized movement and other choreographic scenes.

THEA 619. Theatre Pedagogy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Theory and practice in the teaching of college-level theatre.

THEA 621. Problems in Costume Design. 3 Hours.
Semester courses; 2 lecture and 2 studio hours. 3, 3 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. An advanced study in specific problems in costume design.

THEA 622. Problems in Costume Design. 3 Hours.
Semester courses; 2 lecture and 2 studio hours. 3, 3 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. An advanced study in specific problems in costume design.

THEA 623. Advanced Studies in Modern Drama. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3, 3 credits. Intensive, detailed studies of selected subjects in major 19th- and 20th-century drama.

THEA 624. Advanced Studies in Modern Drama. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3, 3 credits. Intensive, detailed studies of selected subjects in major 19th- and 20th-century drama.

THEA 630. Production. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 6 laboratory hours. 3 credits. May be repeated. The design, rehearsal, and performance of dramatic works.

THEA 640. Advanced Theatre Projects. 3,6 Hours.
Semester course; 1 or 2 lecture and 4 or 8 laboratory hours. 3 or 6 credits per semester. May be repeated. Individual or group projects in acting, directing, costume design, stage design or dramaturgy.

THEA 641. Advanced Theatre Projects. 3,6 Hours.
Semester course; 1 or 2 lecture and 4 or 8 laboratory hours. 3 or 6 credits per semester. May be repeated. Individual or group projects in acting, directing, costume design, stage design or dramaturgy.

THEA 651. Individual Study in Graduate Design. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. May be repeated. Intensive individual training in design and presentation processes as they apply to contemporary professional production.

THEA 661. Graduate Direction. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Graduate-level studio course designed to introduce students to concepts involved in play direction, including play analysis, composition, blocking, style and form. Exercises and projects will reinforce elements discussed in class and include opportunities for stage work complete with peer feedback and instructor critique.

THEA 662. Graduate Direction. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Graduate-level studio course designed to introduce students to concepts involved in play direction, including play analysis, composition, blocking, style and form. Exercises and projects will reinforce elements discussed in class and include opportunities for stage work complete with peer feedback and instructor critique.

THEA 666. Dramaturgy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 or 2 lecture and 4 or 8 studio hours. 3 or 6 credits. Students and faculty in design, technical theatre, and performance working together in studio situations to identify and solve problems relating to the planning, preparation, and realization of productions.

THEA 670. Text Production. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 or 3 lecture hours. 1, 3 or 6 credits. May be repeated. Intensive individual training in design and presentation processes as they apply to contemporary professional production.
THEA 698. Creative Project. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Provides the culminating performance or design experience in the student’s degree emphasis. Adjudicated by the faculty.

THEA 699. Creative Project Evaluation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Provides the student in acting, directing, costume design, and stage design the opportunity to document and evaluate the creative project. Defended before a committee of the faculty.

THEA 791. Seminar in Special Issues in Theatre. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Additional credits may be taken with permission of the graduate director. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. An advanced, detailed study of selected contemporary issues not included in the regular curriculum. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

THEA 799. Thesis. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: Permission of the department graduate studies adviser and department chair. Preparation of a thesis based on independent research.

School of Business
Accounting (ACCT)

ACCT 507. Fundamentals of Accounting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Theoretical and technical aspects for accumulating and reporting financial information for business. Emphasis on current financial accounting issues confronting businesses and interpretation of financial information reported by business. This is a graduate foundation course.

ACCT 513. Advanced Accounting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ACCT 305 with a minimum grade of C. Financial accounting for complex business relationships, including business combinations, consolidated financial statements, restatement of foreign financial statements, foreign currency transactions, derivative instruments, partnership accounting and pension accounting. Emphasis is on current issues confronting accountants and financial reporting and the potential impact of these issues on business entities.

ACCT 604. Advanced Auditing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ACCT 406 with a minimum grade of C. Development of auditing theory, special disclosure issues, statistical sampling, and ethical, legal and social responsibilities of external and internal auditors. Emphasis on contemporary topics in auditing.

ACCT 606. International Accounting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ACCT 304 with a minimum grade of C. International dimensions of accounting; national differences in accounting thought and practice; problems and issues.

ACCT 608. Managerial Accounting Concepts. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ACCT 507. The use of accounting information contained in reports to management. The functions of planning, decision making, and control are studied as accounting data are reported through the firm’s information system and in special analyses.

ACCT 610. Forensic Accounting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ACCT 406 with a minimum grade of C. Study of forensic accounting topics, including fraudulent financial reporting, employee fraud, money laundering, litigation services, evidence management, computer forensics and business valuation.

ACCT 662. Advanced Topics in Accounting Information Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ACCT 307 with a minimum grade of C. Study of accounting systems, concepts and applications with reference to actual problems encountered in the analysis, design, implementation, use, audit and evaluation of accounting systems in a computer environment.

ACCT 680. Tax Research and Planning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ACCT 405 with a minimum grade of C. Tax research methodology; the sources of tax law and their relationship to tax research.

ACCT 681. Tax Administration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ACCT 405 with a minimum grade of C. The Internal Revenue Service and the practices and procedures involved and/or available for the settlement of tax controversies and common elections of accounting methods.

ACCT 682. Corporate Taxation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ACCT 405 with a minimum grade of C. Corporate tax laws as related to the corporations involved and to individual shareholders; tax aspects of the creation, operation, reorganization, and partial liquidation of corporations; corporate distributions.

ACCT 684. Partnership Taxation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ACCT 405 with a minimum grade of C. The Internal Revenue Service and the practices and procedures involved and/or available for the settlement of tax controversies and common elections of accounting methods.

ACCT 688. Corporate Taxation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ACCT 405 with a minimum grade of C. Corporate tax laws as related to the corporations involved and to individual shareholders; tax aspects of the creation, operation, reorganization, and partial liquidation of corporations; corporate distributions.

The above provides a comprehensive overview of the accounting courses offered at VCU, covering a range of topics from foundational accounting principles to advanced topics in auditing, taxation, and forensic accounting. Each course is designed to build upon the knowledge and skills acquired in previous courses, preparing students for careers in accounting and related fields.
ACCT 793. International Accounting Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Open only to Ph.D. students in business. Presents contemporary issues and research in international accounting.

ACCT 794. Behavioral Research Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Open only to Ph.D. students in business. Provides knowledge and skills for advanced accounting research.

ACCT 795. Auditing Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Open only to Ph.D. students in business. Presents contemporary issues in auditing research.

ACCT 797. Guided Study in Accounting. 6 Hours.
Year course; 6 credits. Graduate students will work under supervision in outlining a graduate thesis and in carrying out the thesis.

ACCT 898. Dissertation Research. 1-12 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-12 credits. Enrollment restricted to Ph.D. in Business students.

Brandcenter (BRND)

BRND 602. Introduction to Account Planning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. Building student understanding of the foundational principles of account/strategic planning practiced in advertising agencies. Focus will be on immersion into a range of consumer research tools and application of learning in the creative brief development and communication planning process.

BRND 608. Accounting for Communication Professionals. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students. Course goal is to equip nonfinancial advertising students with the basic concepts of accounting and to apply their understanding of these principles to specific managerial situations within the advertising agency, brand management and marketing department environments. Students will also develop a framework for analyzing media results, ROI and various market/brand plan outcomes.

BRND 609. Information Architecture. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designing and building information in the new media space. Students learn the power of user interaction, efficient usability and digital ergonomics. Information architecture is the effective coordination and selection of information -- what you leave out is as important as what you leave in. Students will be familiar with tracking data and site analytics for the best brand experience. Truly good design work always looks to break new ground or tries to explore new territory; this course is no exception.

BRND 620. Brand Design for Brand Managers. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. Building student understanding of the role of design in its various forms within the marketing mix. Focused on design theory and covers all aspects of design and platforms and how consumers perceive brand essence.

BRND 621. Strategy and Design. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. Building students’ understanding of the role of strategists and experience designers working as a team.

BRND 622. Visual Storytelling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The goal of this class is to take a story and translate it successfully to the screen. Class will include lectures and technology sessions. Classes will be be divided between discussions about existing films and spots, and classes devoted to learning the use of lights, cameras and software editing. Three short films will be produced.

BRND 623. Physical Computing I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. Conceptualizing projects with brands in mind and creating prototypes and making sure the final output fits the brand it is paired with. This class will yield actual working prototypes that can help get across the function and look to a design/engineering team to create a production model.

BRND 624. Physical Computing II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BRND 623. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. Dives deeper and builds off the content learned in the prerequisite course.

BRND 625. Comms Planning and UX. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. This class will instruct students on traditional tools such as Simmons, add in new media channel tools such as Sysomos and give students a foundation on the skill set of comms planning and the incorporation of UX attributes into their strategic work.

BRND 627. Visual Storytelling and Design for Strategists. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. The goal of this class is to take a story and translate it successfully to the screen. Class is geared to strategy students. Basic production techniques will be taught. By the end of the semester, students will be able to write, produce, shoot and edit a variety of commercial and viral video pieces. Short films will be produced. In order to bring this visual sensibility to all their work, strategists will be taught key design software that will enable them to improve the communication value of their written and presentation work.

BRND 629. Strategic Thinking. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. Contrasting historically rigid ways of approaching problems to newer, more dynamic approaches will prepare students to professionally engage a constantly shifting world of business, consumer, political and economic forces. Students will engage in semester-long projects to develop new ways of thinking strategically, including writing a strategic plan and scenario plans (the art of looking ahead and envisioning various realities for a company). Students will work directly with local small business owners in developing and formally presenting relevant strategies.

BRND 630. Problem Solving for Art Directors. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. Explores the media of print, Internet and television to develop and understand the basis of good design and art direction. Will work through the process of visual concepts and execution.

BRND 631. Craft. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only or by permission of instructor. Explores the delivery of concepts to an audience to determine how the message is received. Will teach how to attack a problem, how to work through a creative block and how to be a better judge of your own work.
BRND 632. Foundations of Brand Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. Provides students with an overview of the major tasks facing today's product/brand managers, including analyzing the market, developing objectives and strategies for products and services, and making decisions about price, promotion, distribution channels, customer service and advertising. Uses the product/marketing plan as the unifying framework and, via a heavy concentration on case study, takes a “hands-on” approach toward preparing students to assume positions in brand management.

BRND 633. User Participation Platforms. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Harness the power of Web users by designing within the architecture of user participation. Branding is no longer a one-way communication model. This course focuses on understanding and managing the communications from consumers to other consumers via the Web. Students will learn to cultivate organic growth and orchestrate grassroots efforts, as well as explore considerations in physical computing and augmentation of technology within someone's reality.

BRND 635. Creating Gravitational Pull. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Driving traffic to websites. Includes search engine optimization and search engine marketing, but goes way beyond. Designing integrated brand campaigns linking different channels and media types to take consumers on a journey with different touch points, channels and devices. Students will use proven strategies and design campaigns to have a live website and pull visitors to it. Students are expected to demonstrate their abilities on live sites where the effectiveness of their efforts is realized in real-time results.

BRND 638. Brand Engagement. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only or by permission of instructor. Enhancing consumers' brand experience. Students explore interactive ways to engage consumers. Core aspects of the future of the Web are explored. Students will be familiar with current engagement techniques, and they will create new ways to connect with consumers. Emphasis on the creation of ideas of sufficient scope as to become the basis for ad campaigns covering many platforms, especially including the Web.

BRND 639. Cultural Impact: Advanced Account Planning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only or by permission of instructor. Identify a cultural issue that can impact business results and formulate a hypothesis for investigating the issue. Students gain experience in identifying a research need, in developing a research plan and methodology and in fielding the plan. After research, students get experience determining what they have learned and knowing what it means to the client.

BRND 640. Problem Solving. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only or by permission of instructor. Focuses on developing ability to create well-written, creatively focused advertising copy that solves communications problems. Addresses headline and body copy issues through presentation of students’ work and research on major copywriters and their work.

BRND 647. Insights and Implications: Applied Strategic Planning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only or by permission of instructor. Learn to formulate insights, to understand implications from the insights and to form conclusions that help to build a brand. This course is the natural follow-up to BRND 639. The emphasis shifts slightly from team-based projects to more individual, thesis-like projects. Students demonstrate that they have evolved from researchers and fact finders to strategists who can turn data into valuable information.

BRND 648. Innovation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only or by permission of instructor. This course will challenge students to learn the techniques of innovators in business and the community. The course combines lectures and instruction with a semester-long innovation competition in partnership with global brands. Both invention and execution will be explored.

BRND 649. Brand Analytics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. Learning and applying statistical methodologies for analytics in order to make smart decisions for effective brand management. Techniques for decision-making are explored along with Web analytics, performance metrics and ROI.

BRND 651. Creative Thinking. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. Focuses on developing the creative skills necessary for solving advertising communication problems. Enables students to maximize and strengthen creative abilities through lecture, brainstorming sessions, and team-oriented strategy sessions focusing on real case projects.

BRND 652. Concept Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BRND 651. Develops students’ ability to create visually effective work that targets specific groups of consumers through ongoing review and discussion sessions designed to pinpoint strategies and create relevant visually oriented ideas quickly. Emphasizes a teamwork approach to art direction and concept development.

BRND 653. Portfolio Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BRND 652. Focuses student toward creative solutions to communication problems. Addresses specific strategies including briefs and concept work that require extensive copy. Emphasizes a team approach to copywriting and art direction.

BRND 659. Brand Experiences. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. Provides thorough coverage for designing comprehensive brand communications for real-world clients that involve physical experiences for consumers. Projects will force students to think about every aspect of the consumer experience including store appearance, product selection, employee behavior and the purchasing process. An emphasis will be placed on producing comprehensive campaigns that develop strategic and creative brand experiences for customers.
BRND 662. Research Methodologies. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only or by permission of instructor. Review a variety of qualitative and quantitative research techniques as well as an introduction to writing creative briefs. Students will learn how to translate research into insightful creative and business platforms. This is a practical course that prepares students to be senior-level strategic thinkers throughout their careers.

BRND 663. Team Building and Leadership for Brand Managers. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. Course will be focused on developing future brand managers with a managerial “toolkit” comprised of practical management and leadership techniques appropriate to the unique managerial requirements of the brand management discipline. Techniques will include topics such as facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration, strategic organizational structure, managing change and crisis management among others.

BRND 664. Persuasion. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only or by permission of instructor. This course offers an intensive in skills necessary to persuade when presenting work and ideas. Topics such as voice delivery, personal style, effective presentation of creative work, storytelling and capturing audience attention will be covered. Student presentations will be critiqued and videotaped for analysis.

BRND 665. Advanced Brand Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. Exposes students to detailed, practical information about the tools and tactics used to “apply” inventive brand strategies. Students will be exposed to managerial functions involving marketing and project management, while being challenged to synthesize and simplify complex information in order to create actionable plans. A portion of the course is dedicated to the use of a simulation case, “Pharmasim,” which allows students to test theories and get real-time feedback on the likely results of their decisions.

BRND 666. Applied Brand Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. Exposes students to detailed, practical information about techniques that affect the success of brands. Students develop and demonstrate the tools and tactics used to apply inventive brand strategies. Students will be exposed to managerial functions involving marketing and project management, while being challenged to synthesize and simplify complex information in order to create actionable plans. A portion of the course is dedicated to the use of a simulation case, “Pharmasim,” which allows students to test theories and get real-time feedback on the likely results of their decisions.

BRND 667. The Business of Branding. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Requires students to develop ideas ranging from strategic to tactical and from rational to emotional. Students will be called on to develop and examine ideas that differentiate brands, build sales and affect market share. The new business process will be considered and successful presentation techniques will be evaluated. Ethical considerations faced by industry practitioners will be explored.

BRND 670. Creative Fusion. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. Integrating new brand methods with traditional approaches (like advertising, public relations and direct marketing) to develop powerful, coordinated and synergistic campaigns.

BRND 673. Experimentation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to Brandcenter students only. Creative tracks working together in teams to create shifts in established paradigm and executing a prototype of these solutions.
BU SN 701. Research Methods in Business. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: admission to Ph.D. program and permission of instructor. A seminar on the design of research in business, including the philosophy of science, theory development and the design of research capable of testing hypotheses, analytic levels, measurement theory and methods, and research design alternatives.

BU SN 702. Research Analysis in Business. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MGMT 524 or equivalent and acceptance into the doctoral program. Study of the scientific method as currently applied in business and organizational research, with emphasis on the conduct of studies, data analysis and presentation of empirically based knowledge.

Computer and Information Systems Security (CI SS)

CI SS 609. Advanced Computational Intelligence. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: an undergraduate course in artificial intelligence, or equivalent background with permission of instructor. Exploration of issues related to application of computational intelligence techniques to system security, particularly in the detection of anomalous system behavior. Of particular interest are issues associated with the automated detection of anomalies caused by authorized users through intended malicious behavior or through accidental misuse, and issues associated with automated user authentication. Crosslisted as: CMSC 609.

CI SS 616. Data Warehousing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 610. Covers important concepts and techniques in the design and implementation of a data warehouse. Topics include the data warehouse architecture, the logical and physical design issues in the data warehousing development process, technical factors (i.e., hardware, client/server technology, data warehousing and DBMS technologies) and implementation considerations (i.e., data extraction, clean-up and transformation tools). Introduces online analytical processing and database mining. Crosslisted as: INFO 616.

CI SS 618. Database and Application Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Theory and practice of database and software security focusing in particular on some common database software security risks and on the identification of potential threats and vulnerabilities. Crosslisted as: CMSC 618.

CI SS 622. Network and Operating Systems Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CI SS 624. Studies the principles of network security and secure operating systems. Included are topics relating to the use of intrusion detection, intrusion prevention and other related tools. Crosslisted as: CMSC 622.

CI SS 624. Applied Cryptography. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides a comprehensive survey of modern cryptography. Included are techniques of enciphering and deciphering messages using cryptographic algorithms, block ciphers and block cipher modes, hash functions and message authentication codes, public key cryptography and digital signatures, and steganography. Crosslisted as: CMSC 620.

CI SS 634. Ethical, Social and Legal Issues in Computer and Information Systems Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Analyzing socio-political and ethical issues surrounding computer and information systems security. Topics include privacy laws, identity theft, information collection and retention policies, and enforcement.

CI SS 644. Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 640 or INFO 661. Explores issues related to protecting information resources of a firm. Various tools and techniques useful for assessing CI SS security concerns in organizations are introduced. Principles and models for CI SS security and security management are presented and selected computer and CI SS security topics are introduced. Material is presented and discussed from a management frame of reference. Crosslisted as: INFO 644.

CI SS 646. Computer and Information Systems Access Control. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Detailed discussion of access control, including administration, identification and authentication techniques, methodologies and implementations, methods of attack, monitoring, and penetration testing.

CI SS 654. Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Planning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Fundamentals of business continuity and disaster recovery planning. Includes risk assessment, physical facility protection, data recovery planning, strategies for network backup, desktop recovery, emergency decision making, and maintenance and testing of the plan and its components.

CI SS 693. Practice of Computer and Information Systems Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Students will undertake practical research projects. Written reports of the investigations are required. This course is intended to be taken at the end of the program.

CI SS 697. Guided Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. Intended for graduate students in the Computer and Information Systems Security program. This course will be taken in conjunction with CI SS 693 and CI SS 698. Students will work with an appropriate faculty member on an approved research proposal. Students will submit a written report on the research conducted as the final product for the course. This course is intended to be taken near the end of the student’s degree program.

Decision Analytics (DAP T)

DAP T 611. Analysis and Design of Database Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on relational databases for structured data and includes entity relational diagram and extended entity relational diagram and transformation of ERD and EERD into relational schema. The course will give students competence in SQL and other search techniques, data validation and data cleansing.

DAP T 612. Text Mining and Unstructured Data. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Focuses on unstructured data and includes the topics: creation of XML documents, creating/validating ontology; identifying terms and their relationships and converting them into an ontology using an ontology editor such as Protégé; object-oriented programs; extracting keywords and key phrases; term similarity measure and term frequency.
DAPT 613. Tools for Business Intelligence. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Provides students with techniques and practices for modern decision-making in support of business/corporate performance. Includes hands-on experience with various information analysis, business intelligence and decision-support techniques and tools with applications to various business-problem scenarios, such as portfolio analysis, project selection, market research and supply-chain optimization.

DAPT 614. Advanced SQL. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: DAPT 611. This course is designed to prepare students for multiple table queries using structured query language and will provide advanced training in the application of SQL to real data problems.

DAPT 615. Emerging Technologies. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. The course emphasizes the study of a variety of big data technologies to gain insight that will be used to get people throughout the enterprise to run the business more effectively and to provide better service to customers. The course focuses on big data solutions that are processed in a platform that can handle the variety, velocity and volume of data by using a family of components that require integration and data governance.

DAPT 621. Statistics for the World of Big Data. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Covers single variable and multivariable statistical techniques using commercial computer packages such as SAS and SPSS. Students will learn when different techniques are warranted, conceptually how techniques function, how to perform the analysis using commercial computer packages and how to interpret the program outputs.

DAPT 622. Statistics for the World of Big Data II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: DAPT 621. Continues an emphasis on data visualization and statistical modeling for different types of variables, including relationships between multivariable variables.

DAPT 623. Data Mining. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Data mining is the extraction of implicit, previously unknown and potentially useful information from data. Data mining tasks include classification and regression (pattern recognition), cluster analysis, association analysis, and anomaly detection. This class will introduce methods for each of these tasks, their implementation in relevant software and the interpretation of data mining results.

DAPT 624. Forecasting Methods and Applications for Managerial Decision-making. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Methods covered include moving average and exponential smoothing, seasonal adjustments, time-series, and forecast averaging. Particular emphasis on developing and implementing forecasting systems in an interactive organization and appreciation of issues and caveats.

DAPT 633. Introduction to Marketing and Customer Analytics. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Examines how firms make use of analytic tools to target advertising, improve customer response and service, and improve financial performance. The course will apply quantitative tools students have already seen (statistical analysis, simulation and regression analysis) to marketing and customer-response decisions.

DAPT 641. Introduction to Simulation Methods. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. An introduction to the application and theoretical background of simulation. Topics include Monte Carlo simulation and modeling systems using discrete event simulation. Theoretical topics include random variable generation, model verification and validation, statistical analysis of output, and decision-making via simulation. A high-level simulation language will be utilized.

DAPT 642. Introduction to Risk Analysis. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Presents a formal methodology for prescriptive decision-making under risk and uncertainty. Decision analysis applies to hard problems involving sequential decisions, major uncertainties, significant outcomes and complex values. The course includes building and solving influence diagrams and decision trees; modeling uncertainty with subjective probabilities; the value of information; and modeling risk preferences with utility functions. Decision and risk analysis applications in business and government are considered.

DAPT 643. Introduction to Optimization Models. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Mathematical optimization is used to support quantitative and logical decision-making by providing a prescription of choices that minimize cost or maximize profit. This class provides an introduction to using optimization tools to model, solve and interpret results of real-world decision problems. Examples of applications include loan allocation, workforce scheduling, multi-period financial models and portfolio optimization.

DAPT 651. Personal, Interpersonal and Organizational Awareness. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. This is an application-based course involving the understanding and application of communicating information in the personal, interpersonal/team and organizational setting. The focus is on barriers to communication, personal and audience awareness, listening skills, nonverbal communication behaviors, team-building and meetings management. A variety of practica and simulations will be used during this course.

DAPT 652. Professional Presentations: Strategy, Delivery and Technology. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. This is an application-based course involving the audience-centered design and application of effective oral presentations. The focus will be on the development and enhancement of public presentation skills in different types of formal and informal public situations. Further ability in appropriate presentation technology will be provided and assessment will be behavior-driven. A variety of practica and simulations will be used during this course.

DAPT 653. Written Communications: Strategy, Structure and Connection. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. This is an application-based course involving the audience-centered design and application of effective written communications. The focus will be on the development and enhancement of writing and English skills for different types of organization-required documents, including email, proposals, executive summaries, letters and formal reports. Further assessment in grammar and syntax will be provided through online and faculty feedback. A variety of practica and simulations will be used during this course.

DAPT 654. Written Communications: Strategy, Structure and Connection II. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Continues topics and lessons from DAPT 653.
DAPT 661. Issues and Analytics. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. May be repeated for a total of three credits. Academic, business, government and NGO leaders discuss current issues and applications of analytics. Analytics is a dynamically changing and evolving field. Students will have an opportunity to discuss current issues directly with people on the front lines.

DAPT 670. Analytics Problem Formation. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. An introduction to problem formulation and the decision-making process that must precede the application of analytics. Topics include objectives generation, structuring objectives, decision diagrams for risk and uncertainty modeling, and qualitative approaches to decisions under risk and value tradeoffs.

DAPT 681. Analytics Practicum I. 1 Hour.
Sponsored project. 1 credit. This course will allow students to apply the concepts, theories and skills learned in other courses to a real analytics project from a sponsoring organization. Teams of students will formulate a problem based on discussions with management of the sponsoring organization; query the sponsor’s and/or public databases for appropriate data; perform required statistical analysis; and present results in both a written report and oral presentation to sponsoring management.

DAPT 682. Analytics Practicum II. 2 Hours.
Semester course; sponsored project. 2 credits. Continues project from DAPT 681.

Economics (ECON)

ECON 500. Concepts in Economics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Essential economic concepts including the price system, price determination in imperfectly competitive markets, employment theory, and monetary theory. This is a foundation course. Not open to students who have completed undergraduate foundation sequence: ECON 203 with a minimum grade of B and ECON 211, or ECON 210 and 211.

ECON 501. Introduction to Econometrics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: ECON 500, 210 or 203, the latter with a minimum grade of B and MGMT 301, STAT 210 or STAT 212. Sources and uses of economic data; includes the application of statistical methods and regression analysis to time series and cross-section data to test hypotheses of micro- and macroeconomics.

ECON 600. Fundamental Economic Analyses of Business Decisions. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to provide the non-business major with knowledge of fundamental economic principles and their application to business decisions and organization. Topics include supply of demand, elasticity, price determination by a firm with market power, optimal levels of employment, incentives and compensation, and multidivisional organization.

ECON 604. Advanced Microeconomic Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ECON 614. Theory of prices and markets; value and distribution. Partial and general equilibrium analysis.

ECON 607. Advanced Macroeconomic Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ECON 614. National income analysis, monetary and fiscal theory and policy, and general equilibrium analysis.

ECON 609. Advanced International Economics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: ECON 203 with a minimum B grade and ECON 211; or ECON 210 and ECON 211. An advanced-level examination of why trade occurs, balance of payments concept and adjustment, international equilibrium, forward exchange, markets, international investment, and international organizations.

ECON 610. Managerial Economics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: ECON 203 with a minimum B grade and ECON 211; or ECON 210 and ECON 211. M.B.A. students must take in conjunction with MGMT 641 or by permission of assistant dean of master’s programs. Analysis of business decisions, applying tools of economic theory. Decisions on demand, production, cost, prices, profits and investments.

ECON 612. Econometrics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ECON 501. Provides empirical content to the theoretical concepts of the economics by formulating and estimating models. Introduction to simultaneous equation problems in economics and the studies of production, demand, and consumption functions.

ECON 614. Mathematical Economics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: ECON 203 with a minimum B grade and ECON 211; or ECON 210 and ECON 211. Economic analysis utilizing simple mathematical methods. Includes derivation and exposition of theories and the application of tools to widen the scope and increase the usefulness of economics.

ECON 616. Advanced Public Finance. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: ECON 203 with a minimum B grade and ECON 211; or ECON 210 and ECON 211. Theory and application of public finance, including taxation, expenditures, and budgeting. Special attention to cost-benefit analysis and to intergovernmental relations in federal system.

ECON 617. Financial Markets. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: ECON 501, MGMT 524, STAT 541, or MGMT 302; and ECON 500 or FIRE 520. Theories of markets for loanable funds are related to empirical findings and institutional structures. Yields of financial assets, kinds of debt instruments, financial institutions, public policy, financial models, and the role of money and credit in economic growth are considered.

ECON 620. The Economics of Industry. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ECON 301, ECON 303 or ECON 610. The application of economic analysis to the structure, conduct, and performance of industry; public regulation and policies to promote workable competition.

ECON 621. Topics in Economics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: ECON 500; or ECON 203 with a minimum grade of B and ECON 210, or ECON 210 and 211. Study of specialized topic(s) in economics.
ECON 623. Anomalies in Financial Economics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: ECON 617 and ECON 401. Considers anomalies, or evidence that is inconsistent with or difficult to explain using received theory in economics. Studying anomalies is useful both to develop a better, subtler understanding of received theory and to recognize how the theory may be refined or changed to resolve the anomalies. Anomalies considered include the equity premium puzzle, excess-volatility, over-reaction and under-reaction of asset prices, and asset allocation puzzles. In some cases a proposed anomaly can be explained by more careful treatment of the problem. In other cases, new theories (e.g., noise-trader models) are put forward to explain anomalies.

ECON 624. Health Economics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: ECON 203 with a minimum grade of B and ECON 211. Develops an understanding of (1) economics as a managerial tool in making choices or decisions that will provide for an optimum allocation of limited health care resources and (2) economics as a way of thinking about and approaching issues of public policy in financing and organizing health and medical services. Individual research on crucial or controversial issues in the health care field. Crosslisted as: HADM 624.

ECON 631. Labor Market Theory and Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: ECON 203 with a minimum B grade and ECON 211. Theoretical and empirical analysis of labor markets from both an economics and a management or human resource perspective. Topics will include employment concerns, wage structure and compensation packages.

ECON 641. Econometric Time-series Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: ECON 501 and ECON 614. Provides the analytical and programming tools needed to adeptly handle the statistical analyses of econometric time-series data. Topics include: stationarity, unit-roots, univariate time-series models, vector autoregressions and co-integration. These tools will be used to analyze movements in interest rates, exchange rates and equity markets as well as the transmission of monetary policy actions.

ECON 642. Panel and Nonlinear Methods in Econometrics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: ECON 612. Includes panel data analysis (fixed and random effects); identification and estimation of nonlinear models, limited dependent variable models (probit, logit, tobit, etc.), duration models; and hypothesis/specification tests. The techniques discussed in class will be used to analyze a variety of empirical questions. The course has an applications rather than a theoretical focus.

ECON 682. An Economic Approach to Environmental Issues. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: ECON 203 with a minimum B grade and ECON 211. The effect of externalities in terms of efficiency and equity considerations. The role and problems of benefit-cost analysis in decision making is developed. The interrelationship of air, water, and land quality issues is analyzed. The use rate of natural resources, energy consumption, and the steady-state economy and their impacts are evaluated.

ECON 691. Topics in Economics. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1, 2 or 3 credits. Study of current topics. Topics may vary from semester to semester.

ECON 693. Field Project in Economics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Approval of proposed work is required by graduate studies office in the School of Business. Students will work under the supervision of a faculty adviser in planning and carrying out a practical research project. A written report of the investigations is required. To be taken at the end of the program.

ECON 697. Guided Study in Economics. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 1, 2 or 3 credits. Prerequisite: Approval of proposed work is required by graduate studies office in the School of Business. Graduate students wishing to do research on problems in business administration or business education will submit a detailed outline of their problem. They will be assigned reading and will prepare a written report on the problem. To be taken at the end of the program.

ECON 798. Thesis in Economics. 3 Hours.
Year course; 6 credits. Prerequisite: approval of the proposed work is required by the graduate adviser and the proposed thesis adviser. Graduate students will work under supervision in outlining a graduate thesis and in carrying out the thesis.

ECON 799. Thesis in Economics. 3 Hours.
Year course; 6 credits. Prerequisite: approval of the proposed work is required by the graduate adviser and the proposed thesis adviser. Graduate students will work under supervision in outlining a graduate thesis and in carrying out the thesis.

Fast Track Information Systems (ISTM)

ISTM 671. Organizational Culture and Team Building. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides students an understanding of the impact information technology has made in defining an organization’s culture and the processes that are used to support operational and strategic decision making. Groupware tools are used to simulate how organizations use computer-based collaboration software for sharing information, ideas and knowledge designed for improved productivity and decision making in order to enhance the organization’s competitiveness strategically. Topics include: organizational culture and team building in the age of new business models, virtual work environments, privacy, telecommuting, monitoring Internet access and content, and communication etiquette, electronic teleconferencing, video, data and web conferencing.

ISTM 672. Information Systems Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the information requirements of an organization. The difference in the kinds of information needed at operational, administrative, strategic and organizational levels are emphasized. Planning and implementing a comprehensive information system and methods to measure its effectiveness are discussed. Topics include Capability Maturity Models, managerial support systems and information resources planning.

ISTM 673. Analysis and Decisions. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on the analysis and decisions required for selecting new systems or technology. Specifically, the course covers business requirements analysis, system life-cycle models, Unified Process and other system development methodologies, structural and behavioral system models, CASE tools, decision analysis for vendor and technology selection, feasibility and risk analysis, and implementation and transition management.
ISTM 674. Emerging Technologies. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to identify emerging computer hardware, software and communication/network technologies that impact the design and implementation of new information systems. Topics will address emerging technologies that are changing data storage, modes of information processing and media for dissemination. Managerial challenges and issues, including new and existing technology compatibility, the return on new technology investments, and strategies for assessing and mitigating an organization's risk exposure are examined.

ISTM 675. IS Planning and Project Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides a basic framework for understanding IT project management, building on the skills needed to manage projects of all sizes. Topics include the project life cycle, project team, project selection, project organization, project planning, negotiation and conflict resolution, and resource management. The responsibility and authority of a program manager and the integration of program functions in a complex organizational structure will be addressed. Through a combination of simulation activities with formal presentations and experiential learning, the following concepts will be addressed: definition of budgets, allocation of resources, consideration of ROI, earned value, management consideration of metrics accumulation and assessment, and control of scope creep.

ISTM 676. Information Systems Assurance and Security Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides a fresh look at managing and protecting the information resources of a firm. While identifying issues, concerns and problems, the course takes students through various tools and techniques that are useful in interpreting information systems security concerns in organizations. In a final synthesis, principles and models are presented that help in proactively managing IS security.

ISTM 677. Structuring Information for Decision Making. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Presents an overview of information systems methods that are used to structure information for decision making. Following a review of the basics of data management, the course examines various database management systems. The course then continues with an investigation of data warehousing, data mining, XML, knowledge management and business intelligence. Students successfully completing the course will understand the range of potential data management options used to present information for decision making and their various strengths and weaknesses.

ISTM 678. IS in the Digital Economy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Expounds on the innovative nature of the confluence of the Web and business. The notion of disruptive technologies is introduced and discussed. Further, the means by which the relative success and failure of IS in the digital economy can be assessed/Measured are deliberated. A number of emergent issues related to the digital economy (viz. eTrust, eCRM, social responsibility, etc.) are discussed.

ISTM 679. Enterprise Information Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Over the past decade, organizations have been relying more and more on enterprise-wide deployment of software applications (ERP) to solve their integration problems. This course begins by describing the true size and magnitude of the enterprise integration challenge, then it examines the general form of problem solution offered by these ERP packages. Since implementation of ERPs continues to be a major challenge, the course fully examines both the track record and successful approaches to enterprise information systems implementation. Finally, new developments in this area are explored.

FMBA 601. Team Building and Leadership. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Presents how organizations steer members toward what needs doing. Design, functions and creation of teams, engaging leadership and motivation processes to set and achieve organizational goals; management of emerging communication and evaluation processes; interacting with boards and with customers are developed across disciplines.

FMBA 602. Team Building and Leadership. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Presents how organizations steer members toward what needs doing. Design, functions and creation of teams, engaging leadership and motivation processes to set and achieve organizational goals; management of emerging communication and evaluation processes; interacting with boards and with customers are developed across disciplines.

FMBA 603. Business Foundations. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Presents how to build a foundation in business quantitative techniques. Concepts of accounting/financial reporting, quality, finance concepts, control and hypothesis testing are developed and integrated across disciplines.

FMBA 604. Analysis and Decisions. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Presents how organizations define and choose. Concepts and tools of problem-solving for administrative decisions; concepts and tools of measurement, planning and control; management of conflict, cooperation, negotiation and implementation are developed and integrated across disciplines.

FMBA 605. Analysis and Decisions. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Presents how organizations define and choose. Concepts and tools of problem-solving for administrative decisions; concepts and tools of measurement, planning and control; management of conflict, cooperation, negotiation and implementation are developed and integrated across disciplines.

FMBA 606. Analysis and Decisions. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 lecture hours. 1-6 credits. Presents how organizations define and choose. Concepts and tools of problem solving for administrative decisions; concepts and tools of measurement, planning, and control; management of conflict, cooperation, negotiation, and implementation are developed and integrated across disciplines.

FMBA 607. Global Challenges. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Presents an educational tour for direct experience of influences and perspectives: France, Great Britain, Indonesia or Mexico.
FMBA 608. Organizational Culture. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Presents how organizations develop and operate. Concepts of information technology—adding values, environmental regulations/law, entrepreneurial culture, probability market orientation and management functions are explored.

FMBA 609. Productivity and Innovation. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Presents how organizations change and improve. Management of creativity, critical thinking and rewards; development of resources; implementing concepts of quality, effectiveness and change are developed across disciplines.

FMBA 610. Productivity and Innovation. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Presents how organizations change and improve. Management of creativity, critical thinking and rewards; development of resources; implementing concepts of quality, effectiveness and change are developed across disciplines.

FMBA 611. Strategic Management. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Presents how organizations define, plan and accomplish missions. Comprehensive integration of business functions and processes; systems thinking, managing shareholder value; anticipating and interacting with changing internal and external environments; formulation and implementation of strategy and integrated across disciplines.

FMBA 612. Strategic Management. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Presents how organizations define, plan and accomplish missions. Comprehensive integration of business functions and processes; systems thinking, managing shareholder value; anticipating and interacting with changing internal and external environments; formulation and implementation of strategy and integrated across disciplines.

FMBA 613. Strategic Management. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Presents how organizations define, plan and accomplish missions. Comprehensive integration of business functions and processes; systems thinking, managing shareholder value; anticipating and interacting with changing internal and external environments; formulation and implementation of strategy and integrated across disciplines.

FMBA 614. Health Care Management I: National Perspective. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Students develop an understanding of how health care evolved in the United States and articulate major policy issues. Course emphasizes the major components of health care reform and what policy issues they are intended to address. Focus is on how information technology supports quality of care, the business of health care and health care reform.

FMBA 615. Health Care Management II: Employer's Perspective. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Students will develop an understanding of the business and financing of health care. Course emphasizes the design of insurance costs, the associated costs and employer options. Also explores how wellness affects population health and health care costs.

FMBA 616. Health Care Management III: Industry Perspective. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Students will develop an understanding of the unique economic issues of health care, the importance of process improvement and compliance for health care organizations and the effect of costs. Course focuses on the roles of innovation and marketing in the health care industry.

Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (FIRE)

FIRE 520. Financial Concepts of Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MGMT 524, STAT/BIOS 543, STAT 541, or MGMT 301 and MGMT 302. Not open to students who have completed FIRE 311 or the equivalent. A study of the essential concepts of financial management in a global environment, including working capital management, capital budgeting, capital structure planning and dividend policy. This is a foundation course.

FIRE 533. Insurance Education Institute for High School Teachers. 3 Hours.
3 credits. This is a summer course designed for high school teachers in such fields as business, marketing, economics, mathematics, social sciences, history, life skills, home economics, or other disciplines in which the subject of risk and insurance can be incorporated into the curriculum. Teachers will learn about risk management, life, health, auto, homeowners insurance and financial planning. They will receive instructional materials and guidance to develop lesson plans for their use in teaching the subject to their students.

FIRE 620. Introduction to Financial Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of essential concepts of financial management in a global environment, including time value, capital budgeting and valuation, cost of capital structure, divided policy, and working capital management, at a level appropriate to the Master of Management program.

FIRE 621. Cases in Financial Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: FIRE 620. Analysis, in a global environment, of financial problems and policies of nonfinancial firms, including capital management, capital rationing and cost of capital, and capital structure.

FIRE 622. Financial Management of Financial Institutions. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: FIRE 520. Understanding the application of concepts relevant to the financial management of financial institutions in a global environment.

FIRE 623. Financial Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: FIRE 520. Analyzes the theory and practice of corporate finance. Detailed investigation of the investment and financing decision of the firm in an environment of uncertainty.

FIRE 625. Group Insurance and Pension Planning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: FIRE 520 and MGMT 530. Analysis of major elements of employee benefit plans including: life, health and disability benefits, pension, and profit-sharing plans. Design principles, financing, legal and tax considerations are examined. Major issues and new developments. Courses directly related to risk, insurance and employee benefits are approved for Virginia Insurance Continuing Education. Forty-two credits for insurance agents. Contact the director of insurance studies for further information.

FIRE 626. Risk Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: FIRE 623 or FIRE 635. Property and liability risks faced by businesses and public institutions are studied. Insurance and alternative methods of controlling and financing these risks are analyzed and compared. Courses directly related to risk, insurance and employee benefits are approved for Virginia Insurance Continuing Education. Forty-two credits for insurance agents. Contact the director of insurance studies for further information.
FIRE 627. Real Estate Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of the development process; including market analysis, site selection, pre-acquisition strategic planning, and project management.

FIRE 628. Using GIS in Real Estate Decisions. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Acquaints students with Geographic Information Systems technology as a means of selecting and comparatively analyzing prospective sites. Students will use GIS software in making location decisions.

FIRE 629. Real Estate Investment Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Housing demand forecasting, commercial site selection, and real estate investment analysis.

FIRE 635. Investments and Security Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: FIRE 520; and MGMT 524, STAT/BIOS 543, STAT 541, or MGMT 301 and MGMT 302. The process of investing in stocks and bonds in a global environment, from the analysis of individual securities to portfolio formation and evaluation, using experiential analytic exercises.

FIRE 638. Real Property Investment Law. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MGMT 323 or MGMT 530. Covers legal aspects of real property development from acquisition through disposition; emphasizes selection of appropriate ownership form, financing, operation, and tax considerations.

FIRE 639. International Finance. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: FIRE 520. A study of financial management of multinational enterprises, banks, firms with foreign subsidiaries, exporters, and service industries. Additionally, financing trade and investments, international money and capital markets, foreign exchange risks, and governmental policies will be covered.

FIRE 650. Derivatives. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: FIRE 520. Analysis of derivatives contracts: forwards, futures, swaps and options. Study of valuation, pricing and use of derivatives to manage risk in a global environment.

FIRE 654. Short-term Financial Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: FIRE 520. Techniques of short-term financial management (or working capital management) in a global environment for business firms, including understanding payment systems to achieve efficient cash management of accounts receivable, management of inventory, management of accounts payable, and short-term borrowing from banks and other suppliers of short-term credit.

FIRE 657. Current Issues in Investments and Markets. 3 Hours.
3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: FIRE 635. Advanced study of selected topics in global investments and securities markets using experiential exercises. Topics selected by the instructor. Readings from recent journals, cases, and/or software may be used. Possible topics may include: fixed income mathematics; portfolio management; advanced investments theory; factors explaining security price movements; advanced security analysis; using information to make investment decisions; and security market microstructure.

FIRE 658. Real Estate Finance and Investments. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: FIRE 431. Emphasizes economic and financial analysis of commercial real estate investments, alternative financing structures and surveys recent trends in the securitization of commercial real estate debt and equity markets.

FIRE 664. Current Issues in Corporate Finance. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: FIRE 623. Advanced study of selected topics in corporate finance and financial management in global entrepreneurial settings. Topics selected by the instructor. Readings from recent journals, cases and/or software may be used. Possible topics include: theory and evidence concerning major corporate financial policy decisions, bankruptcy costs and agency costs that relate to capital structure and dividend policy, issues in corporate control, alternative methods of issuing and retiring securities mergers and acquisitions, advanced valuation theory, advanced financial analysis, advanced capital budgeting, using information to make financial decisions.

FIRE 690. Research Seminar in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Approval of proposed work is required by graduate studies office in the School of Business. This course is designed to provide research experience for candidates not following the FIRE 798-799 program.

FIRE 691. Topics in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1, 2 or 3 credits. Prerequisites vary by topic. Study of current topics. Topics may vary from semester to semester.

FIRE 693. Field Project in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Approval of proposed work is required by graduate studies office in the School of Business. Students will work under the supervision of a faculty adviser in planning and carrying out a practical research project using experiential exercises. A written report of the investigations is required. To be taken at the end of the program.

FIRE 697. Guided Study in Finance, Insurance and Real Estate. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Approval of proposed work is required by graduate studies office in the School of Business. Graduate students wishing to do research on problems in business administration or business education in an international environment will submit a detailed outline of their problem. They will be assigned reading and will prepare a written report on the problem. To be taken at the end of the program.

Information Systems (INFO)

INFO 609. Data-centric Re-engineering Analysis/Planning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Teaches methods of monetizing or otherwise valuing intangible data practice-improvement opportunities. Students will participate in a semester-long residency in organizations. Student teams will work closely with CIOs. Each team will evaluate operational effectiveness and/or innovation opportunities and recommend specific approaches and estimated benefits. Participating CIOs will receive a professional business case -- including concrete examples -- for implementing data-centric practices in their organizations.

INFO 610. Analysis and Design of Database Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 364. Designed to prepare students for the development of information systems using databases and database management techniques.
INFO 611. Data Re-engineering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 610.
Teaches the process of reengineering data from current to desired
structures. Covers a range of methods, tools and techniques for reverse
engineering existing schemas and data structure definitions used as the
basis for designing more suitable data structures. Appropriate case tools
provide students with practical experience.

INFO 614. Data Mining. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MGMT 302
or permission of the instructor. A data mining process has the goal of
discovering nontrivial, interesting and actionable knowledge from data
in databases. The course introduces important concepts, models and
techniques of data mining for modern organizations. Students gain a
deepened understanding of concepts and techniques covered in lectures by
doing a practical term project that applies one or more of the data mining
models and techniques. Students also are given the opportunity to gain
knowledge on the features and functionalities of state-of-the-art data
mining software through their preparation of a research report.

INFO 616. Data Warehousing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 610.
Covers important concepts and techniques in the design and
implementation of a data warehouse. Topics include the data warehouse
architecture, the logical and physical design issues in the data
warehousing development process, technical factors (i.e., hardware,
client/server technology, data warehousing and DBMS technologies)
and implementation considerations (i.e., data extraction, clean-up and
transformation tools). Introduces online analytical processing and data
mining. Crosslisted as: CISS 616.

INFO 620. Data Communications. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 370.
Computer network design, communication line control, and
communication hardware and software.

INFO 622. Internet Security Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Studies the principles of
network security and secure operating systems. Included are topics
relating to the use of intrusion detection, intrusion prevention and other
related tools.

INFO 630. Systems Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: INFO 361
and 364. Covers business process and data requirements modeling for
information systems, using advanced methods and techniques. Students
will gain hands-on experience developing specifications and a functional
prototype application with current CASE and development tools.

INFO 632. Business Process Engineering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Critically reviews business
process (re)engineering methods and practices. The discipline of
Business Process and Application Architectures and modularization are
examined. Issues in the implementation of application support
for business processes are discussed. The discussion includes
strategy visioning, performance benchmarking, process modeling and
analysis, and planning organizational change. State-of-the-art business
engineering tool-sets such as SAP Business Engineer and J.D. Edwards
Business Engineering tool-sets are extensively used to provide practical
experience.

INFO 640. Information Systems Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 360.
A detailed study of the issues, principles, techniques and best
practices in managing information systems and enterprise knowledge
as organizational resources. Managing enterprise knowledge and
information systems involves taking a disciplined approach to managing
the infrastructures and harnessing the collective knowledge capital
and brain-power of individuals and organizations. Topics include: IT
operations, issues in strategic management, establishing standards
and procedures, performance evaluation and benchmarking, hardware
and software acquisition, physical environments and security issues,
outsourcing and partnerships, personnel, knowledge ontology, meta-
knowledge and others.

INFO 641. Strategic Information Systems Planning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 640
or INFO 661. Focuses on developing, implementing and evaluating
strategic plans for corporate information systems. Assesses the role of
information systems as a competitive tool. Methods and frameworks
for strategic analysis are introduced. Mechanisms for establishing
an information systems strategy are presented. Emphasis placed
on understanding change management issues in IS planning for
organizations.

INFO 642. Decision Support and Intelligent Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: INFO 610
and 630. Focuses on the design and deployment of decision technology
of two broad types: decision support systems, which are meant to be
employed in an advisory capacity by their human users, and intelligent
systems, which are generally designed as autonomous decision agents
and so intended to displace human functionaries.

INFO 643. Information Technology Project Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 640 or
661. Provides a clear understanding of project management
techniques. Covers aspects of planning, organizing, controlling and
implementing IT projects. IT project management processes, project
scheduling and links with information systems strategy and change
management are explored.

INFO 644. Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security. 3
Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 640 or
INFO 661. Explores issues related to protecting information resources of
a firm. Various tools and techniques useful for assessing CISS security
concerns in organizations are introduced. Principles and models for
CISS security and security management are presented and selected
computer and CISS security topics are introduced. Material is presented
and discussed from a management frame of reference. Crosslisted as:
CISS 644.

INFO 646. Security Policy Formulation and Implementation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Course covers aspects of
policy formulation and implementation. A security policy is considered
as a vehicle for executing good strategy. The course analyzes current
problems with security strategy formulation and compliance. The content
and context of security policies is evaluated to ensure effectiveness.

INFO 654. Systems Interface Design. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 640 or
661. Analyzes factors important in designing the interface for business
information systems. Includes designing and developing systems for
the Internet. Requires students to work in teams to produce prototype
interactive systems.
INFO 658. Securing the Internet of Things. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 661 or INFO 640. Overviews the emerging field of the Internet of Things with emphasis on how information infrastructure and networks will change the exchange of goods and services in a socially connected world. Specific topics include technological (including hardware/software) infrastructures, types of IoT applications, key IoT policy issues and future trends, IoT security, and privacy challenges in a socially connected world.

INFO 660. Introduction to Management Information Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an understanding of the importance and role of information systems in modern business processes; analysis and decision making. Presents principles of information technology and systems methodologies for the design and development of operational, managerial and strategic business information systems. A project management focus will provide the framework for the course.

INFO 661. Information Systems for Managers. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an understanding of the importance and role of information systems in modern business decision making. Emphasizes choices about information technology and managing projects.

INFO 664. Information Systems for Business Intelligence. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides students with techniques and practices for modern decision-making in support of business/corporate performance. Includes hands-on experience with various information analysis, business intelligence and decision support techniques and tools with applications to various business-problem scenarios, such as portfolio analysis, project selection, market research and supply-chain optimization.

INFO 690. Research Seminar in Information Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Approval of proposed work is required by graduate studies office in the School of Business. This course is designed to provide research experience for candidates not following the INFO 798-799 program.

INFO 691. Topics in Information Systems. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1, 2 or 3 credits. Study of current topics. Topics may vary from semester to semester.

INFO 693. Field Project in Information Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Approval of proposed work is required by graduate studies office in the School of Business. Students will work under the supervision of a faculty adviser in planning and carrying out a practical research project. A written report of the investigations is required. To be taken at the end of the program.

INFO 697. Guided Study in Information Systems. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 1, 2 or 3 credits. Prerequisite: Approval of proposed work is required by graduate studies office in the School of Business. Graduate students wishing to do research on problems in business administration or business education will submit a detailed outline of their problem. They will be assigned reading and will prepare a written report on the problem. To be taken at the end of the program.

INFO 700. Survey of Information Systems Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is designed to provide incoming Ph.D. students with an introduction to information systems research. Students will survey various research streams in the field of information systems by familiarizing themselves with the research undertaken by faculty in the IS department. During the semester, students will learn about the various research areas in light of theories that support research and the primary research methods used in these areas. In addition, students will review literature to identify critical research issues in a specific topic area chosen for research and propose solutions to address those issues.

INFO 701. Qualitative Research in Information Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires permission of instructor. The course is designed to cover qualitative research published in the information systems discipline and an array of qualitative research methods, including but not limited to grounded theory, positivist case studies, interpretive case studies, hermeneutics, ethnography, action research and interviewing methods. Students will be exposed to the published literature of qualitative research in the IS discipline, as well as to the principles that distinguish qualitative research from other types of IS research. The research methods and techniques will be discussed using published examples of such research. Including a project, the course will help students conduct their own qualitative research.

INFO 702. Design Science Research and Methods in Information Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires permission of instructor. The course is designed to explore the theories and methods that are used in the various phases of design science research. Students will be exposed to the principles that distinguish design science research from other types of information Systems research. The research methods and techniques used in the various phases of design science research will be discussed using examples from IS analysis and design, database, IS security, decision support and intelligent systems, knowledge management, or other subfields.

INFO 710. Database Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores advanced concepts related to management of modern organizations’ data resources. Focuses on data administration and the technical aspects of database systems. Some of the database research issues covered include: data quality, design, security, metadata, XML databases and data warehousing. Prepares students for further research into aspects of database systems.

INFO 720. Analysis and Design of Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Covers the philosophical and theoretical foundations of information systems development methodologies and their evolution. Provides an intellectual foundation for students wishing to write a doctoral dissertation in this subject matter. Students will be required to read and analyze articles considered fundamental to the current understanding of the subject.

INFO 730. Information Systems Strategy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides the basis for further Ph.D.-level work in information systems strategy. Covers the theoretical foundations of the subject area. In particular the economic, phycological, sociological and cultural aspects are considered. This focus helps students to identify different research orientations and helps develop an informed opinion on critical research areas.
INFO 740. Decision Support and Intelligent Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides the basis for further Ph.D.-level work in decision support and intelligent systems. Explores the theoretical and technical aspects of the subject area. It helps students identify different research orientations with respect to the notion of intelligent systems and build an informed opinion on critical research areas. Explores issues around classes of decision predicates and decision situations. The course also helps students understand technical innovations in decision technologies as they relate to the study of decision support and intelligent systems.

INFO 750. Information Systems Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides the basis for further Ph.D.-level work in information systems security. Covers the theoretical aspects of the subject area. It helps students identify different research orientations with respect to IS security and build an informed opinion on critical research areas. Explores issues around what IS security is (ontology) and how to acquire the relevant knowledge (epistemology). The course also helps students understand methods of social science research as they relate to IS security.

INFO 760. Knowledge Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores advanced concepts related to knowledge management and knowledge discovery in modern organizations. Material for the course is drawn from research papers and doctoral dissertations. Requires a high level of student participation, particularly in their critical reviews and presentation of relevant research materials.

INFO 790. Doctoral Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Open only to Ph.D. students in business. Analyzes and critiques general theories, practices and functions in a specialized area of information systems research.

INFO 798. Thesis in Information Systems. 3 Hours.
Year course; 6 credits. Graduate students will work under supervision in outlining a graduate thesis and in carrying out the thesis.

INFO 799. Thesis in Information Systems. 3 Hours.
Year course; 6 credits. Graduate students will work under supervision in outlining a graduate thesis and in carrying out the thesis.

INFO 898. Dissertation Research in Information Systems. 1-12 Hours.
1-12 credits. Limited to Ph.D. in business candidates.

Management (MGMT)

MGMT 540. Management Theory and Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A foundation course that presents theories, principles and fundamentals applicable to contemporary management thought and productive activities.

MGMT 633. Issues in Labor Relations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The conceptual framework of labor relations; the interconnection between labor-management relations and the sociopolitical environment.

MGMT 634. Collective Bargaining and Labor Arbitration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The negotiation and administration of collective bargaining contracts; the handling of grievances.

MGMT 637. Advanced Human Resource Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MGMT 540 and MGMT 524. Provides exposure to the process of managing human resources; focuses on issues concerned with business decisions about acquiring, motivating and retaining employees. Topics may include HRM planning, recruitment, selection, training, performance management, compensation and strategic human resource management. Emphasis will be given to the development, implementation and assessment of human resource management policies and practices consistent with business, legal, environmental and strategic dynamics.

MGMT 641. Organizational Leadership and Project Team Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: completion of all M.B.A. foundation courses or equivalent, or permission from the graduate studies in business office. M.B.A. students take in conjunction with ECON 610. An advanced course in management involving theories and models aimed at developing the managerial competencies needed to analyze, understand, predict and guide individual, group and organizational behavior.

MGMT 642. Business Policy and Strategy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: completion of five of the following courses – MGMT 641; MGMT 675; ACCT 608; ECON 610; FIRE 621 or FIRE 623; INFO 661; INFO 664; MKTG 671. Integration of principles and policies of business management from the fields of accounting, economics, marketing, finance, statistics and management in the solution of broad company problems and in the establishment of company policy. Emphasis on interaction of disciplines in effective administration of a business. Course employs case analysis approach.

MGMT 644. International Business Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: ECON 500, MGMT 530, MGMT 540 and MKTG 570. Survey course for students interested in international and multinational management. Review of historical, governmental, monetary, and cultural issues affecting the transfer of resources and management knowledge across national boundaries; multinational business and management strategies; study of management practices in selected countries.

MGMT 649. Compensation Policy and Administration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MGMT 637. Analysis of the concepts and processes involved in compensation systems. Includes evaluation of the internal and external dimensions of compensation, policy issues involved, concepts, and forms of compensation, administration of compensation systems, and current and future issues.

MGMT 654. Negotiations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An advanced course in management using an experiential approach to explore the practice and theory of negotiation. Topics will include basic approaches to negotiation and conflict management, negotiating in teams, negotiating with agents, ethics in negotiations and international negotiation.

MGMT 655. Entrepreneurship. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Individual and corporate entrepreneurship in high and low technology enterprises. Develops an understanding of the role of entrepreneurship in management theories and practices. Students will develop comprehensive venture analysis plans for presentation.
MGMT 656. Best Practices in Leadership. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing. A seminar and experiential exercise course designed to raise the student's practical awareness of major leadership behavior patterns and strategies that promote effectiveness in organizations; raise awareness, flexibility and skill with the student's own personal leadership style; and help students practice, discuss and develop the ability to influence others over whom they may or may not exert positional authority.

MGMT 680. Health, Safety and Security Administration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MGMT 524; and MGMT 530 or 540. Study of design and development of an effective safety or risk-control program. Topics include organizational needs and assessment, program evaluation, design/implementation of critical program components, training, accident cost-accounting, cost containment. Also addresses management strategies, communication techniques, motivation and incentive programs and other special topics.

MGMT 682. Human Resource Staffing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MGMT 637. Addresses the activities and processes that affect the staffing function. Subjects include attracting, selecting, and retaining people who will facilitate the accomplishment of organizational goals. Designed for the future human resource professional who will be involved with designing, administering, revising, and evaluating selection programs and procedures.

MGMT 684. Issues in International Human Resource Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MGMT 637 or MGMT 641. Focuses on issues affecting the application of human resource management practices in an international environment. Examines current challenges in the selection, appraisal, development, compensation and maintenance of expatriates, repatriates, host country nationals and third-country nationals. Includes contextual factors of industrial relations systems, legal environment, demographics and culture.

MGMT 691. Topics in Management. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1, 2 or 3 credits. Study of current topics. Topics may vary from semester to semester.

MGMT 693. Field Project in Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Approval of proposed work is required by graduate studies office in the School of Business. Students will work under the supervision of a faculty adviser in planning and carrying out a practical research project. A written report of the investigations is required. To be taken at the end of the program.

MGMT 697. Guided Study in Management. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 1, 2 or 3 credits. Prerequisite: Approval of proposed work is required by graduate studies office in the School of Business. Graduate students wishing to do research on problems in business administration or business education will submit a detailed outline of their problem. They will be assigned reading and will prepare a written report on the problem. To be taken at the end of the program.

MGMT 702. Causal Analysis for Organizational Studies. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: two graduate courses in statistics or permission of instructor. Focuses on conceptual and statistical issues involved with causal analysis with nonexperimental and experimental data. Course covers basic and advanced confirmatory factor analysis and structural equation techniques, with an emphasis on organizational and psychological applications. Crosslisted as: PSYC 702.

MGMT 703. Advanced Topics in Research Methods for Organizational Studies. 1/2 Hour.
Continuous course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MGMT 632 or equivalent and permission of instructor. Students must enroll for two semesters. Extensive coverage of applications of methodological and statistical analyses to an array of disciplines related to organizational studies. Emphasizes the skills essential in designing, conducting and interpreting research. Course contact hours spread over fall, inter session and spring semesters. Credits allotted once for credit as topics change each year.

MGMT 737. Seminar in Human Resources. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MGMT 637 or equivalent, or permission of instructor. Provides broad exposure to theory and research in the field of human resource management. Topics include strategic and operational human resource planning and staffing; employee relations, development and performance management; external factors such as legal and international environments; and compensation policy and practices.

MGMT 738. Special Focus in Human Resource Management: ____. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MGMT 637 or equivalent, or permission of instructor. Provides broad exposure to theory and research in the field of human resource management. Topics may include staffing, training and development, motivation (i.e., compensation and rewards), HRM metrics, and validity generalization. Topics vary depending upon instructor. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered.

MGMT 743. Organizing Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MGMT 524 or equivalent, or permission of instructor. Surveys the foundations of management theory as well as more recent research and theory on the leadership through which work is organized and directed.

MGMT 745. Advanced Operations Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MGMT 645 or equivalent. Advanced discussion of topics in mathematical programming and network analysis as applied to organizational decision making. Includes network flows, integer, nonlinear, and dynamic programming, and multicriteria optimization. Emphasis on applications and the use of the computer for problem solving.

MGMT 746. Cognitive and Emotional Processes in Organizations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MGMT 524 or equivalent. This course examines organizational life in terms of cognitive and emotional processes at the individual, group, and organizational level. Special attention will be given to how people perceive and evaluate each other.

MGMT 747. Seminar in Human Resources: Macro Foundations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MGMT 737 or equivalent, or permission of instructor. Provides broad exposure to theory and research of how firms can use human resource management practices to enhance individual and organizational performance. Topics include emerging theoretical perspectives related to HRM systems, human capital, contextual factors and other factors that influence the linkages between human resources and performance.

MGMT 749. History of Management Thought. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MGMT 540. Traces the history of management from its beginnings to current approaches and theories.
MGMT 750. Attitudes and Motivation in Organizations. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MGMT 524 or equivalent. Critical examination of classic and emerging research on attitudes and motivation in organizations, as well as their relationships to individual and organizational outcomes.

MGMT 757. Corporate Strategy and Long-range Planning. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MGMT 642 or equivalent. Analysis and evaluation of current methods and research in the areas of corporate strategy and long-range planning.

MGMT 790. Doctoral Seminar. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MGMT 642. Seminar for doctoral candidates will provide students opportunities to develop an understanding of current problems and research in management.

MGMT 798. Dissertation Research in Management. 1-12 Hours. Year course; 1-12 credits. Limited to Ph.D. students.

MGMT 799. Thesis in Management. 3 Hours. Year course; 3 credits. Restricted to students enrolled in the Master of Management program. Emphasizes the social, legal, political and ethical responsibilities of a business to internal and external stakeholders, including investors, employees, the community and the environment.

Management – Master’s (MSTM)

MSTM 601. Survey of Financial and Managerial Accounting. 2 Hours. Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: MGMT 602. Provides an overview of financial and managerial accounting concepts and practices, with emphasis on applications in business and managerial decision-making.

MSTM 602. Fundamentals of Financial Management. 2 Hours. Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Provides an understanding of the fundamental concepts of financial management, including working capital management, capital budgeting, and capital structure planning.

MSTM 603. Essentials of Market Planning and Analysis. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides a foundation in market planning and analysis, including market research, market segmentation, and market analysis techniques.

MSTM 604. Quantitative Methods in Management. 2 Hours. Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Provides a foundation in quantitative methods used in management, including regression and correlation analysis.

MSTM 605. Managing Organizations. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MGMT 604. Examines the fundamental principles of management theory and practice as well as organizational behavior. Provides an understanding of teams, management principles, change and innovation within an organization.

MSTM 606. Introduction to Management Information Systems. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an understanding of the use of information technology and systems in modern business processes, including data analysis, decision-making, and information systems design.

MSTM 607. Production and Operations Management. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an understanding of production and operations management, including planning, organizing, and controlling resources to efficiently and effectively produce goods and services.

MSTM 608. Customer Service Quality Management. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an understanding of customer service quality management, including operations management activities and case analysis.

MSTM 609. Management of Human Capital. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an understanding of the management of human capital, including human resource planning and management.

MSTM 610. Managerial Perspectives in a Global Environment. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an understanding of managerial perspectives in a global environment, including the interconnectivity between business and natural, social and financial environments.

MSTM 620. Managerial Perspectives in a Global Environment. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an understanding of managerial perspectives in a global environment, including the interconnectivity between business and natural, social and financial environments.
MSTM 620. Master of Management Project Course. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to students enrolled in the Master of Management program. Students integrate the knowledge and experience gained from courses in various business fields in order to solve a management problem for a real company. Students use a team approach and work collaboratively to analyze the problem and recommend solutions. Students will also create reports of their work using a variety of media.

Marketing (MKTG)

MKTG 570. Concepts and Issues in Marketing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed for graduate students with little or no undergraduate education in marketing. A study of the philosophy, environment and practice of contemporary marketing. This is a foundation course.

MKTG 656. International Marketing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: MKTG 671. Orientation to the international market place. Formulation of international marketing strategies for firms participating in global trade. Emphasis on international environment, multinational economic blocs, international competition and development of international marketing strategies.

MKTG 657. International Market Planning Project. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: MKTG 656; pre- or corequisite: MKTG 671. This course is a comprehensive real-life, field-based research and strategic planning exercise. A team of graduate business students is matched with a Virginia business that is interested in initiating or expanding export sales. Under the supervision of the instructor, the student team develops an international market plan for the client company. The team functions as an international business consultant to its assigned company.

MKTG 670. Essentials of Market Planning and Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to students enrolled in the Master of Management program. Presents and analyzes buyers and sellers in the marketplace, impact of external forces on marketing, customer-driven strategies and tactics, creation of market-driven competitive advantage, responsible and ethical marketing, Internet and global marketing.

MKTG 671. Marketing Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Detailed study of concepts and procedural alternatives in the delineation of the market target, the development and implementation of the marketing mix, and the control and analysis of the total marketing effort.

MKTG 672. Concepts in Consumer Behavior. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: MKTG 671. A study of the pertinent psychological, sociological and anthropological variables that influence consumer activity and motivation.

MKTG 673. Marketing Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOS 543, SCMA 302, SCMA 524, STAT 541 or STAT 543; pre- or corequisite: MKTG 571. A discussion of the techniques of marketing research. Special emphasis will be given to marketing problem definition, determination of information needs and current methods of analysis of marketing data.

MKTG 674. Service Quality Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: MKTG 301 or MKTG 671. This course enables marketing students to develop a better understanding of service offerings from both a theoretical and practical perspective. Learning will focus on both private and public-sector service organizations. Students will learn how to analyze the design of service offerings, including operations, environment and people, and make recommendations for improving the offerings. The importance of internal and external customer feedback and continually measuring customer satisfaction/dissatisfaction will be highlighted as an integral part of managing service quality.

MKTG 675. Digital Marketing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MKTG 301; pre- or corequisite: MKTG 671. Focuses on the basic digital tools available to marketers. The strategic value of digital marketing to the organization as it relates to the buyer behavior model is explored through lecture, cases, guest speakers and a group project. The group project teams partners with local companies to gain practical experience with digital marketing.

MKTG 676. Marketing Analytics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SCMA 524 or STAT 541. Develops and sharpens students’ analytical and statistical skills in preparation for advanced marketing decision-making. Analyses and statistical techniques covered include descriptive statistics, cross-tabulation, analysis of variance, regression and cluster analysis applied to marketing phenomena.

MKTG 690. Research Seminar in Marketing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Approval of proposed work is required by graduate studies office in the School of Business. This course is designed to provide research experience for candidates not following the MKTG 798-799 program.

MKTG 691. Topics in Marketing. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1, 2 or 3 credits. Study of current topics. Topics may vary from semester to semester.

MKTG 692. Field Project in Marketing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Approval of proposed work is required by graduate studies office in the School of Business. Students will work under the supervision of a faculty adviser in planning and carrying out a practical research project. A written report of the investigations is required. To be taken at the end of the program.

MKTG 693. Guided Study in Marketing. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 1, 2 or 3 credits. Prerequisite: Approval of proposed work is required by graduate studies office in the School of Business. Graduate students wishing to do research on problems in business administration or business education will submit a detailed outline of their problem. They will be assigned reading and will prepare a written report on the problem. To be taken at the end of the program.

MKTG 798. Thesis in Marketing. 6 Hours.
Year course; 6 credits. Graduate students will work under supervision in outlining a graduate thesis and in carrying out the thesis.

MKTG 799. Thesis in Marketing. 6 Hours.
Year course; 6 credits. Graduate students will work under supervision in outlining a graduate thesis and in carrying out the thesis.
Supply Chain Management and Analytics (SCMA)

SCMA 500. Quantitative Foundation for Decision-making. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 141, MATH 151 or SCMA 171. A review of basic algebra with emphasis on differential and integral calculus and their application in solving business problems. These topics also provide the necessary foundation for using and understanding more advanced quantitative procedures. May not be included in the 30 semester credits of advanced work required for any of the master's degrees offered by the School of Business.

SCMA 524. Statistical Fundamentals for Business Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SCMA 171, SCMA 212, SCMA 500 or MATH 200. Develops an ability to interpret and analyze business data in a managerial decision-making context. Applications are stressed in the coverage of descriptive statistics, contingency tables, probability, sampling, correlation, confidence interval estimation, hypothesis testing and regression analysis. Business-oriented computational software will be used for data visualization and analysis. This is a foundation course.

SCMA 530. Fundamentals of the Legal Environment of Business. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The legal environment of business is examined in view of common law principles, statutory provisions and administrative regulations affecting various forms of business organizations and management obligations to the company, its owner and the public. Role of ethics and key commercial law areas are examined including Uniform Commercial Code Provisions.

SCMA 602. Global Supply Chain Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course explores supply, operations and logistics processes and how these processes are integrated with other functions within the firm and across organizations. The objective of this course is to provide students with knowledge of the fundamentals of supply chain management and how those concepts apply to business practice in a global setting.

SCMA 603. SAP ERP and Supply Chain Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course focuses on the concept of enterprise information systems as the application of information technology to support the integration of organizational processes. SAP ERP software applications will focus on the design, plan and control of supply chain management processes. Students will have extensive hands-on activities, assignments and cases using a live SAP ERP system.

SCMA 606. Supply Chain Innovation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Students are introduced to cross-disciplinary principles pertaining to creativity, design, invention and innovation. The focus is learning and applying problem-solving methodologies to address complex, open-ended supply chain problems. Innovation from individual and team perspectives is addressed to hone more comprehensively students' problem-identification, information-gathering, conceptualization, evaluation and selection skills.

SCMA 632. Statistical Analysis and Modeling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOS 543, SCMA 302, SCMA 524, STAT 541 or STAT 543. Statistical analysis and modeling with an applied focus on regression modeling, analysis of variance and data collection planning. Use of business-oriented computational software will be integral to statistical analysis of data.

SCMA 643. Applied Multivariate Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SCMA 524, STAT/BIOS 543 or ECON 501. Study of multivariate statistical methods frequently used in business and analytics problems including principal components, factor analysis, discriminant analysis, MANOVA, logistic regression and cluster analysis. The focus is on applying these techniques through the use of a computer package.

SCMA 645. Management Science. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOS 543, SCMA 301, SCMA 524, STAT 541 or STAT 543. Examines the formulation, analysis and solution of quantitative models for business problems. Problems addressed include the allocation of resources, making decisions and dealing with uncertainty. Applications relevant in diverse business disciplines will be investigated, and the models may include linear programming, simulation and other management science tools. Current computer solution methods will be utilized.

SCMA 646. Legal Foundations of Employment. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SCMA 530 or MGMT 637. Examines the laws concerning human resources in organizations. Equal Employment Opportunity, wage and hours laws, Equal Pay Act, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, the Occupational Safety and Health Act and employee personal rights laws are emphasized.

SCMA 648. Analytics for Organizational Decision-making. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOS 543, SCMA 302, SCMA 524, STAT 541 or STAT 543. Analytical procedures and techniques used by organizations in reaching decisions based on data and application area knowledge. The emphasis is on the application of data-driven decision approaches to solving problems in contemporary organizations using business-oriented computational software.

SCMA 669. Developing and Implementing Forecasting Methods for Business. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOS 543, ECON 501, SCMA 302, SCMA 524, STAT 541 or STAT 543. Forecasting methods and applications appropriate for managerial decision-making. Methods covered include moving average and exponential smoothing, seasonal adjustments, time series, forecast averaging, new-product forecasting, and combining managerial judgment and analytical forecasts. Particular emphasis is placed on developing and implementing forecasting techniques and other analytical tools in an interactive organization and appreciation of issues and caveats associated with each technique. Course includes data acquisition and teamwork along with effective consulting, communication and presentation skills.

SCMA 675. Operations Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOS 543, SCMA 301, SCMA 524, STAT 541 or STAT 543. A systematic investigation of the concepts and issues in designing, operating and controlling productive systems in both manufacturing and services.

SCMA 677. Quality Management and Six Sigma. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOS 543, SCMA 302, SCMA 524, STAT 541 or STAT 543. Concepts of quality management and Six Sigma: quality strategies, organizational quality assessment, Six Sigma process management tools and techniques, process control and improvement tools, the voice of the customer and the voice of the employee.
SCMA 690. Research Seminar in Supply Chain Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Approval of proposed work is required by graduate studies office in the School of Business. This course is designed to provide research experience for candidates pursuing a non-thesis option.

SCMA 691. Topics in Supply Chain Management and Analytics. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Study of current topics. Topics may vary from semester to semester.

SCMA 693. Field Project in Supply Chain Management and Analytics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Approval of proposed work is required by graduate studies office in the School of Business. Graduate students will work under the supervision of a faculty adviser in planning and carrying out a community-engaged research project. A written report of the investigations is required.

SCMA 697. Guided Study in Supply Chain Management. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisite: Approval of proposed work is required by graduate studies office in the School of Business. Graduate students will submit a detailed outline of their research problem. They will be assigned reading and will prepare a written report on the problem. To be taken at the end of the program.

School of Dentistry
Dental Special Topics (DENS)

DENS 503. Introduction to Behavioral Science in Dentistry. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 16 didactic hours. 1 credit. Prerequisite: enrollment within a School of Dentistry degree program. Course consists of online lectures, discussion board activities, assigned readings and interactive activities centering on understanding health disparities and access to care issues as they relate to patient-centered care among diverse populations. Graded as pass/fail.

DENS 513. Foundations of Effective Interpersonal Skills During Patient Interactions I. 1.5 Hour.
Semester course; 1.5 lecture hours. 1.5 credits. Enrollment restricted to students in a School of Dentistry degree program. Course consists of online and face-to-face lectures, skill-building activities, student role-plays and a standardized patient assessment. Students will work both individually and in small groups for discussion and role-plays utilizing foundational motivational interviewing techniques. Graded as Pass/Fail.

DENS 515. Clinical Skills I. 1 Hour.
Semester course. 1 credit. Provides didactic information and practice opportunities to familiarize first-year dental students with patient management and selected clinical skills. The course runs concurrently with courses in periodontics and operative dentistry to provide the basis for initial entry into the dental clinic and patient care.

DENS 516. Clinical Skills II. 3.5 Hours.
4 laboratory and 15 clinical hours. 3.5 credits. Prerequisite: DENS 515. The second in a four-part series of courses designed to prepare dental students for entry into the clinical training environment. Students’ learning experiences include didactic lectures, clinical practice and observation, and simple patient-based interactions and/or procedures performed while assisting more senior dental students. Enrollment is restricted to admitted dental students.

DENS 524. Evidence-based Dentistry and Critical Thinking I. 1 Hour.
1 credit. The fundamentals of evidence-based dentistry will be taught. Students will gain the ability to identify, retrieve and critically appraise dental literature.

DENS 526. Evidence-based Dentistry and Critical Thinking II. 1 Hour.
1 credit. The fundamentals of evidence-based dentistry will be taught. Students will gain the ability to identify, retrieve and critically appraise dental literature.

DENS 550. Update in Practice Administration. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 15 seminar hours. 1 credit. Lectures and seminar discussion on the business aspects of contemporary specialty dental practice, with emphasis on entry into practice, associateship contracts, financing arrangements, risk management and employee relations.

DENS 580. Biostatistics and Research Design in Dentistry. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 30 seminar hours. 2 credits. Must be taken for two consecutive semesters. Provides the advanced education student in dentistry an appreciation for the need for and uses of fundamental biostatistical methods in dental applications. Appropriate research designs for answering research questions of importance in dentistry will be examined. An array of biostatistical methods that are commonly used in the dental literature and by agencies such as the FDA to evaluate new dental products and methodologies are discussed.

DENS 603. Foundations of Effective Interpersonal Skills During Patient Interactions II. 1 Hour.
Yearlong course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: DENS 513. The two-semester course consists of online and face-to-face lectures, skill-building activities, student role-plays and a standardized patient assessment (spring). Students will work both individually and in small groups for discussion and role-plays of cases utilizing foundational motivational interviewing techniques. Students receive CO grading in the fall semester and a Pass/Fail grade upon completion.

DENS 604. Selective Special Topics in Oral Research I. 0.5 Hours.
Semester course; 0.5 lecture hours. 0.5 credits. Open to any dental student with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and in good academic standing. This introductory course will introduce students to the basics of research and innovation. Lectures will provide a framework for students to pose a research question, formulate a methodology and conduct experiments. Assignments will introduce students to analyzing and presenting research. Students will also learn the fundamentals of innovation protection. Graded as pass/fail.

DENS 605. Selective Special Topics in Oral Research II. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: DENS 604 or permission of instructor. Enrollment restricted to dental students with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and in good academic standing. Students will be introduced to writing a fellowship proposal. Lectures and workshops will guide students through the process of applying for an AD Williams fellowship. Students will also begin their independent research. Graded as pass/fail.

DENS 606. Selective Special Topics in Oral Research III. 0.5-2 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours (3 research hours per credit). 0.5-2 credits. May be repeated for a maximum total of 16 credits. Prerequisite: DENS 605 or permission of instructor. Enrollment restricted to dental students with a minimum GPA of 3.0 and in good academic standing. Independent study and individual research experiences will be conducted under the guidance of a research mentor. Graded as pass/fail.

DENS 611. Introduction to Professionalism, Ethics and Ethical Decision-making. 1 Hour.
Semester course. 1 credit. Provides a review of the foundation of ethical principles, concepts of professionalism, professional student behavior and responsibilities, ethical issues guiding dentistry, and the development of an ethical decision-making model.

DENS 619. Evidence-based Dentistry and Critical Thinking II. 1 Hour.
1 credit. The fundamentals of evidence-based dentistry will be taught. Students will gain the ability to identify, retrieve and critically appraise dental literature.
DENS 621. Dental Occlusion. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 3 laboratory hours. 1.0 credit lecture with 1.0 credit laboratory. Consists of lectures and laboratory components which expand on the basic concepts that were presented in the fundamentals of occlusion course. Focuses on the examination, diagnosis and treatment planning of various occlusal problems. The student will learn the skills needed to analyze the dental occlusion of patients and to plan successful occlusal therapy, including restorative procedures and fixed prosthetics.

DENS 623. Clinical Skills IV. 7 Hours.
Semester course; lecture and clinic contact hours. 7 credits. Fourth in the clinical skills series, this course is designed to develop students’ familiarity with and confidence in the clinical setting prior to beginning clinical care of their own patient pool. Students will have the opportunity to assist more senior students within their practice group and to perform simple operative procedures.

DENS 625. Clinical Skills III. 5 Hours.
Semester course; lecture and clinic contact hours. 5 credits. Designed to evaluate the student’s ability to perform specific clinical skills and to provide a variety of experiences to prepare for entry to the school’s student clinical practice. Case-based, problem-oriented histories will provide the foundation for development of phased treatment plans and a series of mannequin exercises. Students will have simulated and patient-based experiences during assigned rotations in the school’s patient care clinics. Experiences are provided to enhance the student’s communication skills as an oral health professional functioning as a component of a health care team. Rotations are coordinated with the spring clinical skills IV course.

DENS 628. Evidence-based Patient Care I. 1 Hour.
1 credit. Students will learn to apply the fundamentals of evidence-based dentistry to practical application in patient care.

DENS 630. Orthodontic-Periodontic-AEGD Conference. 0.5 Hours.
Semester course; 8 seminar hours. 1 credit. Must be taken every semester of the program. Discusses treatment planning and analysis of patients requiring combined orthodontic, periodontic and restorative care. Presents topics of interest to orthodontists, periodontists and general dentists. Graded S/U/F.

DENS 642. Fundamentals of Treatment Planning. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Open only to second-year D.D.S. students. Designed to build upon the student’s prior exposure to discipline-based treatment planning concepts. Students will develop an integrated, multidisciplinary approach to urgent and oral disease control phase patient treatment planning. The course will also cover the use of information technology applications to document treatment plans and strategies for effectively communicating treatment plans to patients. Graded P/F.

DENS 645. Preclinical General Practice Dentistry Lab. 5 Hours.
Semester course; 200 laboratory hours. 5 credits. Admission into VCU International Dentist Program required. Designed to prepare and transition a class of internationally trained dentists into the third year of dental school at VCU. All aspects of preclinical dentistry will be covered in this basic preparatory laboratory course. Graded P/F.

DENS 653. Clinical General Practice Dentistry Lecture. 6 Hours.
Semester course; 96 lecture hours. 6 credits. Admission into VCU International Dentist Program required. Comprises clinical experiences prior to the third year of professional study. This course is designed to enhance the student’s clinical experience in patient management, treatment planning, utilization of dental auxiliaries, consultation with other health care professionals and referral to appropriate dental specialists. Specialty subjects and techniques will be combined to form a general dentistry model for patient care. Guidance from faculty will encourage the student to synthesize and integrate materials, methods and techniques from previous courses into a logical and systematic approach to the delivery of oral health care. Small-group seminars will be provided to enhance the student’s transition to dental health care at VCU. Graded P/F.

DENS 655. Preclinical General Practice Dentistry for Internationally Trained Dentists. 6 Hours.
Yearlong course; 6 lecture hours. 6 credits. Designed to support the integration of a class of internationally trained dentists into the second year at the VCU School of Dentistry, this course addresses special topics of concern for this cohort. The course will cover core didactic material and laboratory activities and will strengthen areas that have been previously identified as opportunities for growth in this student population. Students receive CO grading in the fall and a pass or fail grade and earned credit in the spring.

DENS 656. Interdisciplinary Care Conference. 0.5 Hours.
Continuing course; 7 hours. 1 credit. Must be taken every year of the program. Provides a forum for formal presentation and group discussion of the diagnosis, treatment planning, delivery and prognosis of interdisciplinary dental care. Designed for continuing enrollment for two academic semesters; graded CO in the fall and a final grade of Pass or Fail in the spring.

Semester course; 18-36 seminar hours. 1-2 credits. Must be taken every semester of the program. The graduate student selects a research project topic, conducts the necessary background literature review, develops a protocol, obtains the necessary materials, instruments and human/animal use approvals as necessary, collects and analyzes the data, presents the findings in the form of a master’s thesis, and prepares a manuscript for publication.

DENS 700. Basic Sciences and Graduate Dentistry. 3 Hours.
First year; spring course; 45 hours. 3 credits. Advanced level survey of topic areas related to the principles and practices of dentistry including: oral pathology, biochemistry and physiology, infection and immunity, pharmacology, biomaterials and genetics.
DENS 701. Remediation in Dentistry. 1-7 Hours.
Semester course; variable contact hours. Variable credits. This course is not part of the core D.D.S. curriculum. Students who must remediate a course for any reason, will be enrolled in this course during their remediation period and credit hours will be assigned consistent with the course being remediated. A grade of pass/fail will be assigned at the completion of the remediation period.

DENS 702. Dental Clinics. 1-12 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours, clinical contact. 1-12 credits. May be repeated for credits. Restricted to students enrolled in D.D.S. program. This course is designed for students who need to remediate clinical experiences, make up clinical experiences or are off cycle with clinical work for any other reason. Credit hours, learning objectives and exact expectations/responsibilities will be identified in an individualized education plan for each student as determined by the school’s deans for clinical education and academic affairs. Graded pass/fail.

DENS 703. Advanced Interpersonal Communications I. 1 Hour.
Yearlong course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Enrollment restricted to students in a School of Dentistry degree program. This is a two-semester course which introduces third-year dental students to goal setting/ change plans and advanced motivational interviewing techniques. The course consists of online and face-to-face lectures, skill-building activities, student role-plays and a patient assessment (spring). Students receive CO grading in the fall semester and a Pass/Fail grade upon completion.

DENS 704. Academic Dental Career Exploration Elective. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 3 laboratory hours. 1 credit. Exact contact hours will vary by student and their self-designed learning plan. Enrollment restricted to students in the D.D.S. program with permission of the course director. This is an elective course for D2, D3 or D4 dental students who are interested in learning more about academic dental teaching and/or research careers. The course matches each student with a faculty mentor who provides insight into the day-to-day life of an educator or researcher. This elective is modeled on the ADEA Academic Dental Careers Fellowship Program. Graded as Pass/Fail.

DENS 713. Advanced Interpersonal Communications II. 1 Hour.
Yearlong course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Enrollment restricted to students in a School of Dentistry degree program. This is a two-semester course for fourth-year dental students to integrate behavioral science content, advanced motivational interviewing techniques and emotional intelligence skills into professional practice. The course consists of online and face-to-face lectures, skill-building activities, student role-plays and a patient assessment (fall). Students receive CO grading in the fall semester and a Pass/Fail grade upon completion.

DENS 730. Dental Practice Management III. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 credit. The third in a series of four courses required over the duration of the four-year DDS curriculum. The series will prepare the dental graduate for making decisions about the type of practice to pursue, planning to establish or purchase a practice and, ultimately, managing it once in operation. Topics covered are those appropriate to the third-year dental student and may include, but are not limited to, marketing a practice, selecting the right location, ergonomics and managing the dental office. Graded as P/F.

DENS 735. Patient Management and Professional Conduct. 2.5 Hours.
Semester course; clinical contact hours. 2.5 credits. May be repeated for credit. Designed for third-year dental students to understand and practice the concepts of ethical conduct, patient management, risk management and professional responsibility. This course is based upon the application of the VCU School of Dentistry Code of Professional Conduct, the ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct, and the School of Dentistry's Patient Bill of Rights in the clinical setting and is designed to help the dental student strive to do what is right for their patients, now and into the future.

DENS 740. Dental Practice Management IV. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 credit. The fourth in a series of four courses required over the duration of the four-year DDS curriculum. The series will prepare the dental graduate for making decisions about the type of practice to pursue, planning to establish or purchase a practice and, ultimately, managing it once in operation. Topics covered are those appropriate to the senior dental student and may include, but are not limited to, writing a business plan and understanding the current economy and its impact on dental practice. Graded as P/F.

DENS 745. Patient Management and Professional Conduct. 2.5 Hours.
Semester course; clinical contact hours. 2.5 credits. May be repeated for credit. Designed for fourth-year dental students to understand and practice the concepts of ethical conduct, patient management, risk management and professional responsibility. This course is based upon the application of the VCU School of Dentistry Code of Professional Conduct, the ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct, and the School of Dentistry's Patient Bill of Rights in the clinical setting and is designed to help the dental student strive to do what is right for their patients, now and into the future.

DENS 752. Clinical General Practice Dentistry. 14.5 Hours.
Yearlong course; 7-8 clinic sessions per week. 14.5 credits. Enrollment restricted to fourth-year dental students. Course encompasses all clinical patient care instruction within the School of Dentistry group practices. This course is designed to enhance the student’s clinical experience in patient management, treatment planning, utilization of dental auxiliaries, consultation with other health care professionals and referral to appropriate dental specialists.

DENS 762. Clinical Service-learning. 6 Hours.
Yearlong course; 50 clinical sessions. 6 credits. A course-based, credit-bearing educational experience in which students participate in an organized service activity that meets community-identified needs. During the course, students are assigned rotations in clinical practice settings in underserved areas. In these settings, students are exposed to patients of varied ethnic, socioeconomic and demographic backgrounds, as well as special patient populations not typically encountered in the School of Dentistry clinics. Students have the opportunity to make oral health care more accessible to marginalized groups while continuing clinical education. Throughout this unique learning experience students are exposed to the benefits of potential practice in public health dentistry. Students will reflect on the service activity to increase understanding and application of course content and to enhance a sense of civic responsibility. Course graded as CO with no credit for fall semester; P/F and credit assigned for spring semester.
DENS 780. Functional Occlusion: From TMJ to Smile Design Selective. 1.5 Hour.
Yearlong course; 1 lecture and 1 laboratory hour. 1.5 credits. Enrollment restricted to selected D4 dental students and AEGD residents. The course consists of lectures and clinic/laboratory components, which expand on the basic concepts that were presented in core D.D.S. curriculum. Students receive CO grading in the fall and Pass/Fail grade and earned credit in the spring.

DENS 790. Selective: Applications of 3D Printing in Dentistry. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture and .5 clinic hours. 1 credit. Enrollment restricted to students admitted to D.D.S. program and selected by course faculty. The course has three components: 1) an online self-learning module on basic principles of 3D printing and its applications in biological science and health science, as well as principle and workflow for implant-guided surgery, 2) a workshop on implant treatment planning using commercially available software and 3D printing of models and surgical guide and 3) a patient-based observation experience in implant-guided surgery. The course is designed for students to use the most up-to-date digital technology to diagnose and treat real clinical cases. Graded as Pass/Fail.

Endodontics (ENDO)

ENDO 522. Introduction: Specialty of Endodontics. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 96 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Restricted to first-year students. Utilizes laboratory exercises to review basic concepts and introduce the more complex technical procedures required to practice the clinical specialty of endodontics.

ENDO 530. Advanced Oral Pathology. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 13 seminar hours. 1 credit. Provides through a series of seminars, an in-depth knowledge of those specific areas of oral pathology that apply to endodontics.

ENDO 532. Management of Medical Emergencies in the Dental Office. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 20 seminar hours. 1 credit. Provides through a series of seminars, an in-depth level of knowledge in the management of medical emergencies in the dental office.

ENDO 560. Endodontic Therapy Lectures. 3.5 Hours.
Semester course; 58 lecture hours. 3.5 credits. Restricted to first-year students. Presents a series of lectures on clinical endodontic topics in order to familiarize the students with clinical endodontic procedures either in conjunction with or prior to the "Endodontic Topic Literature Reviews" on these specific clinical topics.

ENDO 622. Principles of Endodontics. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Covers the basic principles of endodontics in preparation for clinical endodontics.

ENDO 623. Principles of Endodontics Lab. 1.5 Hour.
Semester course; 4 laboratory hours. 1.5 credits. This lab course teaches the basic technical skills of endodontics in preparation for clinical endodontics.

ENDO 650. Endodontic Topic Literature Review. 3.5 Hours.
Semester course; 58 seminar hours. 3.5 credits. May be repeated for credit. Must be taken every semester of the program. Reviews topic literature pertaining to the scientific basis for endodontic procedures and the materials and techniques utilized in the clinical practice of endodontics. Discusses content of the reviewed literature and critically evaluates by means of abstracts and study questions.

ENDO 652. Endodontic Clinical Seminars. 1.5 Hour.
Semester course; 28 seminar hours. 1.5 credits. May be repeated for credit. Must be taken every semester of the program. Requires students to present a seminar once each month in which difficult diagnostic cases, patient management problems and complex treatment cases are critiqued and treatment options discussed.

ENDO 654. Endodontic Management of the Medically Compromised Patient. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 14 seminar hours. 1 credit. Must be taken for two consecutive semesters. Provides students, through a seminar series, with an in-depth level of knowledge in the endodontic management of the medically compromised patient.

ENDO 656. Endodontic Current Literature Review. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 18 seminar hours. 1 credit. Must be taken every semester of the program. Provides a review of current journal literature that pertains to the scientific basis for endodontic procedures, materials and techniques currently being used in the clinical practice of endodontics. Discusses and critically evaluates the content of the reviewed literature. Requires written abstracts of all reviewed articles.

ENDO 680. Clinical Endodontics. 1-5 Hours.
Semester course; 153 clinical sessions. Variable for 1-5 credits. Must be taking both fall and spring of the first and second years of the program for 5 credits each semester. May be taken in additional semesters as needed to complete clinical training; credit will vary based on circumstances. Permits students to receive supervised training in every type of clinical endodontic procedure. Provides students with experience in the management and treatment of cases which are the same types of complex non-surgical and surgical cases treated in a specialty practice of endodontics.

ENDO 700. Senior Selective in Advanced Clinical Endodontics. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 4 clinical hours per week. 1 credit. Prerequisites: successful completion of ENDO 622 (sections .01 and .02), ENDO 731, ENDO 739 and permission of the course director. This clinical course is designed to develop advanced skills in treating endodontic cases beyond the scope of those expected in basic clinical competency of a dental student.

ENDO 731. Endodontic Therapy. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture contact hour. 1 credit. An application course designed for the student to gain experience and demonstrate proficiency in the application of clinical endodontic knowledge to the diagnosis and management of complex clinical endodontic problems. Emphasis is placed on differential diagnosis and management of clinical endodontic problems. This course builds on the principles of diagnosis and treatment of disease of the pulp and periradicular tissues and injuries of the dental pulp. This course continues to place emphasis on the prevention of disease and maintenance of the normal pulpodentin complex.

ENDO 739. Clinical Endodontics III. 1.5 Hour.
Yearlong clinical course. 1.5 credits. Designed to develop clinical skills and provide experience in the diagnosis, treatment planning, treatment, prognosis, follow-up care and clinical patient management in cases involving the pulp and periradicular tissues. Emphasis is placed on the management of common clinical problems that may be encountered in the general practice of dentistry. This course emphasizes and elaborates on the rationale and treatment techniques presented in the D-2 didactic and laboratory course.
**OCMB 704. Oral Biology Seminar Series. 1 Hour.**
Semester course; 1 seminar hour. 1 credit. Restricted to students enrolled in the oral health research graduate program or by permission of the instructor. This course will consist of a series of seminars by invited speakers addressing research topics in selected areas of oral health research and a series of student-led journal clubs. Graded P/F.

**OCMB 705. Oral Biology Oral Biology Directed Research. 1-15 Hours.**
Semester course; 1-15 laboratory research hours. 1-15 credits. Restricted to students enrolled in the oral health research graduate program or by permission of the instructor. This course will provide practical laboratory experience in participating laboratories. Graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory/Fail.

**OCMB 706. Proposal Preparation. 1 Hour.**
Semester course; tutorials and lectures. 1 credit. Restricted to students enrolled in the oral biology graduate program or by permission of the instructor. This course will provide students with the opportunity to draft an NIH application. Graded P/F.

**OCMB 707. Research Skills and Career Development. 1 Hour.**
Semester course; tutorials and workshops. 1 credit. Restricted to students enrolled in the oral health research graduate program or by permission of the instructor. This course will provide students with the opportunity to develop skills required to conduct and communicate their research, including assessing literature and managing databases, poster and oral presentations, finding research funding, preparing for writing the thesis, and exploring career opportunities outside academia. Students receive CO grading throughout enrollment with a pass/fail grade and credit earned during the final semester.

**Orthodontics (ORTH)**

**ORTH 532. Biomechanics: Theoretical Basis for Tooth Movement. 1 Hour.**
Semester course; 15 lecture/seminar hours. 1 credit. Introduces physical science of mechanics and engineering statics as applied to orthodontic force systems. Emphasizes equilibrium and the biological manifestation of force systems applied to the dentition and craniofacial skeleton.

**ORTH 620. Orthodontic Clinic for Non-orthodontic Graduate Students. 1 Hour.**
Semester course; 30 clinical sessions. 1 credit. Must be taken every semester of the program. Allows residents to diagnose and treat limited orthodontic problems with special emphasis on the primary and mixed dentitions. Includes, but is not limited to, anterior and posterior crossbites, space and tooth loss, transient or definitive crowding and tooth irregularities, oral habits, ectopic and other tooth eruption problems.

**ORTH 623. Orthodontics Lecture. 2 Hours.**
Semester course; 2 lecture contact hours. 2 credits. An introduction to orthodontics meant to provide second-year dental students with a basic understanding of the diagnosis and treatment of orthodontic problems. The emphasis will be on understanding basic, universally applicable orthodontic concepts rather than on learning specific details relating to particular treatment mechanisms or appliances. This is consistent with current trends in the specialty, which recognize that orthodontic solutions are often attainable by many routes, with a common goal of maximizing the functional, esthetic and stable end result. There will be an overview of growth and development, emphasizing how favorable or unfavorable growth may influence orthodontic diagnosis and treatment. A detailed description of the development of occlusion will also be presented with an emphasis on recognizing and diagnosing abnormalities related to tooth eruption and craniofacial growth.

**ORTH 650. Literature Review. 2 Hours.**
Semester course; 30 seminar hours. 2 credits. Must be taken every semester of the program. Reviews classical articles in areas of special orthodontic interest. Establishes the state-of-the-art and existing information base. Gives special attention to research methodology and conclusions reached.

**ORTH 652. Growth and Development. 2 Hours.**
Semester course; 30 lecture/seminar hours. 2 credits. Must be taken every semester of the program. Discusses the increases in size and complexity that occur in the craniofacial region including variations in proportionality and related variations in facial form and dental occlusion. Provides special emphasis on compensations in skeletal and soft tissue structures. Examines the basis for prediction of change.

**ORTH 654. Orthodontic Diagnosis and Treatment Planning. 2 Hours.**
Semester course; 30 seminar hours. 2 credits. Must be taken every semester of the program. Considers and discusses available and theoretical options for clinical management of variations in facial form and dental occlusion.
ORTH 656. Current Literature. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 30 seminar hours. 2 credits. Must be taken every semester of the program. Presents in a journal-club-format evaluation of current information in orthodontics and related disciplines. Includes special emphasis on research methodology and the contributions of current research to advances in orthodontics.

ORTH 658. Analysis of Orthodontic Treatment. 1.5 Hour.
Semester course; 22.5 seminar hours. 1.5 credits. Must be taken every semester of the program. Analyzes cephalometric and other objective measures of the outcomes of orthodontic therapy. Reviews treatment objectives with respect to actual changes effected in patients. Delineates changes resulting from therapy from normal variations in craniofacial development.

ORTH 660. Orthognathic Conference. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 15 seminar hours. 1 credit. Must be taken every semester of the program. Presents patients requiring coordinated orthodontic and oral surgery care. Emphasizes long- and short-term biologic stability of alterations in the structure and function of the craniofacial skeleton with increased emphasis on facial form and dental occlusion.

ORTH 662. Craniofacial Anomalies. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 15 lecture/seminar hours. 1 credit. Must be taken every semester of the program. Discusses the etiology and embryologic basis of congenital and acquired deformities in the craniofacial structures. Emphasizes syndromes with craniofacial manifestations and the diagnosis and treatment planning for patients with facial clefts.

ORTH 680. Orthodontic Clinic. 1-6.5 Hours.
Semester course; 195 clinic sessions. Variable for 1-6.5 credits. Must be taking both fall and spring of the first and second years of the program for 6.5 credits each semester. May be taken in additional semesters as needed to complete clinical training; credit will vary based on circumstances. Involves supervised experiences in treatment of the complete spectrum of normally occurring orthodontic problems in an environment simulating private practice. Graded P/F.

ORTH 700. Senior Selective in Orthodontics. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 clinical and 1 seminar hours per week. 4 credits. prerequisites: successful completion of ORTH 623, ORTH 733, ORTH 739 and permission of the course director. A clinical and didactic course designed for students who wish to gain advanced knowledge of orthodontics in an environment simulating a practice setting. The course will include participation in seminars, clinical activities and hospital rotations for craniofacial patients. The course will extend over the fall and spring semesters and will provide an excellent preparation for students entering the private practice of dentistry or students seeking graduate education in the field of orthodontics. A maximum of four students will be chosen to participate in this selective each year. Graded CO for the fall semester and P/F for the spring.

ORTH 733. Orthodontic Therapy. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture contact hour. 1 credit. Consists of didactic lectures, a continuation of ORTH 623.

Pediatric Dentistry (PEDD)

PEDD 511. General Anesthesia Rotation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 40 clinical sessions. 3 credits. Teaches general anesthesia with special emphasis in pediatrics. Allows students to become knowledgeable in pre-operative evaluation, risk assessment, assessing the effects of pharmacologic agents, venipuncture techniques, airway management, general anesthetic induction and intubation, administration of anesthetic agents, patient monitoring, prevention and management of anesthetic emergencies, recovery room management, postoperative appraisal and follow-up.

PEDD 512. Growth and Development. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 16 lecture/seminar hours. 1 credit. Lecture format provides foundational knowledge on the growth and development of the head and neck to include oral embryology and development of the dentition.

PEDD 514. Introduction to Pediatric Dentistry. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 30 lecture hours. 2 credits. Introduces material in pediatric dentistry. Involves didactic, clinical and laboratory portions.

PEDD 572. Pediatric Dental Emergency Service. 2.5 Hours.
Semester course; 30 clinical sessions. 2.5 credits. Must be taken for two consecutive semesters. Graduate students are scheduled for emergency services on a weekly basis. Offers experience in the assessment and management of orofacial trauma, dental pain and infections.

PEDD 612. Seminar Series: Pediatric Dentistry and Medicine. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 30 lecture/seminar hours. 2 credits. Must be taken every semester of the program. Provides an arena for students to present seminars in either a clinical area or medical conditions of interest to pediatric dentists. Gives students practical experience in giving formal presentations and provides him/her with information related to clinical subject area(s) with medical conditions about which pediatric dentists should be knowledgeable.

PEDD 620. Pediatric Medicine Rotation. 1.5 Hour.
Semester course; 40 clinical sessions. 1.5 credits. Requires students to obtain and evaluate medical histories, perform physical examinations, select laboratory tests and evaluation of data, assess the effects of pharmacologic agents, venipuncture techniques, airway management, general anesthetic induction and intubation, administration of anesthetic agents, patient monitoring, prevention and management of anesthetic emergencies, recovery room management, postoperative appraisal and follow-up.

PEDD 640. Clinical Teaching. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 25 clinical sessions. 2 credits. May be repeated for credit. Must be taken every semester of the program. Lectures and clinical instruction involving contact with third and fourth-year dental students. Provides teaching experience in diagnosis and treatment planning, restorative preparations and management of children's behavior.

PEDD 650. Literature Review. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 30 lecture/seminar hours. 2 credits. Must be taken every semester of the program. Reviews literature related to all aspects of the pediatric patient. Emphasizes the ability students to discuss the content of the articles and to critically evaluate it. Stresses the integration of new material with previously discussed literature and collateral material. Uses the reading list from the American Board of Pediatric Dentistry.
PEDD 654. Treatment Planning Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 16 lecture/seminar hours. 1 credit. May be repeated for a total of four credits. Must be taken every semester of the program. Provides diagnosis and treatment planning of the child, adolescent and special patient. Follows up on records on completed cases, which also are presented and evaluated. Discusses the techniques employed and the justification of the treatment.

PEDD 656. Current Literature Review. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 16 lecture/seminar hours. 1 credit. May be repeated for credit. Discusses articles from recent publications relating to all aspects of pediatric dentistry. Covers and critically reviews the Policies and Guidelines of the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

PEDD 680. Pediatric Dental Clinic. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 120 clinical sessions. Variable for 1-4 credits. Must be taking both fall and spring of the first and second years of the program for 4 credits each semester. May be taken in additional semesters as needed to complete clinical training; credit will vary based on circumstances. Provides for the clinical management of pediatric dental patients. Provides experiences in the treatment of infants, preschool children, adolescent and special patients. Stresses pharmacological and non-pharmacological techniques and behavior management.

PEDD 700. Senior Selective in Pediatric Dentistry. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 4 clinical hours per week. 1 credit. Prerequisites: successful completion of PEDD 611 and PEDD 733 and permission of the course director. This is a clinical course that provides students with more advanced experiences and techniques in pediatric dentistry.

PEDD 701. Selective in Special Care Dentistry. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 4 clinical hours/week. 1 credit. Prerequisites: D4 standing and selection by course faculty. This course is designed to give the interested student clinical exposure to the comprehensive dental care of individuals who have special health care needs. Graded as pass/fail.

PEDD 730. Special Care Dentistry. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Enrollment restricted to dental students with D3 standing. This course is designed to enhance the dental student’s understanding of the complexities of providing care for individuals with special health care needs.

PEDD 733. Advanced Pediatric Dentistry. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture contact hour. 1 credit. Designed to supplement and reinforce the student’s knowledge of diagnosis, treatment planning and basic skills for management of the pediatric dental patient. This includes a review of basic pediatric clinical procedures and introduction to the treatment of pediatric patients with special needs.

PEDD 739. Clinical Pediatric Dentistry III. 1 Hour.
Yearlong course; 48 clinical hours. 1 credit. Clinical rotation course designed to introduce the student to the basics of clinical pediatric dentistry and to prepare the student for PEDD 749. Students receive CO grading in the fall semester and a letter grade upon completion.

PEDD 749. Clinical Pediatric Dentistry IV. 0.5 Hours.
Semester course; 29 clinical hours. 0.5 credits. Prerequisites: successful completion of all prior courses in pediatric dentistry and D4 class standing. This course is offered as a one-week clinical rotation during the senior year of the dental curriculum. Students will build upon and refine the skills developed during the D3 clinical experience. Pediatric dentistry is a unique experience because of the young patient population and psychological skills are centrally important to delivering patient care. The course has a strong emphasis on developing behavioral, communication and patient-management skills.

Periodontics (PERI)

PERI 508. Physical Diagnosis. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 30 lecture hours. 2 credits. Provides lectures and hands on experience in physical diagnosis, history taking, general physical examination and review of major organ systems.

PERI 511. Anesthesiology Rotation. 1.5 Hour.
Semester course; 45 clinical sessions. 1.5 credits. Provides students with experience in general anesthesia under the direction of the dental anesthesiologist. Emphasizes operating room procedures, airway management, intravenous technique, anesthetics and resuscitative procedures. Includes clinical management of conscious sedation cases.

PERI 512. Conscious Sedation. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 30 lecture/seminar hours. 2 credits. Reviews concepts of parental conscious sedation techniques to include anatomy and physiology of the respiratory, cardiovascular and central nervous system, drug pharmacology, intravenous technique, prevention, recognition and management of complications, management of emergencies, physiologic monitoring and equipment, basic life support and advanced cardiac life support.

PERI 514. Introduction to Periodontics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 45 clinical sessions. 3 credits. Provides students with an introduction to the clinical practice of periodontics. Emphasizes diagnosis, etiology, prognosis, treatment planning, initial therapy, therapeutic approaches, suturing techniques, oral hygiene and dental photography.

PERI 515. Internal Medicine Rotation. 1.5 Hour.
Semester course; 45 clinic sessions. 1.5 credits. Provides students with experience in internal medicine under the direct supervision of the Department of Internal Medicine. Emphasizes hospital procedures and management of the medically-compromised patient.

PERI 520. Principles of Periodontics. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 30 lecture/seminar hours. 2 credits. Must be taken for two consecutive semesters. Reviews the principles of the basic science of periodontology, including anatomy of the periodontium, classification, etiology, diagnosis, scaling and root planning, and treatment planning. Reviews the indications and contraindications for management of complex periodontal problems. Reviews the principles of non-surgical and surgical techniques.

PERI 525. Diagnosis of Periodontal Diseases. 1 Hour.
The first in a four-part series of didactic courses designed to prepare the dental student for the clinical diagnosis and management of periodontal diseases. Through this course, students will develop a fundamental understanding of how to assess patients for periodontal disease and how to develop a specific diagnosis. Enrollment is restricted to admitted dental students.

PERI 526. Etiology and Pathogenesis of Periodontal Diseases. 1.5 Hour.
1.5 credits. The second in a four-part series of didactic courses designed to prepare the dental student for the clinical diagnosis and management of periodontal diseases. Through this course, students will build upon their knowledge of diagnosis and develop their understanding of the causes, mechanisms and development of periodontal disease. Enrollment is restricted to admitted dental students.
PERI 552. Implantology. 1,2 Hour.
Semester course; 16 lecture/seminar hours. 1 credit. Covers the historical review of dental implants, including biologic principles, techniques and systems; diagnosis, interdisciplinary considerations, treatment planning and indications and contraindications for implants; wound healing for implants, including osseointegration, surgical techniques and implant maintenance. Provides a hands-on technique laboratory.

PERI 619. Clinical Pathology Rotation. 0.5 Hours.
Semester course; 21 clinic sessions. 0.5 credit. Provides instruction in patient assessment, biopsy technique, assessment of tissue preparations and review of oral histologic slide materials.

PERI 627. Non-Surgical Periodontal Therapy. 1.5 Hour.
The third in a four-part series of didactic courses designed to prepare the dental student for the clinical diagnosis and management of periodontal diseases. Through this course, students will add to their skill set a conceptual knowledge of non-surgical treatment options for periodontal disease. Enrollment is restricted to admitted dental students.

PERI 630. Medicine: Oral Medicine Seminar. 1.5 Hour.
Semester course; 26 seminar hours. 1.5 credits May be repeated for credit. Must be taken every semester of the program. Emphasizes diagnosis, pathogenesis, oral manifestations and management of systemic diseases. Reviews the management of the medically-compromised patient, including laboratory procedures, pharmacology, hematology and reviews of the cardiovascular, respiratory, endocrine and neurologic systems. Discusses and critically evaluates medical and oral medicine topics relative to management of the periodontal patient.

PERI 650. Periodontal Literature Review. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 48 seminar hours. 3 credits. Must be taken every semester of the program. Reviews the periodontal literature from early classic articles to current publications pertaining to the scientific basis for periodontal procedures. Reviews the concepts of diagnosis, etiology, epidemiology, pathogenesis, therapy, maintenance of periodontal diseases and implantology. Discusses content of the literature by means of abstracts and study questions.

PERI 654. Treatment Plan: Case Presentations. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 12 seminar hours. 1 credit. Must be taken every semester of the program. Emphasizes the interpretation the medical and dental histories, radiographic and clinical findings, diagnosis, etiology, prognosis, treatment planning, therapy and supportive periodontal care. Discusses the content of reviewed cases by written and oral presentations. Requires the student to assimilate and interpret clinical findings.

PERI 656. Current Literature Review. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 36 seminar hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit. Must be taken every semester of the program. Provides an in-depth review of contemporary periodontal literature. Discusses content of the reviewed literature by means of abstracts and discussion.

PERI 680. Clinical Periodontics. 1-5 Hours.
Semester course; 160 clinic sessions. Variable for 1-5 credits. Must be taking both fall and spring of the first, second and third years of the program for 5 credits each semester. May be taken in additional semesters as needed to complete clinical training; credit will vary based on circumstances. Provides supervised training in periodontics. Provides the student with the experience in the treatment and management of patients with various types and severities of periodontal diseases. Emphasizes diagnosis, treatment planning, prognosis, scaling and root planning, non-surgical and surgical techniques. Provides experience in the treatment of advanced periodontal cases and more complex surgical techniques including preprosthetic, orthodontic, periodontal plastic and mucogingival procedures, guided tissue regeneration, guided bone regeneration and implant surgical techniques. Graded P/F.

PERI 700. Advanced Periodontal Selective. 1.5 Hour.
Yearlong course; 15 seminar and 25 clinical hours. 1.5 credits. Prerequisites: successful completion of all prior courses in periodontics and permission of the course director. This course is offered to dental students who demonstrate high academic achievement and are interested in expanding their practical knowledge and experience in periodontal surgical procedures. It is designed to enhance the general dentist’s knowledge regarding indications, diagnosis and treatment planning of periodontal surgical procedures and to provide hands-on experience in applying techniques of surgical periodontal procedures suitable for judicious use in general dental practice. Students receive CO grading in the fall and a pass or fail grade and earned credit in the spring.

PERI 719. Specialty Practice Management. 0.5 Hours.
Semester course; 22 seminar hours. 0.5 credit. Must be taken for two consecutive semesters. Provides the student with experience in office management. Requires visits to specialty offices to familiarize the student with contemporary modes of practice administration and patient management.

PERI 733. Surgical Periodontal Therapy. 1 Hour.
1 credit. The fourth in a four-part series of didactic courses designed to prepare the dental student for the clinical diagnosis and management of periodontal diseases. Through this course, students will complete their didactic exploration of periodontal diseases with a conceptual knowledge of surgical treatment options for periodontal diseases. Enrollment is restricted to admitted dental students.

PERI 739. Clinical Periodontics III. 5 Hours.
Yearlong course; clinical contact hours. 5 credits. The primary objective of the department is to provide an educational experience that will enable the dental student to meet the periodontal needs of present and future patients. These objectives necessitate student awareness of the biology of the periodontium and pathology of gingival and periodontal diseases; the ability to examine, diagnose and develop a treatment plan for the patient with significant periodontal disease; and an understanding of the implications of periodontal diagnosis and treatment on the oral and general health of the patient. The student should also be competent in plaque control, scaling, root planing and other procedures ordinarily included in presurgical phases of therapy. The student should be familiar with the entire scope of periodontal therapy, understanding the rationale and indications for surgical treatment and anticipated results.

PERI 749. Clinical Periodontics IV. 1 Hour.
Yearlong course; 1 clinic session per week. 1 credit. This final clinical course in periodontics provides competency assessment of the dental student as an entry-level dentist in the diagnosis and management of patients with periodontal diseases. Students receive CO grading in the fall and a pass or fail grade and earned credit in the spring.
School of Education
Administration and Supervision (ADMS)

ADMS 500. Workshops in Education. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits, repeatable for maximum of six credits. Designed to focus on a single topic within a curriculum area, the workshop offers graduate students exposure to new information strategies and materials in the context of a flexible instructional framework. Activities emphasize a hands-on approach with direct application to the educational setting.

ADMS 600. Public School Administration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An overview of the theory and practice of public school administration. Emphasis on the governance of education and leadership roles of school boards, superintendents, principals and supervisors. Leadership theories and characteristics of effective management systems related to student discipline and academic performance, school safety, internal and external communications, and coordination with outside agencies. Appropriate field-based project relating theory to practice will be required.

ADMS 601. Processes of Instructional Leadership. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines processes of instructional leadership in schools. Primary focus on developing school leadership skills necessary to provide a positive working environment through collaboration and team-building, as well as professional opportunities including supervision and evaluation of instruction. Focus will be on best practices that lead to school cultures that build communities of learning. Appropriate field-based project relating theory to practice will be required.

ADMS 602. Seminar in Elementary School Administration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Problems and issues in elementary school leadership. Major responsibilities of the elementary school principal. Enrollment limited to specialists in administration.

ADMS 603. Seminar in Secondary School Administration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Problems and issues in secondary school leadership. Major responsibilities of the secondary school principal. Enrollment limited to specialists in administration.

ADMS 605. Organizational Theory, Structure and Culture in Educational Settings. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of organizational theory, structure and culture relating to schools. Emphasis on conceptual understandings needed for practical implementation.

ADMS 606. Organizational Behavior and Change in Educational Settings. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of organizational concepts and practices in educational contexts. Emphasis on both conceptual understandings and specific professional skills relating to diagnosis and development.

ADMS 607. Principles of Educational Leadership. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Develop understandings for school leaders of effective leadership in organizations, personal leadership styles and modifying leadership styles. Leadership with respect to vision building, organizational communications, motivating others and group problem solving will serve as major areas of study. Lecture, individual study, group work and fieldwork will serve as major means of course delivery.

ADMS 610. School and Community Relations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides a conceptual and philosophical framework for evaluation and development of practices involved in implementing desirable school and community relations programs that focus on unique needs of communities. Special emphasis given to skills necessary to identify significant issues, assess current practice and engage in the processes involved in building and maintaining exemplary school-community programs. Appropriate field-based project relating theory to practice will be required.

ADMS 611. School Law. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Legal aspects of school administration that include constitutional and statutory provisions and court decisions. Relationship of legal aspects to governance of schools in Virginia will be emphasized. Appropriate field-based project relating theory to practice will be required.

ADMS 618. Leadership for Educational Change and Improvement. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Students will reflect on the past, critically review current reality in schools and creatively predict the nature of schooling in the future in light of the responsive role of the school leader. Other constructs presented include change as an educational paradigm, the use of data to inform changes needed, the leader as change agent and 21st-century learning as a catalyst for 22nd-century learning. In addition, students will assess their school/organization for change readiness.

ADMS 620. Improving School Programs and Performance. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduction to principles of leadership for the improvement of school programs and performance. Participants discuss current literature and models of school improvement with an emphasis on identification, selection and measurement of appropriate student and school performance indicators. An understanding of school culture and change, the importance of planning for change, and the role of data in the process of change are topics included. Appropriate field-based project relating theory to practice will be required.

ADMS 621. Management of School Operations and Support Programs. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Developing understanding and practices of the school principal with respect to key elements of managing school operations and support programs. Special attention will be given to goal setting for programs, securing, organizing and managing human, material and financial resources. Attention will be given to cost/time-effective practices and accountability.

ADMS 622. Understanding Diversity and Leading for Social Justice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. In this course, participants will engage in conversations related to diversity in schools and explore the critical role of education (and leadership) in a democratic society that is rapidly changing and becoming increasingly complex. Participants will reflect on how culture impacts leadership beliefs and practice and explore strategies for building schools that are equitable environments that support the needs of all stakeholders.
ADMS 623. Schooling as a Complex System. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. This course introduces students to a critical understanding of the politics of education through a systems thinking or systems theory perspective. After critical examination of systems thinking theory and complex systems, the remainder of the course offers an exploration of the interaction of federal, state and local governments within the complex, multilayered political structure of education.

ADMS 624. Principals as Human Resource Agents. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The course examines the management of human resources in schools and school divisions. Legal issues, division policies, ethical considerations and professional interpersonal relationships are explored, along with evaluation of personnel. Students will participate in problem-solving in specific human resources cases and will critically examine human resource situations in their own contexts.

ADMS 625. Leadership for Individualized Learning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course represents a holistic approach to leadership for meeting needs of learners across the continuum with a focus on students with disabilities and to include gifted students and English-language learners. The constructs presented include legal and historical frameworks, equity issues, traditional and emerging policies and practices, models of instructional delivery, and roles and responsibilities of personnel.

ADMS 626. Internal/External Relations and Communications. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. This course provides students with the knowledge and skills essential for school leaders to relate and communicate effectively with the community in its broadest sense. Emphasis is on building relationships and communicating effectively with internal and external publics face-to-face, online and in print.

ADMS 627. Enhancing and Supporting Instruction. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The focus is to learn ways to enhance and support instruction that improves student achievement. The content includes effective instruction, supervision, evaluation, professional development, diverse learners and capacity-building through the development of professional learning communities, as well as using data and curriculum alignment strategies to improve student performance.

ADMS 628. Cultural Inheritance of Schools. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. This course explores the engines that drive public education. Particular attention is paid to macro-level social, economic, political and demographic shifts that have transformed metropolitan school systems over the past half century. Evaluation of historical and contemporary law, policies, practices and dispositions inherent to our system of education is embedded, especially as each relates to the distribution of equal educational opportunity across urban/suburban/exurban lines.

ADMS 629. The Business of Schools. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course presents financial considerations such as funding, revenue and expenditure audits; maintenance of a safe and productive learning environment; crisis management and media relations; physical plant management; meeting management; communication with internal and external publics; time management; and the ability to effectively navigate political waters. The approach to these constructs will be both diagnostic and prescriptive.

ADMS 630. Understanding and Engaging School Communities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Students will explore the broad social, economic, political and demographic shifts that have transformed metropolitan school communities over the past half century. Based on a deeper understanding of the complex forces that influence public education, students will develop leadership skills that focus on building relationships and communicating effectively with internal and external school communities.

ADMS 631. Evidence-based Decision-making. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. The purpose of this course is to prepare students to be critical consumers of research and to develop individual and group research skills. Students will learn to evaluate research quality, find available data within their schools and divisions, and collect and use new data. Students will learn to evaluate research quality in both single and synthesis studies. Additionally, students will be introduced to the action research cycle, be able to recognize and develop research questions, and determine an appropriate action research design.

ADMS 632. Administration and Supervision of Special Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of theories and practices and legal issues related to providing school programs for students with special needs. Appropriate field-based project relating theory to practice will be required.

ADMS 633. Multiple Dimensions of Leadership. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course provides participants with the opportunity to understand their own unique beliefs and dispositions regarding teaching, learning and leading as well as to understand the roles and responsibilities of educational leaders, including the Virginia Performance Standards for School Leaders and the ethical dimensions of leadership and policymaking. Various leadership models/theories are presented and explored.

ADMS 640. Human Resource and Fiscal Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of theories and policies related to resource projection and management in schools and school divisions. Finance topics include budget, purchasing and accounting, and procedures for obtaining equipment and materials. Human resource topics include staffing requirements, hiring, evaluation and dismissal procedures, and staff-personnel relationships. Appropriate field-based project relating theory to practice will be required.

ADMS 641. School Personnel Administration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of the personnel function in educational organizations. Designed to explore techniques and problems of staff-personnel relationships in contemporary education.

ADMS 643. The Community School. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The development and utilization of the community school concept will be examined. Communitywide use of school facilities and the involvement of the total community in the learning process will be studied. Emphasis will be placed on the physical plant design, organizational structure, staffing and curriculum of the community school. The utilization of the community school to implement "lifelong learning" will be stressed.

ADMS 647. Educational Technology for School Leaders. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an overview of the impact of technology -- particularly Web-based technologies -- on K-12 instruction, from pedagogical considerations and associated tool choices to more pragmatic leadership issues of planning, funding and faculty development. This course is designed for administrators, teacher leaders and other interested professionals who are or intend to be leaders in technology. Crosslisted as: TEDU 647.
ADMS 651. Topics in Education. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits, repeatable for maximum of nine credits.
Prerequisite: Check with department for specific prerequisites. A course for examination of specialized issues, topics, readings or problems in education.

ADMS 670. Administrative Internship I. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. On-campus course. This course must be taken as one of the first courses in the first semester of enrollment. The course serves as an orientation to the internship experience, which is an integral component throughout the master’s and/or post-master’s program of studies. Students will learn the specifics of the entire internship component of the program, such as the 320 internship hours required, the scope of internship work, and the variety of experiences needed and means by which all internship experiences are to be documented throughout the program. Students will develop their individual internship plans, which will guide them through their internship experiences throughout their entire program. This plan will include specific field experiences in each required course as well as plans that will be executed in Administrative Internship II and Administrative Internship III, such that a total of 320 hours of experiences are accrued and documented by the end of the program. Graded as S/U/F.

ADMS 671. Administrative Internship II. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisites: full admission status; no grades of Incomplete; evidence provided of meeting technology standards and completing child abuse/neglect recognition training; meet university’s Graduate School academic requirements for graduation; adviser/department head approval of internship application; successful completion of ADMS 670. This course is to be taken in the semester immediately before Internship III. This course focuses on emerging topics from the students’ internship experiences with emphases on leadership skills, professional dispositions and management. Field-based internship experiences developed in ADMS 670 are continued such that a total of 320 hours of experiences will be accrued and documented by the end of the entire program. A culminating experience taken at the end of the program, this course is designed for students to have opportunities to synthesize the essential knowledge and skills necessary to be a school leader. Reflection and refinement of skills and knowledge will be part of student-developed professional portfolio that could be used in securing a leadership position in a school system. Integration of theory and practice will take place in the internship as evidenced by documented experiences in a school/school district setting supervised by an approved professional and university instructor. Course will include seminars, selected readings, projects, discussion and other culminating activities. Graded as S/U/F.

ADMS 672. Principalship Seminar and Internship. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: Full admission status; no grades of Incomplete; evidence provided of meeting technology standards and completing child abuse/neglect recognition training; meet university’s Graduate School academic requirements for graduation; adviser/department head approval of internship application. A culminating experience taken at the end of program designed for students to have opportunities to synthesize the essential knowledge and skills necessary to be a school leader. Reflection and refinement of skills and knowledge will be part of student-developed professional portfolio that could be used in securing a leadership position in a school system. Integration of theory and practice will take place in internship of at least 120 hours in a school/school district setting supervised by an approved professional and university instructor. Course will include seminars, selected readings, projects, discussion and other culminating activities.

ADMS 675. Administrative Internship III. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: successful completion of ADMS 670 and 671. This course is continuation of the experiences in ADMS 670 and 671 and of seminar topics related to developing a personal portfolio and resume as well as interviewing skills. It provides a culminating review and professional reflection of the internship experiences. As part of successful completion of this course, 320 hours of documented internship experiences must be completed by the end of the program. Graded as S/U/F.

ADMS 700. Externship. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of department. Plan of work designed by extern with prior approval of the offering department. State certification or equivalent may be required for some externships. Off-campus planned experiences for advanced graduate students designed to extend professional competencies, carried out in a setting, under supervision of an approved professional. Externship activities monitored and evaluated by university faculty.

ADMS 701. Education Policy Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines a set of applied research practices undertaken within a diverse community of scholars and analysts and that have implications for education. Explores processes involved in developing and implementing educational policy. Emphasis is given to the roles of federal and state governments in policymaking with attention to problems encountered in implementing educational policies. Focuses on research approaches relevant to policy research.

ADMS 702. Educational Administration: Contemporary Theory and Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Study of recent developments in administrative theory and the application of these theories to contemporary and future educational issues and problems.

ADMS 703. Leadership for Social Justice and Equity in Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits. Students will study and engage in dialogue related to the critical role of education in a democratic society in a rapidly changing and increasingly complex world. Through a focused discussion of theories and concepts such as democratic schools, social justice, critical theory and power, feminism, critical race theory, and difference/normalization, students come to understand the possible roles education can play in society and their need to continuously reflect on their own vision for leadership in public schools.

ADMS 704. Education Finance Policy and the Equitable Distribution of Resources. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. In addition to a traditional examination of some of the aspects of the economic, legal, financial and budgeting policies affecting the equitable distribution of education resources in the U.S., the social justice implications associated with several established theories and policies in the field of education finance are examined. Specific topics include the historical and philosophical perspectives of U.S. education finance; education finance reform litigation; conceptions and measurements of equity, adequacy and efficiency in school finance designs; the role of federal, state and local governance in equitable education finance in the U.S., and the resource needs and organizational and fiscal implications of serving special populations in U.S. schools.
ADMS 705. Planning Educational Facilities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Study of the theory, principles, criteria, procedures and practices of planning educational facilities and the modernization, maintenance and operation of existing facilities.

ADMS 706. Leadership Perspectives on Learning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores contemporary leadership perspectives on learning. This general theme is refined into three focus areas of current theory and practice: perspectives on what it means to learn, the ways in which digital technology factors into teaching and learning, and perspectives on the future of the formal K-12 learning enterprise.

ADMS 707. The Politics of Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examination of how the political structure of public education determines the nature of schooling. Study of political theory of education, macropolitics of education and schooling from micropolitical perspective leading to synthesis and development of critical understanding of the politics of education.

ADMS 708. Equal Educational Opportunity in the 21st Century Metropolis: Toward a Policy Framework. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course provides an overview of the economic, political and demographic shifts that have transformed metropolitan school systems over the past half century. Emphasis is given to the trajectory of education policy and leadership in light of these altered metropolitan spaces. Participants will evaluate the successes and pitfalls of contemporary and historical reforms as they relate to the distribution of educational opportunity across the urban/suburban/exurban divide. Culminating activities help students develop a framework for future policy efforts with a focus on the Richmond metro area.

ADMS 709. U.S. Educational Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course will promote a critical examination and evaluation of the major strands of educational policy over the past half century.

ADMS 710. Current Topics in Educational Leadership and Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides advanced study on selected topic or emerging issue in U.S. educational policy or leadership.

Adult Education (ADLT)

ADLT 600. Adult Education Perspective. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides a basic perspective on adult education. Presents a survey of the philosophical underpinnings of the field, including schools of thought and associated theorists, roles and functions of adult educators, agencies and organizations that sponsor adult education programs. Examines selected processes and procedures used by adult educators and current issues impacting adult education.

ADLT 601. Adult Learning and Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of the research findings from the applied behavioral sciences that affect adult learning throughout the lifespan, including psychological, social and physical attributes of adults as learners. Explores the philosophical and theoretical foundations of the field, including schools of thought and associated theorists. Emphasis on the effects of age on learning, the importance of self-image and factors affecting adult motivation for learning. Addresses different learning styles, application of adult learning theories to practice and the relationship of adult learning to adult development.

ADLT 606. Design and Delivery of Adult Learning Programs. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides a comprehensive understanding of the design, development and delivery process necessary to create a program, course or workshop for adult learners. Emphasis is on actual design of an adult learning experience from initial stages of needs assessment to concluding evaluation and assessment of effectiveness, including development of instructional strategies and methods for delivery.

ADLT 607. Writing Instruction for Adult Learners. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed for individuals interested in teaching adult literacy learners. Course participants will study and practice methods for the teaching of writing. This course is designed to provide an overview of the practices, research and application of instructional techniques for effectively working with adult learners in the writing classroom. Participants will be introduced to these techniques through readings from various websites, online documents and a required textbook.

ADLT 608. Adult Education Practicum. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed for individuals interested in teaching adult literacy learners. This 120-hour field-based capstone experience for adult education students is an integral component of the professional preparation of adult education educators. The practicum must be supervised jointly by the adult education adviser at VCU’s School of Education and the field supervisor in the adult education program in which the experience is being conducted.

ADLT 610. Consulting Skills In Adult Learning Environments. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An introduction to the consultation skills necessary to effect change when the educator is in a position of influence, rather than direct control or management responsibility. Presents historical and theoretical models of change, facilitation skills necessary for introducing and sustaining change, strategies for dealing with resistance, and ethical issues involved in consultation. Students gain practical experience by conducting an intervention as the major project assignment in the course.

ADLT 612. Learning in Groups and Teams. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores fundamentals of learning in groups and teams, including effects of leadership, group member roles and processes, performance, development, goals, and culture. Examines group theory, models and practices of collective learning. Addresses the situated nature of learning, effects of social context and the concepts inherent in sustaining communities of practice.

ADLT 614. Curriculum Development for Adult Educators. 3 Hours.
Semester course delivered online; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Those wishing to apply this course to the five-course endorsement in adult literacy must be licensed to teach in Virginia, however a teaching license is not a prerequisite of the course. Designed to provide an overview of research and practice related to effective curriculum design. The course introduces models of program planning, curriculum development and evaluation appropriate for a variety of adult learners, including those requiring accommodations for disability, literacy, non-native English-speaking ability and multicultural backgrounds.

ADLT 620. Human Resource Development Overview. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an overview of the HRD field to include theories, practices and emerging concepts. Emphasis is on roles, functions and responsibilities of the HRD practitioner in supporting the strategies, mission and goals of the enterprise, whether public, private or nonprofit.
ADLT 621. Skills Development for Human Resource Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Develops skills and understandings critical to success as an HRD practitioner. Exposes students to techniques of instruction and survey instruments to gauge organizational climate and learning style differences. Emphasizes practical experience and issue analysis in gaining HRD skills that can be immediately employed.

ADLT 622. Human Resource Development Strategies and Interventions. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines organizational development, nature of interventions, when to use them (and not use them), and a variety of models for aligning human resources capabilities with organizational needs. Focuses on introduction of change and transformation of organizational culture.

ADLT 623. Organizational Learning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the theoretical basis for organizational learning and the practices inherent in developing a learning organization. Examines organizational culture and socialization; systems thinking; organizations as interpretative systems; the leader's role in creating, sustaining and changing culture; strategies for enhancing collective learning; distributed cognition; and strategies for knowledge management.

ADLT 625. Change Strategies for HRD Practitioners. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Develops skills in change intervention strategies by employing the theoretical frameworks of organization development and organization transformation to address critical organizational issues and problems. Explores the HRD practitioner's role in facilitating organizational change through action research, action science, action learning and large-scale, whole-system interventions. Examines the differing roles and ethical issues for improving organizational effectiveness with special attention to organizational culture and a systems perspective of change.

ADLT 632. The Changing Face of Higher Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines how higher education is changing and explores the reasons for these changes; studies how the academy is responding to social pressures and explores scenarios for future change. Crosslisted as: EDUS 632.

ADLT 636. Capstone Seminar in Action Learning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: Restricted to students who have completed all other foundation and core courses or are taking this course in conjunction with the final specialty track courses in the M.Ed. in Adult Learning program; permission of adviser required. An integrative end-of-program course that utilizes skills and knowledge gained in all earlier courses, including philosophical and theoretical assumptions of adult learning and strategies for creating effective individual and collective learning environments. Students consult with a community-based, educational, nonprofit or for-profit organization using action learning methods of inquiry to solve a real organizational problem. Requires synthesis of knowledge and expertise in all aspects of adult learning and demonstrated proficiency in research and evaluation skills appropriate for the master's degree level. An end-of-semester presentation and consulting report are provided to the organization's leaders.

ADLT 640. Theory and Practice of eLearning Integration Into Adult Learning Environments. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides learners with a theoretical foundation and rationale for the successful integration of eLearning into formal and informal adult learning environments. This course begins with an overview of educational theory and social constructivist teaching philosophy before addressing the fundamental issues that instructional designers should consider when designing, delivering and assessing eLearning in adult learning environments. Note: This is a hybrid course.

ADLT 641. Exploration of Digital Media for Adult Learning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to engage students in an exploration of digital media to enhance adult learning. Through hands-on experience with tools, examination of emerging media formats and the evaluation of course learning products, students will learn to create, critique and explore a variety of digital media to support learning in a variety of instructional contexts. Special emphasis will be placed on using digital technology tools to support communication, knowledge building and learning in both formal and informal adult learning settings.

ADLT 642. Design Challenges in Creating eLearning for Adults. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides learners who have developed a deep understanding of the theoretical and philosophical underpinnings of instructional design in eLearning environments through ADLT 640 and who have developed fluency in developing content using new freely available digital media tools in ADLT 641 with an opportunity to undertake a major project in eLearning design. Note: This is a hybrid course.

ADLT 650. Adult Literacy and Diversity. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Surveys the field of adult literacy and its many purposes, definitions, contexts and ideologies by exploring relationships between literacy and learning in numerous contexts, from corporate HRD programs to refugee communities. By applying analytical tools of critical theorists to raise awareness of the ideological nature of adult learning, and by examining contexts and foundations of adult literacy, the course takes up epistemological, ethical and instructional issues that relate to all aspects of adult learning.

ADLT 650. Adult Literacy and Diversity. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Surveys the field of adult literacy and its many purposes, definitions, contexts and ideologies by exploring relationships between literacy and learning in numerous contexts, from corporate HRD programs to refugee communities. By applying analytical tools of critical theorists to raise awareness of the ideological nature of adult learning, and by examining contexts and foundations of adult literacy, the course takes up epistemological, ethical and instructional issues that relate to all aspects of adult learning.

ADLT 670. Curriculum Design in Medical Education. 2 Hours.
Hybrid course; 2 credits Restricted to faculty in the School of Medicine. Introduces adult learning principles and practices for the design and assessment of courses, units and individual lessons within a medical education curriculum in both preclinical and clinical settings.

ADLT 671. Theory and Practice of Adult Learning for Medical Educators. 2 Hours.
Hybrid course; 2 credits. Restricted to faculty in the School of Medicine. Provides an overview of the major adult learning theories that are applicable to medical education and explores how these form the basis for teaching and learning in medicine. Examines behavioral, cognitive, social, experiential and transformative learning orientations for relevance in medical education. Emphasis is on how knowledge is constructed and organized in the development of expertise.

ADLT 672. Instructional Strategies for Teaching in Medicine. 2 Hours.
Hybrid course; 2 credits. Restricted to faculty in the School of Medicine. Designed to provide medical educators with knowledge and skills practice in teaching effectively in large and small groups using discussion-based strategies, team-based learning, process-oriented guided inquiry learning and problem-based learning, as well as other active learning methods. Learners design and implement a small-group learning strategy appropriate for a medical education setting.
ADLT 673. Teaching as Scholarship in Medical Education. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 30 contact hours. 2 credits. Restricted to faculty in the School of Medicine. Oriented the medical educator to basic design principles for conducting research that contributes to the scholarship of teaching and learning in medical education using qualitative, quantitative or mixed methods. Examines basic research paradigms, problem identification, question development, selection of methodology, IRB preparation and requirements for journal submission and publication.

ADLT 674. Performance Feedback and Simulation in the Medical Education Curriculum. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 30 contact hours. 2 credits. Restricted to faculty in the School of Medicine. Introduces medical educators to the use of simulated learning experiences in preparing health care professionals for patient care. The emphasis is on acquiring skills to develop and lead simulation exercises and on developing facilitation skills needed to provide effective feedback to debrief the activity. Requires hands-on observation and participation in simulation at the VCU Center for Human Simulation and Safety.

ADLT 675. Group and Team Facilitation for Medical Educators. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 30 contact hours. 2 credits. Restricted to faculty in the School of Medicine. An introduction to the nature of learning in groups and teams. The course explores basic issues fundamental to all groups such as leadership, goals, group member roles, stages of group and team development, issues in team performance and an understanding of how institutional culture shapes group behavior.

ADLT 676. Digital Media Technologies for Teaching in Medicine. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 30 contact hours. 2 credits. Restricted to faculty in the School of Medicine. Introduces digital media technologies to bring state-of-the art teaching and learning strategies into the medical education curriculum. Explores Web 2.0 tools including wikis, blogs, podcasts and other emerging media, as well as the evaluation of digital media technologies to support learning in the preclinical or clinical curriculum. Emphasis is on building student engagement and community through participatory strategies for learning.

ADLT 677. Reflective Practice in Medical Education. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 30 contact hours. 2 credits. Restricted to faculty in the School of Medicine. Introduces the concept of reflective practice for medical educators, including the educator's role in developing trainees as reflective practitioners and the role of reflection in one's own professional development. Includes the concept of narrative medicine as a reflective practice that enables a more holistic understanding of patients and their illnesses, with application for the education of medical professionals.

ADLT 688. Lifespan Issues for Adults with Learning and Behavioral Disabilities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores the literature, research, issues and best practices for the population of individuals with learning disabilities and behavior disorders (including ADHD) beyond the school-age years. Focus on disabilities as they are manifest in a variety of settings and contexts in which adults with learning and behavior disorders function. These include areas such as employment, post-secondary education, community, family and leisure. In addition, social-emotional functioning and daily living challenges will be interspersed in the course material. Course goal is to develop understanding and the skill of critical reflection about persons with learning disabilities and behavior disorders in their adult years.

ADLT 702. Seminal Readings in Adult Learning Literature. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A seminal readings course to explore some of the prominent classics in adult learning literature. Designed for doctoral students in adult learning and other disciplines in which knowledge and understanding of the theoretical underpinnings of adult education is desirable as a foundation for effective pedagogy/andragogy. While prior participation in a master's-level adult learning theories class may be beneficial, it is not a prerequisite.

Counselor Education (CLED)

CLED 501. A Survey of the Counseling Profession. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Course restriction: Students must have, at minimum, senior class status before taking this course. An introductory course for any student interested in pursuing a career as a counselor. An overview of the counseling profession and counselor professional identity.

CLED 520. Gender Issues in Counseling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Overview of gender issues and their relationship to the counseling process. Class focuses on understanding the unique issues men and women bring to counseling and providing appropriate counseling interventions. Focus is on appropriate gender developmental tasks and how diversity in age, religion, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status and sexual orientation relates to relationships and to counseling men and women.

CLED 600. Professional Orientation and Ethical Practice in Counseling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Overview of gender issues and their relationship to the counseling process. Class focuses on understanding the unique issues men and women bring to counseling and providing appropriate counseling interventions. Focus is on appropriate gender developmental tasks and how diversity in age, religion, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status and sexual orientation relates to relationships and to counseling men and women.

CLED 601. Theories of Counseling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to counselor education program or permission of instructor. An introductory course for all students in counselor education that provides an overview of the counseling profession and explores ethical and legal standards in the counseling field. The course focuses on ethical standards of professional organizations, federal and state legal mandates and the application of ethical and legal considerations in counseling practice.

CLED 602. Techniques of Counseling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to counselor education program or permission of instructor. Selected theories upon which counseling is based, with particular attention placed on the research underlying the theories. Primary focus on providing students with a theoretical foundation upon which to base their personal counseling approaches.

CLED 603. Group Procedures in Counseling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires admission to counselor education program or permission of instructor. Theory and practice of counseling with emphasis on skill development.

CLED 604. Practicum: School Counseling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CLED 603; and CLED 613 or CLED 622. Seminar and supervised field experience in individual and group counseling and classroom group guidance.
CLED 605. Career Information and Exploration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CLED 600 and 601. Designed to provide the potential counselor with an understanding of theoretical approaches to career development in grades K-adult. Emphasis will be given to the relationship between counselor and student(s) in the career development process. A review of occupational, educational and personal/social information resources will be made.

CLED 606. Assessment Techniques for Counselors. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CLED 600 and 601. Principles and techniques involved in selecting, scoring and interpreting standardized and nonstandardized assessment instruments used by counselors.

CLED 607. Multicultural Counseling in Educational Settings. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: instructor approval. A study of personal, social, political, affective and behavioral considerations of diversity. Multicultural competencies including awareness, knowledge and skills in counseling are emphasized. Efforts will be made to provide school counselors and postsecondary student affairs professionals with practical skills, strategies and techniques for use when working with students and families from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

CLED 608. Practicum: College Student Development and Counseling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CLED 603, CLED 605 and CLED 660; and CLED 620 or CLED 631. Seminar and supervised field experience in student services in postsecondary educational settings.

CLED 610. Counseling in Elementary and Middle Schools. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CLED 600 and 601. An intensive study of school counseling programs for children and young adolescents. Emphasizes the role of elementary and middle school counselors in developmental guidance. Methods for classroom guidance will be discussed.

CLED 612. Seminar in Counseling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to counselor education program or permission of instructor. A survey course that introduces various theories and strategies that support wellness and development. Topics include counselor and client wellness, supervision, psychopathology, crisis intervention, suicide prevention and theories on addictions.

CLED 613. Data-driven Comprehensive School Counseling Programs. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students admitted to counselor education program or with permission of instructor. Considers the history of the profession, current issues and future trends. Addresses professional organizations and ethical guidelines and will focus on the role of school counselors in becoming advocates for students and leaders in the school environment.

CLED 615. Lifespan Development: A Gender Perspective. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Overview of human development theories and the impact of cultural gender messages on the developmental process. Crosslisted as: EDUS 615.

CLED 620. Student Development Services in Higher Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CLED 600 and 601. An advanced course designed to provide a means for intensive study of secondary school counseling. The approach will be to integrate professional knowledge and skills from various disciplines as they relate to the work of the secondary school counselor.

CLED 621. Secondary School Counseling Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students admitted to counselor education program or with permission of instructor. Focuses on the organization, administration and delivery of school counseling services in pre-K-12 schools.

CLED 622. School Counseling Services. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Selected theories upon which clinical supervision in the counseling field is based, with particular attention placed on the research underlying the theories. Primary focus on providing students with a theoretical foundation upon which to base their supervision practice.

CLED 630. Clinical Supervision in the Counseling Profession. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines historical and contemporary foundations of American higher education through the study of leading developments and of contemporary issues relating to the curriculum, aims and objectives and current directions of American colleges, universities and other institutional settings of higher education. Crosslisted as: EDUS 631.

CLED 631. American College and University. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines historical and contemporary foundations of American higher education through the study of leading developments and of contemporary issues relating to the curriculum, aims and objectives and current directions of American colleges, universities and other institutional settings of higher education. Crosslisted as: EDUS 631.

CLED 632. Student Development Services in Higher Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students admitted to counselor education program or with permission of instructor. Considers the history of the profession, current issues and future trends. Addresses professional organizations and ethical guidelines and will focus on the role of school counselors in becoming advocates for students and leaders in the school environment.

CLED 633. Academic Leadership in Higher Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Analyzes how leadership in higher education is similar to and different from leadership in other organizational settings; explores challenges for leadership (such as access, cost and social responsiveness) and examines emerging leadership roles at various levels of the academic organization. Crosslisted as: EDUS 633.

CLED 640. Marriage, Couples and Family Counseling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of organizational principles and procedures necessary for the effective administration of guidance services. Consideration is given to procedures used in establishing guidance programs or modifying existing ones (or both), including the study of various community resources that can contribute to more efficient guidance services.
CLED 650. Addiction Counseling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is an entry-level graduate course that provides counselors and other human service workers with an overview of the addictive process. Theories of addiction counseling and application of these theories will comprise a significant part of this course, particularly with how they apply to work with individuals, couples, families and groups. Co-occurring disorders, such as process addictions and mental illnesses will also be addressed. Students will develop conceptual knowledge, practical skills and self-awareness concerning the etiology of addiction, assessment strategies (including the use of around assessment and intervention services), wellness strategies for facilitating optimal development and preventing clinician burn-out, and diagnosis and treatment planning. This will be accomplished through assigned readings, seminar discussions, videotapes, lectures, case presentations, guest speakers and student assignments.

CLED 660. Mental Disorders, Diagnosis and Treatment Planning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: CLED 603. The course examines the history, paradigms, theory and practice of mental health diagnosis, with primary emphasis on the identification of issues related to thinking (cognition), feeling (affect) and acting (behavior) upon which diagnoses are based. The purpose of this course is for students to become familiar with the study of mental disorders and learn the system of classification of mental disorders, the DSM-5.

CLED 672. Internship. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-6 credits. Must be repeated for a total of at least six credit hours. Enrollment requires completion of all other CLED courses required for program. Seminar and supervised field instruction experience for counselors in K-12 settings or professionals in postsecondary settings. Designed to extend professional competencies under supervision of an approved licensed professional school counselor (K-12 settings) or approved student services professional (postsecondary settings). A total of 600 clock hours is required.

CLED 720. Counselor Education Doctoral Seminar I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to students admitted to counselor education concentration of the Ph.D. in Education program. Theories and skills of leadership, advocacy models, advocacy action planning and social change theories. Models and methods of program evaluation are examined and evaluated designed and implemented as part of leadership and advocacy efforts. Students demonstrate the ability to provide or contribute to leadership efforts of professional organizations/programs and to advocate for the counseling profession and its clientele.

CLED 721. Counselor Education Doctoral Seminar II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to students admitted to counselor education concentration of the Ph.D. in Education program. Instructional theory, counselor education methods and multicultural pedagogy, and the roles, responsibilities and activities of counselor educators. Students demonstrate course design, delivery and evaluation methods. Students also develop their professional writing skills and demonstrate the ability to write for journals, newsletters, presentation proposals and grant proposals related to the teaching and training of counselors.

CLED 730. Advanced Counseling Theories and Practicum. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours and 100 on-site hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: CLED 720. Restricted to students admitted to counselor education concentration of the Ph.D. in Education program. Theories pertaining to the principles and practice of counseling, systems work, consultation and responding to crises, disasters and other trauma-causing events. Students demonstrate, at an advanced level, effective application of multiple counseling theories and interventions across diverse populations and settings, as well as advanced case conceptualization. This course includes a supervised 100-hour doctoral-level practicum.

CLED 740. Supervision in Counseling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CLED 730; pre- or corequisite: CLED 721. Restricted to students admitted to counselor education concentration of the Ph.D. in Education program. Purposes, theoretical frameworks, models, roles of relationship, and practices of counselor/clinical supervision. Students develop and demonstrate the application of theory and skills of clinical supervision as they refine their personal style of supervision.

CLED 750. Advanced Group Counseling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CLED 740. Restricted to students admitted to counselor education concentration of the Ph.D. in Education program. Theories of group work, theories of group work, including group counseling, evaluation of group work, group leadership characteristics, styles and behaviors. Students will demonstrate advanced group work skills and the ability to evaluate group climate, group leadership, group process and group outcomes.

CLED 760. Advanced Career Counseling and Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CLED 740; pre- or corequisite: CLED 750. Restricted to students admitted to counselor education concentration of the Ph.D. in Education program. Principles and practice of career counseling, career counselor supervision and career program development beyond the beginning level. Students will demonstrate advanced career counseling work with a client, and beginning-level career counseling supervision. Part of this course includes developing and writing an article for publication based upon a theory-based career intervention structured in social justice and advocacy.

CLED 810. Counselor Education Doctoral Internship. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. May be taken for a total of 6 credits. Prerequisite: CLED 760. Restricted to students admitted to counselor education concentration of the Ph.D. in Education program. Supervised experiences in counselor education and supervision (e.g., clinical practice, supervision, research and/or teaching). Internship is at the discretion and approval of the doctoral adviser and is based on student experience, training and career goals. The setting, goals, site supervisor and plan for the internship must be approved by the doctoral adviser. Students receive weekly supervision from their site supervisor and group supervision from a counselor education faculty member.
Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE)

ECSE 500. Language/Communication Intervention for Young Children with Disabilities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours; 3 credits. Offered in hybrid format. Undergraduate students must have permission of the instructor prior to registration for this course. This course emphasizes how children learn to communicate and how to facilitate communication development. The course includes examination of language development, language differences and disorders, language facilitation, and relationship of language to literacy. Course content and assignments include information about evidence-based practices and promote critical reflection and problem-solving skills.

ECSE 541. Educational Foundations for Collaboration and Universally Designed Learning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Course offered online. Undergraduate students must have permission of the instructor prior to registration for this course. This course focuses on the foundations for early intervention and education, with emphasis on early intervention research, typical and atypical development, family and community contexts for development, professional standard and current policy issues.

ECSE 542. Family/Professional Partnerships. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Undergraduate students must have permission of the instructor prior to registration for this course. Theory and practice relevant to working with families of children with disabilities. Family-centered services and cultural sensitivity are emphasized. Provides an overview of family processes and reactions to having a child with a disability, strategies for helping family members support and work with their children, available community resources and legal rights of families and children with disabilities.

ECSE 601. Assessment of Infants and Young Children with Disabilities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides knowledge and practical applications for the identification, placement and assessment for program planning and evaluation of children with disabilities ages birth through five.

ECSE 602. Instructional Programming for Infants and Young Children with Disabilities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours; 3 credits. Offered in hybrid format. This course provides the knowledge, skills and methods necessary to deliver effective education to infants, toddlers and preschoolers with disabilities and their families. The course includes readings, discussions and activities on topics central to understanding the conceptual and theoretical foundations underlying current educational curricula and methods. The course emphasizes blending recommended practices from early childhood education and early childhood special education, family-centered service delivery, cultural competence, inclusive placements, and research-based intervention. Course content and assignments promote critical reflection, collaborative decision-making and problem-solving skills to be used in planning and implementing programs for young children with special needs and their families.

ECSE 603. Integrated Early Childhood Programs I. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Offered in hybrid format. Examines the needs, opportunities, resources and barriers to early intervention and inclusive early childhood programs in Virginia and local communities. State and federal laws and policies, research-based practices and local models will be studied to understand the context for systems change. A planning process that includes funding mechanisms, staffing patterns, curricula service models, family participation options, resource coordination and program evaluation procedures will be emphasized.

ECSE 604. Early Literacy and Augmentative Communication. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to increase the professional knowledge and skills of early childhood special educators to meet the literacy needs of young children with disabilities through the use of technology.

ECSE 605. Integrated Early Childhood Programs II. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: ECSE 603. Examines the needs, opportunities, resources and barriers to early childhood intervention and inclusive early childhood programs in Virginia and local communities. State and federal laws and policies, research-based practices, and local models will be studied to understand the context for systems change. A planning process that includes funding mechanisms, staffing concerns, curricula service models, family participation options, resource coordination and program evaluation procedures will be emphasized.

ECSE 641. Interdisciplinary Methods in Early Intervention. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours; 3 credits. Offered in hybrid format. This course focuses on the nature and characteristics of major disabling and at-risk conditions for infants and young children and the influence of interdisciplinary teamwork in service delivery. Emphasis is given to the medical aspects of young children with disabilities and the management of neurodevelopmental and motor disabilities. Review of adaptive equipment and its safe use, as well as selection and implementation of appropriate assistive technology will be covered. The importance and role of collaborative planning teams that include families and professionals from various disciplines, including health care, will be discussed. Essential teamwork skills will be learned and students will reflect on the application of those skills in practice.

ECSE 672. Internship in Early Development and Intervention. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1 or 2 lecture hours. 1 or 2 credits. May be repeated. Designed to provide practical experience in different community programs that serve young children (birth to 5) from various cultural and linguistic backgrounds, who are at risk for or have developmental disabilities, and their families. These observation, participation and service-learning experiences are distributed across the graduate program, aligned with professional standards.

ECSE 700. Externship. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of department. Plan of work designed by extern with prior approval of the offering department. State certification or equivalent may be required for some externships. Off-campus planned experiences for advanced graduate students designed to extend professional competencies, carried out in a setting, under supervision of an approved professional. Externship activities monitored and evaluated by university faculty.
Education (EDUC)

EDUC 700. Externship. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 practicum hours. 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. Enrollment requires permission of department. Plan of work designed by extern with prior approval of the offering department. State certification or equivalent may be required for some externships. Off-campus planned experiences for advanced graduate students designed to extend professional competencies, carried out in a setting, under supervision of an approved professional. Externship activities monitored and evaluated by university faculty.

EDUC 797. Directed Research. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; 1-9 variable hours. 1-9 credits. Enrollment restricted to students who have completed first-year Ph.D. courses in education or by permission of program director. The course provides doctoral students the opportunity to do hands-on research prior to the dissertation project that is relevant to their substantive area or individual learning needs. The topic and specific project will be initiated by the student and implemented in collaboration with a School of Education faculty member. A proposal for a directed research course must be submitted that specifies how the student will gain experience, knowledge and skills in one or more aspects of conducting a research project. Graded S/U/F.

EDUC 798. Thesis. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 variable hours. 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. A research study of a topic or problem approved by the student's supervisory committee and completed in accordance with acceptable standards for thesis writing. Graded S/U/F.

EDUC 899. Dissertation Research. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; 1-9 variable hours. 1-9 credits. May be repeated. A minimum of 6 semester hours required. Enrollment restricted to students who have successfully completed comprehensive examinations. Dissertation work under direction of dissertation committee. Graded as S/U/F.

Educational Leadership (EDLP)

EDLP 700. Effective Learning Networks. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores theory and research regarding characteristics of effective leaders, team members and organizations. Participants are administered personal inventories related to leadership skills; team-building and participation skills; learning preferences; preferences for processing information and for decision-making. Results of inventories are analyzed, combined with learned theories and applied to practical situations.

EDLP 702. Understanding Self as Leader: Theory and Data Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EDLP 700. Presentation of leadership and organizational theory. Study of statistical analyses appropriate for data sets provided in learning inventories and case studies. Critical analyses of research in the field related to leadership styles, personal inventories and organizations/communities as systems. Applications of theory, research and case-study analysis findings to organization/community settings.

EDLP 703. Understanding Self as Leader: Practical Applications. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: EDLP 700. Corequisite: EDLP 702. Applications of theory, research and case-study analysis findings to organization/community settings. Seminar discussions of applications to equity, accountability and learning issues.

EDLP 704. Frameworks for Decision-making: Legal Perspectives. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Critical analyses of legal research, theory and laws related to case studies provided. Critical analysis of legal and policy issues, as well as policy development/implementation theory. Applications of research, laws and policies related to the case studies provided.

EDLP 705. Frameworks for Decision-making: Ethical Perspectives. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. In-depth analyses of issues and problem-solving using research, ethics theory and frameworks. Application of research and theory to development of solutions in focused area of study.

EDLP 708. Leadership Presence. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Corequisite: EDLP 709. Selected topics for fostering effective leadership with particular attention placed on leadership presence, crisis response and public relations. The course will focus on facilitating leadership skills through better understanding of enhancing time management skills, fostering communication skills and leadership presence and planning for crisis.

EDLP 709. Equity and Leadership. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Corequisite: EDLP 708. Selected topics for fostering effective leadership with particular attention placed on equity and leadership. The course will focus on enhancing leadership skills through better understanding of equity issues and student psychosocial development.

EDLP 711. Evidence-informed Perspectives on Practice I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. This course implements a collaborative approach to the theory-infused practice of program evaluation in education. Participants will hone their project-planning expertise and their data-gathering and data-analysis skills in the process of both contributing to ongoing evaluation research and preparing to conduct evaluations of programs of their own choosing in their own school divisions. The course culminates in the production of an interim report which is delivered to the "client" and which sets the stage for Evidence-informed Perspectives on Practice II.

EDLP 712. Planning for Sustainable Change I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Using a case-study approach, students will focus on theory and research regarding implementing change in organizations, with attention to organizational culture as a context for change. The course addresses laws, policies and research regarding improvement plan development, implementation and evaluation.

EDLP 713. Evidence-informed Perspectives on Practice II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EDLP 711. This course builds on the foundation laid in EDLP 711. Students are mentored as they proceed throughout the semester to develop and enhance their earlier program review plan and interim report. Students establish a literature foundation for the ongoing evaluation of the program they chose to evaluate; gather further data by means of interviews, focus groups, document review; and analyze data to develop conclusions and recommendations. The summative product of this course includes an executive summary, a full report and a binder of relevant data.

EDLP 714. Planning for Sustainable Change II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EDLP 712. Case study approach. Application of theory, laws, research to developing plans for implementing change, based upon case being studied. Study of methods for documenting, evaluating effectiveness of plan implementation and change implementation/sustainability.
EDLP 715. Principles for Professional Writing I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Study of scholarly writing styles and report formats appropriate to various audiences. Development of comprehensive written product suitable for distribution in student's setting. Focus is on conveying themes and drawing conclusions from scholarly research.

EDLP 716. Principles for Professional Writing II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EDLP 715. Study of scholarly writing styles and report formats appropriate to various audiences. Development of comprehensive written product suitable for distribution in student's setting. Focus is on conveying themes and drawing conclusions from scholarly research.

EDLP 717. Communicating Research Findings. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Study of data analysis methods relevant to capstone project. Styles and methods of writing related to conveying results of data analyses, including development of graphs, tables, charts and figures, and presentation materials.

EDLP 790. Capstone Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Supervised research. Client-based project. Designed to develop and refine the skills applicable to the preparation of an acceptable description of a capstone project. Development of background, review of research, project objectives and methods for gathering data, in consultation with capstone chair and client.

EDLP 798. Capstone Plan Implementation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EDLP 790. Supervised research. Client-based project. Conducting of research related to project developed in EDLP 790, with guidance from capstone project chair and client. Study of data management processes. Development of interim reports for capstone committee and client. Graded as S/U/F.

EDLP 799. Capstone Completion. 3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisite: EDLP 798. Supervised research. Client-based project. Continuation of capstone implementation. Focus on developing conclusions and recommendations based upon data analyses. Presentation of capstone project to capstone committee and client. Graded as S/U/F.

EDLP 890. Dissertation Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of director of doctoral studies. Designed to develop and refine the skills applicable to the preparation of an acceptable draft of a dissertation prospectus. Crosslisted as: EDUS 890.

EDLP 899. Dissertation Research. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. Variable credit. May be repeated. A minimum of 12 semester hours required. Prerequisite: Successful completion of comprehensive examinations and approval of student's doctoral prospectus. Dissertation work under direction of dissertation committee. Graded as S/U/F. Crosslisted as: EDUS 899.

Educational Studies (EDUS)
EDUS 500. Workshop in Education. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. Repeatable to 6 credits. Designed to focus on a single topic within a curriculum area, the workshop offers graduate students exposure to new information strategies and materials in the context of a flexible instructional framework. Activities emphasize a hands-on approach with direct application to the educational setting.

EDUS 514. Parent-child Relations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A methods course in parent-child communications and problem solving. Designed to enable parents and professionals to understand and relate more effectively with children.

EDUS 594. Topical Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. A seminar intended for group study by students interested in examining topics, issues or problems related to teaching and learning.

EDUS 601. Philosophy of Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of basic philosophies that have contributed to the present-day educational system. Attention will be given to contemporary philosophies and their impact on educational aims and methods.

EDUS 602. Adolescent Growth and Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Contemporary learning theories and their implications for teaching the adolescent learner. Emphasis will be placed on specific problems of adolescent growth and development as they relate to the learning situation.

EDUS 603. Seminar in Child Growth and Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Intensive study of child growth and development and application of this knowledge. Emphasis on current research.

EDUS 604. Adult Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An introductory study of adult development from the life cycle perspective with implications for educators working with adults. Emphasis will be placed on major physiological, psychological, sociological, and anthropological factors that make adults distinct from earlier developmental levels.

EDUS 605. Child and Adolescent Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines theory and practical applications of the research about the cognitive, social and physical development of children and adolescents. Emphasizes issues that affect students in school environments.

EDUS 606. Review of Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. Application of research findings to a specific educational area of study. Emphasis is on the consumption and utilization of research findings rather than the production of research evidence.

EDUS 607. Advanced Educational Psychology for Elementary Teachers. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Application of the principles of psychology to the teaching-learning process in the elementary classroom. Discussion will focus on the comprehensive development of individual learning experiences and educational programs from the point of view of the educator and administrator. Crosslisted as: PSYC 607.
EDUS 608. Educational Statistics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: STAT 508 or equivalent. An intermediate-level statistics class focusing primarily on techniques of inferential analysis. The purpose of this course is to facilitate students' development of the skills required to come up with a research hypothesis and analyze data to confirm or deny said hypothesis. Students will conduct data analysis using the National Center for Education Statistics Educational Longitudinal Study of 2002. Students will specifically consider the development of theoretically grounded hypotheses and the use of a variety of statistical techniques to enable their testing. The class will focus in particular on multiple regression with two or more independent variables and the psychometric analysis of measurement scales intended to tap variables used in the models developed. Students will also consider curvilinear relationships, factor analysis and power analysis. Students who successfully complete the course should have the ability to analyze complex data sets and construct measures that enable the testing of hypotheses that advance theory, research and practice in the field of education.

EDUS 609. Learning and Motivation in Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines perspectives on learning and motivation in school settings.

EDUS 610. Social Foundations of Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of significant social issues involved in the development and operation of schools and other educational institutions and processes.

EDUS 612. Education and the World's Future. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of education as it relates to future changes in other areas: population, energy, transportation, family, etc. The course will consist of readings dealing with educational change as well as a series of modules where students will engage in future exercises, games and projects.

EDUS 613. Educational Change. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Developing the skills for planned program change through the use of systematic inquiry, systems analysis and systems approaches through systems concepts. Provides opportunities for students to develop "mini (classroom) changes" or "macro (school district) changes" through the use of systems.

EDUS 614. Contemporary Educational Thought. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course will be devoted to a critical examination of educational ideas and programs emanating from contemporary writings on education. Students will be encouraged to develop critical skills of analysis in examining such writings utilizing historical and philosophical perspectives.

EDUS 615. Lifespan Development: A Gender Perspective. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Overview of human development theories and the impact of cultural gender messages on the developmental process. Crosslisted as: CLED 615.

EDUS 617. Advanced Educational Psychology for Secondary Teachers. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Application of the principles of psychology to the teaching-learning process in the secondary classroom. Discussion will focus on the comprehensive development of individual learning experiences and educational programs from the point of view of the educator and administrator. Crosslisted as: PSYC 657.

EDUS 620. Human Development in Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Doctoral seminar that examines issues in human development as they relate to the education of youth and young adults.

EDUS 621. Motivation in Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Doctoral seminar that examines issues in motivation as they relate to teaching and learning.

EDUS 631. American College and University. 3 Hours.
3 credits. Examines historical and contemporary foundations of American higher education through the study of leading developments and of contemporary issues relating to the curriculum, aims and objectives and current directions of American colleges, universities and other institutional settings of higher education. Crosslisted as: CLED 631.

EDUS 632. The Changing Face of Higher Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines how higher education is changing and explores the reasons for these changes; studies how the academy is responding to social pressures and explores scenarios for future change. Crosslisted as: ADLT 632.

EDUS 633. Academic Leadership in Higher Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Analyzes how leadership in higher education is similar to and different from leadership in other organizational settings; explores challenges for leadership (such as access, cost and social responsiveness) and examines emerging leadership roles at various levels of the academic organization. Crosslisted as: CLED 633.

EDUS 641. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. Determination of the amount of credit and permission of the instructor and department chair must be procured prior to registration. Cannot be used in place of existing courses. An individual study of a specialized issue or problem in education.

EDUS 651. Topics in Education. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. May be repeated for 9 credits. Check with department for specific prerequisites. A course for the examination of specialized issues, topics, readings or problems in education.

EDUS 660. Research Methods in Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to provide an introductory understanding of educational research and evaluation studies. Emphasizes fundamental concepts, procedures and processes appropriate for use in basic, applied and developmental research. Includes developing skills in critical analysis of research studies. Analyzes the assumptions, uses and limitations of different research designs. Explores methodological and ethical issues of educational research. Students either conduct or design a study in their area of educational specialization.

EDUS 661. Educational Evaluation: Models and Designs. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EDUS 660 or permission of instructor. A comprehensive review of the major evaluation theories and models including their focus, assumptions, designs, methodologies and audiences in educational policy making and program development. Designed for students to gain an understanding of alternative procedures of educational evaluation, an in-depth knowledge of at least one theoretical approach to evaluation and skills in interpretation of evaluation studies for policy and in developing an evaluation design for their area of specialization.
EDUS 662. Educational Measurement and Evaluation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an understanding of basic concepts of educational measurement and evaluation. Includes development, interpretation and use of norm-referenced and criterion-referenced measures, standardized instruments and qualitative assessments applicable to a wide variety of educational programs and settings. Students study in-depth measurement and/or evaluation procedures in their specialization.

EDUS 672. Internship. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of adviser. Study and integration of theory with practice in clinical or off-campus settings supervised by an approved professional and university faculty. May include seminars, selected readings, projects and other activities designed and evaluated by supervising faculty.

EDUS 673. Seminar on Educational Issues, Ethics and Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An analysis of the ethical dimensions of educational policies and practices. Examines aspects of selected educational policies and practices, drawn in part from practical issues encountered in clinical settings. Investigates how educational policies and practices reflect ethical values and how those values are grounded.

EDUS 701. Urban Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of urban education from historical and contemporary perspectives. This course includes study of the educative effect of urban environments; the development of public and private urban educational systems; the influence of social, political, and economic factors on urban educational programs; and the impact of theories, proposals, and practices on alternative futures.

EDUS 702. Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship I. 3 Hours.
3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This interdisciplinary seminar is the first part of a two-semester sequence. Students will learn about the nature of scholarly inquiry and the worth of situating research within its wider social and political contexts. Course will deal with limitations of knowledge and knowing and aid students in understanding major themes in the field of epistemology. Emphasis will be given to the nature and structure of knowledge and evidence, justification of beliefs, beliefs about "truth," naturalized epistemology and the role of skepticism in inquiry and advanced study. EDUS 702 and 703 are continuous courses.

EDUS 703. Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship II. 3 Hours.
3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EDUS 702. This interdisciplinary seminar is the second part of a two-semester sequence. Students will deepen their understanding of scientific inquiry and apply an understanding of epistemology to a critical analysis of various philosophies of research and paradigms that exist (e.g.: positivism, constructivism, etc.). Emphasis will be placed on the relationships among research, politics, policy and ethics. Examples will be drawn from research on urban issues and deal with issues such as race, class and gender in education. EDUS 702 and 703 are continuous courses.

EDUS 706. Educational Theory and Praxis in Historical and Contemporary Contexts. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This seminar focuses on philosophies of education with particular attention paid to ways of thinking about seminal ideas and their relationships to education and social, institutional, economic and cultural change in the U.S. It considers how broader social phenomena affect the purposes and structures of educational institutions as well as how educational change affects wider society. Additionally, it highlights challenges for social change within and through public schools given institutional, social and political influences. Key topics include: schooling for democracy; progressivism, pragmatism and education; eco-education; behaviorism and social utopias; multiculturalism/pluralism; contemporary political educational discourse; and the roles of theory/philosophy in education. This course offers opportunity for students to engage with theories of social change that place education/schooling at the center. It provides space for students to develop a philosophical framework for their work as well as a means to deepen their understandings of educational research, policy and theory. Finally, this course requires students to begin to put their ideas into action in educational and other social contexts by means of a community engagement/organization component. The worth of engaging with and not just learning about the curriculum, culture and change is a core value of the program and in this course we will work hard to both study about and participate in the overlapping worlds of theory/academia and education-related social action.

EDUS 707. Socio-cultural Perspectives on Schooling, Society and Change. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This seminar focuses on the critical analysis of contemporary schooling in the U.S. and investigates how educational institutions work from a sociocultural perspective. The structure of schooling is analyzed through such topics as the social organization of schooling, stratification within and among schools, youth culture and student peer groups, curriculum and the stratification of knowledge, and equality of educational opportunity as mitigated by such factors as social class, race, ethnicity and gender. Discussions about current social theories and debates in education are combined with lessons drawn from social justice-based research on the politics of schooling and institutional transformation. In sum, the course provides a framework for informed participation in debates on controversial educational issues at the macro level, including school reform and educational policy, thereby equipping future curriculum and instruction leaders with the tools they need to affect change.

EDUS 710. Quantitative Research Design. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EDUS 660 or equivalent, and a graduate-level statistics course, or permission of instructor. An examination of quantitative research designs and concepts commonly utilized in conducting research in applied educational settings. Fundamental principles of research are extended to cover such topics as quasi-experimental and nested designs, experimental validity and alignment of statistical procedures with designs.

EDUS 711. Qualitative Methods and Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate-level statistics course, and EDUS 660 or equivalent, or permission of instructor. Examines qualitative research designs and inductive analysis, including research traditions, problems formulation in fieldwork, purposeful sampling, interactive data collection strategies, research reliability and validity. An interdisciplinary approach is used. Students conduct a small field study in their specialization.
EDUS 712. Mixed Methods Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate-level statistics course, EDUS 660 and EDUS 711 or equivalents, or permission of instructor. Examines mixed methods research designs, including the major philosophical perspectives of mixed methodology, as well as the challenges and strategies for data collection and analysis procedures across designs.

EDUS 720. Seminar in Cognition and School Learning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines topics in cognition that explain students' learning such as expertise, problem solving, cognitive strategies instruction and development of the knowledge base. Supportive instructional techniques will also be considered.

EDUS 721. Advanced Seminar in Social Processes in Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the theoretical/conceptual and empirical bases of various social processes and their relationship to educational outcomes. The content covered is designed to provide students with a survey of literature and research on a number of topics that examine these relationships from individual, contextual/environmental and policy perspectives. Current developments with regard to research methodologies in these areas will also be considered.

EDUS 790. Educational Research Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides doctoral students with opportunities to investigate research areas related to their doctoral studies. Students and instructor will critique student conducted literature reviews and preliminary research proposals.

EDUS 795. Professional Seminar in Educational Issues. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Limited to students in Ph.D. in Education program. Interactive seminar discusses contemporary educational issues based on research in the historical, philosophical, psychological, sociological, political and economic foundations of education. Includes active participation by students as well as guest lectures by scholars from various academic disciplines.

EDUS 797. Directed Research. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-9 credits. Prerequisite: completion of first-year Ph.D. courses in education or permission of program director. The course provides doctoral students the opportunity to do hands-on research prior to the dissertation project that is relevant to their substantive area or individual learning needs. The topic and specific project will be initiated by the student and implemented in collaboration with a School of Education faculty member. A proposal for a directed research course must be submitted that specifies how the student will gain experience, knowledge and skills in one or more aspects of conducting a research project. Graded S/U/F.

EDUS 890. Dissertation Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of director of doctoral studies. Designed to develop and refine the skills applicable to the preparation of an acceptable draft of a dissertation prospectus. Crosslisted as: EDLP 890.

English/English Education (ENED)

ENED 532. Applied English Linguistics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: ENGL 390. Application of linguistic theories and methods to selected teaching problems, such as teaching English grammar and usage, teaching English as a second or foreign language, or teaching standard English to students who speak different dialects. Crosslisted as: ENGL 532.

ENED 601. Young Adult Literature. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examination of literature written for young adults, literature appropriate for young people in middle schools and high schools. Focuses on the content, characteristics and teaching of such literature. Crosslisted as: ENGL 601.

ENED 636. Teaching Writing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines theories and practices of teaching writing, with emphasis on the connections between theory and practice. Crosslisted as: ENGL 636.

Interdisciplinary Developmental Disability Studies (IDDS)

IDDS 600. Interdisciplinary Studies in Developmental Disabilities: Teamwork in Serving Persons with Developmental Disabilities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides information and activities on models of teamwork, group decision making, team process, leadership and communication and how they influence services for persons with disabilities and their families; content/discussion focuses on the roles and functions of individuals from various disciplines (including parents) as team members; includes case studies and simulations of interdisciplinary teamwork in action.

IDDS 601. Resilience: Models, Research and Applications. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Overview of resilience models and research across the life span in diverse populations. Interdisciplinary emphasis on applying this overview to prevention and intervention programs at individual, family, school, community and societal levels.

IDDS 602. Leadership in Developmental Disabilities. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. A team-taught seminar in leadership development with particular emphasis on issues related to children with developmental disabilities.

IDDS 603. Clinical and Community Services for Children with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Team-taught by faculty from the Leadership Education for Neurodevelopmental Disorders (LEND) program using problem-based learning. Students will learn the interdisciplinary approach to services for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities with an emphasis on evidence-based practices, the medical home and sources of community support.

IDDS 604. Interdisciplinary Studies in Developmental Disabilities: LEND Seminar I. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours; 1 online hour. 4 credits. Enrollment restricted to students who have applied to and been accepted as a trainee or fellow in the Va-LEND program. Provides information and activities on models of teamwork, group decision-making, interdisciplinary team process, communication strategies and leadership skills. Focus is on how teamwork and leadership influence services for children with developmental disabilities and their families.

IDDS 605. Interdisciplinary Studies in Developmental Disabilities: LEND Seminar II. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours; 1 online hour. 4 credits. Enrollment restricted to students who have applied to and been accepted as a trainee or fellow in the Va-LEND program. Students will learn the interdisciplinary approach to services for children with neurodevelopmental disabilities with an emphasis on research and evidence-based practices, pertinent legislation, the medical home and sources of community support.
IDDS 672. Practicum in Disability Leadership. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 lecture hours. 1-4 credits. May be taken for a total of 4 credits. Study and integration of interdisciplinary practice in clinical or off-campus settings. Supervised by interdisciplinary faculty. Includes interdisciplinary clinical practice, family mentorship experience, disability policy activities, leadership project and professional development activities specific to leadership education for developmental disabilities. Trainees will have an opportunity to function as both team members and team leaders in addressing the needs of children with disabilities or other special health care needs and their families.

IDDS 691. Special Topics in Developmental Disabilities. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of graduate faculty adviser, course faculty coordinator, and director of preservice training at the Virginia Institute for Developmental Disabilities. Explores specific interdisciplinary content and issues in the field of developmental disabilities and examines the practice approaches of multiple disciplines.

IDDS 692. Directed Study in Developmental Disabilities. 1-4 Hours.
Variable hours. 1-4 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of graduate faculty adviser and director of preservice training at the Virginia Institute for Developmental Disabilities. Provides an independent study in a specific area of interdisciplinary practice in developmental disabilities developed under the supervision of a member of the graduate faculty.

Reading (READ)

READ 600. Analysis and Correction of Reading Problems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: TEDU 561 or permission of instructor. An analysis of factors relating to reading difficulty. Diagnostic testing procedures and instructional strategies appropriate for the reading specialist in clinical and classroom settings will be emphasized.

READ 601. Psycholinguistics and Language Arts Curriculum. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An investigation of the psychological processes involved in language behavior and the relationship of these processes to the teaching of the basic communication skills.

READ 602. Literacy for Adults. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of methods, strategies and techniques appropriate for teaching adult readers functioning at levels ranging from beginning to college level. Assessment issues, basic reading concepts, skills, and adult reading methods and materials are analyzed. Focus is on adapting teaching techniques for use with adults in various academic and life settings.

READ 605. Organizing and Implementing Reading Programs. 3 Hours.
3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: TEDU 561, READ 600 and TEDU 672, or permission of instructor. Integrates reading theory with program implementation. Analyzes the role of reading specialist as related to program design, assessment, supervision, instruction, and resource responsibilities. Includes specific field-based requirements.

READ 672. Internship. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Prerequisites: READ 600 and TEDU 561. Study and integration of theory with practice in clinical or off-campus settings supervised by an approved professional and university faculty. May include seminars, selected readings, projects and other activities designed and evaluated by supervising faculty.

READ 691. Topics in Reading. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Examines recent trends and topics within the field. Includes review of pertinent research, examination of policy issues and investigation of historical movements. Clinical application is included as appropriate.

READ 700. Externship. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. Prerequisite: READ 605. Plan of work designed by extern with prior approval of the offering department. State certification or equivalent may be required for some externships. Off-campus planned experiences for advanced graduate students designed to extend professional competencies, carried out in a setting, under supervision of an approved professional. Externship activities monitored and evaluated by university faculty.

Special Education and Disability Policy (SEDP)

SEDP 501. Characteristics of Students with High Incidence Disabilities. 3 Hours.
Semester course, delivered online, face-to-face or hybrid; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on characteristics and identification of individuals with learning disabilities, emotional disturbance, intellectual disabilities, developmental delay, the less severe autism spectrum disorders, traumatic brain injury and other health impairments throughout the lifespan, as well as providing information on effective educational, psychosocial and behavioral interventions that serve as adaptations to the general curriculum. The possibilities of co-morbid or multiple conditions, coupled with cross-categorical instructional settings warrant a class that examines all eligibility categories of students served under the special education, general curriculum.

SEDP 502. Supervision Seminar I. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. This course emphasizes effective techniques to use when working with special education and general education teachers, instructional assistants, parent and students with disabilities. Participants will examine the different roles of the special educator. Class members are encouraged to introduce topics for discussion based on their teaching experiences. Problem-solving strategies will be developed to address the issues raised during class. The course will provide the special educator with an understanding of the Individualized Education Program process from fostering consensus to developing the IEP. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the impact of the student’s disability in accessing the general curriculum. Developing a data-driven IEP based on standards will also be emphasized.

SEDP 503. Supervision Seminar II. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. This course emphasizes effective techniques to use when working with special education and general education teachers, instructional assistants, parent and students with disabilities. Participants will examine the different roles of the special educator. Class members are encouraged to introduce topics for discussion based on their teaching experiences. Problem-solving strategies will be developed to address the issues raised during class. The course will provide the special educator with an understanding of how to implement mandates in the classroom as related to the state assessment program. Participants will learn why there is an emphasis on the development of standards-based IEPs and how they are integrated in daily classroom instruction. Participants will also learn about the different SOL participation options and how to use criteria to determine the appropriate option.
SEDP 505. Theory and Practice of Educating Individuals with Special Needs. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Not for certification or endorsement in special education. In-depth study of past and current philosophies and approaches to serving students with special needs in educational settings. Attends to specific ways school services and classroom practices of general education teaching can assist in meeting these needs in today’s schools through collaboration and inclusion.

SEDP 531. Educational Foundations for Collaboration and Universally Designed Learning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Delivered as online, face-to-face or hybrid course. Focuses on providing candidates with the knowledge of the foundation for educating students with disabilities, as well as the principles and processes for collaboration and consultation with educational colleagues, community professionals and families. Covers the historical, philosophical and sociological foundations underlying the role, development and organization of public education in the U.S. Discussions and readings will focus on creating and maintaining inclusive schools, effective communication strategies for building successful collaborative teams and universally designed instructional strategies to use in co-taught classrooms.

SEDP 532. Understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course presents an introduction to autism spectrum disorder. The course will include a discussion of the core behavioral and secondary characteristics and how they impact the individual across the lifespan, from infancy through adulthood. Family concerns and considerations will be discussed in the context of age, development and need for support. The course will also describe the qualities of intervention strategies and will outline ways to evaluate practices and make sound intervention decisions.

SEDP 533. Educational Assessment of Individuals with Diverse Learning Needs. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Delivered as online, face-to-face or hybrid course. Focuses on current assessment theory, procedures and instruments used to evaluate students with high incidence disabilities in grades K through 12. The examination of both formal and informal assessment and their application in an educational setting and the designing of IEP’s will be emphasized. Course will include the historical, philosophical and sociological foundations of the instructional design based on assessment data (relationships among assessment, instruction and monitoring student progress to include student performance measures in grading practices, the ability to construct and interpret valid assessments using a variety of formats in order to measure student attainment of essential skills in a standards-based environment, and the ability to analyze assessment data to make decisions about how to improve instruction and student performance).

SEDP 600. Language/Communication Intervention for Young Children and Individuals with Severe Disabilities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. An intensive study of the developmental sequence of language/communication acquisition and intervention strategies for individuals with severe language delays or deficits, severe intellectual disabilities and/or other severe multiple disabilities.

SEDP 601. Methods I: Teaching Students in Special Education - General Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Delivered as online, face-to-face or hybrid course. Provides an introduction to instructional strategies and organization of activities, including curriculum, media, materials and physical environment for children in grades K-12 with high incidence disabilities. Candidates will develop skills to plan and deliver instruction in a variety of educational settings such as inclusive classrooms, resource rooms, self-contained classes and residential programs.

SEDP 602. Methods II: Teaching Students in Special Education - General Education. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Delivered as online, face-to-face or hybrid course. Prerequisites: SEDP 601 and acceptance for teacher preparation if in the M.Ed. program. Provides a study of instructional strategies and organization of activities with focus on elementary and secondary students with high incidence disabilities (in grades K-12) including curriculum, media, materials and physical environment. Candidates will use the foundation from Methods I as a context for developing skills necessary to provide the most effective classroom instruction for secondary students. A continued focus will be on assessing and monitoring student performance, adapting instructional interventions based upon students’ response to intervention, and selecting evidence-based practices that have the greatest likelihood of success.

SEDP 603. Theories, Assessment and Practices in Reading for Students With High Incidence Disabilities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Delivered as online, face-to-face or hybrid course. Prerequisite: TEDU 561. Designed to prepare special education teachers to instruct students with high incidence disabilities who exhibit reading deficits. Strategies, techniques and methods will be analyzed for their appropriate use with different types of reading/language problems. The course includes assessment practices and use of instruments that form the basis for instructional planning.

SEDP 604. Characteristics of Students With Severe Disabilities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students who have been admitted to the Virginia Consortium for Teacher Preparation in Special Education Adapted Curriculum. Examines nature and causes of disabling or special health conditions. Covers screening and evaluation techniques, characteristics and educational implications.

SEDP 610. Teaching Strategies for Students with Severe Disabilities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is designed to provide instruction in teaching methods for individuals with severe behavior, learning or emotional disabilities. Emphasis will be placed on instructional program development, task analysis and methods of precision teaching.

SEDP 611. Secondary Education and Transition Planning. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Delivered as online, face-to-face or hybrid course. Explores the literature, research, issues and trends that are relevant to high school-aged students with high incidence disabilities as they prepare for their transition to life after high school. Focus is on providing candidates with the ability to prepare their students and work with their families to promote successful student transitions throughout the educational experience including postsecondary training, employment and independent living that addresses an understanding of long-term planning, career development, life skills, community experiences and resources, self-advocacy and self-determination, guardianship, and legal considerations. The full range of functioning is addressed in the areas of education, employment, social/emotional functioning, personal and daily living issues.
SED 612. Assessment and Curriculum for Students with Severe Disabilities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Addresses functional assessment strategies, IEP development, and curriculum organization and implementation for students with severe disabilities. Emphasizes educating learners in the least restrictive environment using a transdisciplinary team approach.

SED 616. Introduction to Disability Studies, Community Services and Business Networks. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines disability history, theory and current thinking in the field of disability studies. Changes in philosophy, legislation and policy over the past four decades will be examined to trace the paradigm shift that led to our current conceptualization of disability. Students will investigate the community services and resources available to support adults with disabilities, as well as new trends in business partnerships and employment service models that promote the economic self-sufficiency of adults with disabilities.

SED 619. Multicultural Perspectives in Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to enhance cultural competence in diverse classrooms and schools. Major considerations include race, ethnicity, linguistic, gender, abilities and sexual orientation differences. Key concepts include structural, curricular and instructional facets of working successfully in diverse educational settings. Personal and theoretical constructs of race, ethnicity, culture, disability and other related concepts are explored. This course is delivered online. Crosslisted as: TEDU 619.

SED 621. Applied Behavior Analysis: Principals, Procedures and Philosophy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to provide an overview of the basic principles and procedures of applied behavior analysis. Factors and principles that contribute to improved performance as well as development of interfering behaviors are identified. Further procedures that can be used to minimize interfering behavior, improve performance, teach new behaviors and increase the probability of behaviors occurring under appropriate circumstances are described.

SED 622. Ethics and Professional Conduct for Behavior Analysts. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: SEDP 621. Provides an overview of the professional conduct standards consistent with the practices of applied behavior analysis and outlines how to provide ethical and responsible behavioral programming. The Virginia Behavior Analyst Licensure law, the Behavior Analyst Certification Board's Guidelines for Responsible Conduct and Disciplinary Standards, as well as the Association for Positive Behavior Supports Standards of Practice are reviewed and used to guide course content. A focus is placed on developing and implementing ethical behavioral programming that promotes the improvement as well as the dignity of the person receiving intervention. Ethical conduct as it relates to colleagues, the field of ABA and society also is discussed.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: SEDP 621. Provides information on the basic content of applied behavior analysis and how to implement the core principles in real-life situations. Participants will be instructed on how to implement behavioral procedures and develop behavioral programs for individuals who may need to increase positive skills or reduce interfering behavior. Participants also will be instructed on single-subject design, the research methodology used in the field of ABA and its applications in real-life situations.

SED 624. Applied Behavior Analysis: Applications. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: SEDP 621. Discusses the various applications of the field of applied behavior analysis and expands the capability to deal with more complex behavioral situations, enabling the ability to relate to more sophisticated professional issues and environments. Specifically, the course demonstrates how ABA is applied in real-world situations to make socially significant changes by minimizing interfering behavior, improving performance, teaching new behaviors and increasing the probability of behaviors occurring under appropriate circumstances. This course also provides a foundation for giving appropriate support to those implementing the behavior plan.

SED 625. Applied Behavior Analysis: Assessments and Interventions. 3 Hours.
Semester course. 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: SEDP 621. Expands on basic content of applied behavior analysis and teaches how to implement behavioral procedures and develop behavioral programs for individuals with fundamentally relevant behavioral needs. In this course, participants will learn how to implement behavioral assessments, select and develop intervention procedures, and compose instructions for implementation.

SED 626. Applied Behavior Analysis: Verbal Behavior. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: SEDP 621. Further expands the participant’s capability to use applied behavior analysis in complex behavioral situations and enables students to apply principles to sophisticated issues through analysis of language development. The course will provide information on verbal behavior and basic verbal operators and how to develop intervention procedures to teach diverse learners.

SED 630. Trends in Special Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Includes an overview of legislation and case law pertaining to special education, characteristics of individuals with and without exceptionalities including growth and development from birth through adolescence, mainstreaming, integration/ inclusion, transition, and classroom adaptations for educating students with disabilities in least restrictive environments. Candidates will become familiar with the general characteristics of children with and without exceptionalities relative to age, varying levels of severity and developmental differences manifested in cognitive, linguistic, physical, psychomotor, social or emotional functioning.

SED 631. Classroom Management and Behavior Support for Students with Disabilities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Delivered as online, face-to-face or hybrid course. Provides an in-depth analysis of theoretical models, research and strategies for supporting positive behavior of students with various disabilities. Emphasis is on developing, implementing and evaluating behavior management programs in special education programs including functional assessment of behavior. This course will help develop a candidate’s ideas about examining the behaviors of students with special needs in school settings, including an understanding and application of classroom and behavior management techniques and individual interventions. Techniques and approaches taught will promote skills that are consistent with norms, standards and rules of the educational environment and will be diverse based upon behavioral cognitive, affective, social and ecological theory and practice. As part of the course requirements, candidates complete approved modules in child abuse and neglect recognition and intervention.
SEDPA 632. Transition Strategies for Students with Disabilities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to provide knowledge of the special educator’s role in preparing students with disabilities for post-secondary educational and vocational environments. Emphasis is placed on designing and modifying high school curricula involving students and their families in transition planning and helping students acquire the services needed to be successful in adult life.

SEDPA 634. Assessment, Curriculum and Teaching Methods for Autism Spectrum Disorder. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SEDPA 532. Students will review assessment techniques and curriculum design, as well as the major methodologies to teach individuals with autism spectrum disorder from early intervention through transition to adult services in inclusive and specialized educational settings. This course will focus on scientifically based interventions that address the communication development and academic needs of the individual with autism spectrum disorder. Participants will be required to demonstrate knowledge of course goals by integrating content with students with autism spectrum disorder.

SEDPA 635. Supporting Behavior and Social Skills for Autism Spectrum Disorder. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SEDPA 532. Students will review major methodologies needed to create a positive social and emotional learning environment for individuals with autism spectrum disorder from early intervention through transition to adult services in inclusive and specialized educational settings. This course will address the individual’s social, behavioral and sensory needs by focusing on the emerging best-practice interventions needed to teach social understanding and shape appropriate social behavior, build play and leisure skills, teach anger and stress management, and develop sensory motor modulation, conduct functional behavior assessments, and provide positive behavior support. Participants will be required to demonstrate knowledge of course goals through integration with students with autism spectrum disorder.

SEDPA 638. Instructional Design and Field Experience for Autism Spectrum Disorder. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SEDPA 532, 634 and 635. Students will focus on the integration of theoretical and practical concepts related to supporting individuals with autism spectrum disorder from early intervention through transition to adult services in educational settings. It provides the opportunity to apply knowledge of assessment, curriculum design, teaching methodologies and environmental and technological supports while working collaboratively with caregivers and educational teams to develop individualized programming. This course has a 20-hour field-based experience that is to take place in an educational setting. The field-based experience will be coordinated with the course instructor.

SEDPA 641. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. An individual study of a specialized issue or problem in education.

SEDPA 651. Topics in Education. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. May be repeated for 9 credits. Check with department for specific prerequisites. A course for the examination of specialized issues, topics, readings or problems in education.

SEDPA 658. Educating Students with Physical and Sensory Disabilities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the educational, social, physical, and health care needs of students who possess both cognitive and physical/sensory disabilities. Focuses on specific strategies for positioning and handling students, assessing skills and developing goals collaboratively. Emphasizes techniques for meeting the needs of students with deaf-blindness and students with special health-care needs.

SEDPA 700. Externship. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 lecture hours. 1-6 credits. The externship experience for M.Ed. candidates requires the study and integration of theory with practice in a clinical setting supervised by an approved professional and university faculty member. This externship includes planned site visits by the university faculty member (at least four of the visits will be observations of the student in a teaching situation). During the semester-long externship, students are in classrooms with a set amount of hours spent supervised by a fully licensed, experienced teacher in direct teaching activities. Any other externship configuration can only be done with the permission of the severe disabilities program coordinator. The supervision provided emphasizes effective techniques to use when working with special education and general education teachers, instructional assistants, parents and students with disabilities.

SEDPA 705. Seminar on Disability Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Discussion and examination of key federal and state issues that affect disability policy and program management. Includes an in-depth examination of IDEA, ADA and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

SEDPA 706. Personnel Development in Special Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prepares individuals to effectively design, provide and evaluate personnel development programs that prepare professionals to maximize the developmental, educational, emotional and employment outcomes of individuals with disabilities.

SEDPA 707. Critical Issues in Special Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Discussion and examination of controversial and/or critical issues in special education, as well as current IDEA definitions, referral and assessment methods and instructional models.

SEDPA 708. Grant Writing in Special Education and Other Social Sciences. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines conceptual, empirical and practical issues in the preparation of grant proposals and in the conduct of interdisciplinary research in the social sciences that focuses on education and related issues in youth development, with a specific emphasis on youth with disabilities. Students will develop practical skills in establishing interdisciplinary research teams; interdisciplinary research design and grant proposal development; matching research questions to funding agencies and their priorities; working with community agencies and relevant stakeholders to secure their involvement in the research process; writing research or training grant proposals.

SEDPA 709. Literature Reviews in Special Education and Other Social Sciences. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides in-depth, advanced instruction in the conducting of systematic literature reviews; instruction in how to create and refine a research question; instruction in defining and refining search terms; instruction in critically analyzing identified literature; and instruction in the writing and structure of a literature review.
SEDP 711. Doctoral Seminar in Single Subject Design. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is intended to
provide an overview of strategies for designing and conducting
single subject studies that are relevant to education, special education,
psychology and other related fields of inquiry. Its purpose is to provide
doctoral students or advanced graduate students who are interested in
applied research designs with an opportunity to acquire competencies
related to planning, implementing and analyzing such research. The
content of the course will focus on applications and interpretations of
single-case research designs and the analysis of human behavior in
educational and community settings. This course is designed as an initial
course in single research design.

SEDP 771. Research Internship. 1-3 Hours.
 Semester course; 1-3 research hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for
a total of 3 credits. Enrollment requires prior approval of adviser. The
research internship is designed to provide doctoral students with an
opportunity to demonstrate competence at designing and conducting a
pilot research study and disseminating research findings. Graded as S/U/
F.

SEDP 772. Teaching Internship. 1-3 Hours.
 Semester course; 1-3 internship hours. 1-3 credits. Enrollment requires
prior approval of adviser. The teaching internship is designed to provide
doctoral students with an opportunity to demonstrate competence in
the activities related to the preparation of teachers of students with
disabilities at the university level. Graded as S/U/F.

SEDP 773. Service/Policy Internship. 1-2 Hours.
 Semester course; 1-2 hours of internship. 1-2 credits. Enrollment
requires prior approval of adviser. The service competency is met
through an internship that is designed to give doctoral candidates an
intensive experience in which they can become actively involved in
professional service to the field of special education and, in particular,
in the development and implementation of local, state or national policy.
Graded as S/U/F.

SEDP 890. Dissertation Prospectus Preparation. 1 Hour.
 Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: SEDP 709
 Students will receive guidance in the preparation of their dissertation
prospectus, describing their plan for conducting an original research
study as the final requirement for their Ph.D. in Special Education and
Disability Policy. Graded S/U/F.

SEDP 899. Dissertation. 1-9 Hours.
 Semester course; variable hours. Variable credit. May be repeated.
A minimum of 9 semester hours required. Prerequisite: Successful
completion of comprehensive examinations and approval of student's
doctoral prospectus. Dissertation work under direction of dissertation
committee. Graded as S/U/F.

Sport Leadership (SPTL)

SPTL 591. Topical Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
 Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a
maximum of 6 credits. A seminar intended for group study by students
interested in examining topics, issues or problems related to health,
physical education, exercise science, recreation and sport. Crosslisted as:
HEMS 591.

SPTL 603. Research Methods in Sport. 3 Hours.
 Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to help graduate
students acquire the fundamental skills of evaluating peer-reviewed
research, while also facilitating the development of student research
projects. Course offers an introduction to market research, an important
aspect in today's sport environment and industry, and will help students
determine and defend problems in sport from a statistical perspective,
bringing more credibility to their stance.

SPTL 604. Research Practicum. 3 Hours.
 Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SPTL 603.
Focuses on conceptualizing and writing a professional paper or the first
part of a research study (either RPSL 797 Research Project or RPSL 798
Thesis) on a topic in recreation, parks and sport leadership chosen by
the student in consultation with the instructor and adviser. Emphasizes
problem identification, literature review and research design.

SPTL 607. Field Instruction. 3 Hours.
 Semester course; 150-360 clock hours. 3 credits. Enrollment only
by permission of adviser. Application of theoretical knowledge as a
practicing professional in a recreation, parks or sport agency or
enterprise. A faculty member and field supervisor assess basic
knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to function as a provider or
manager or leisure services or sports system.

SPTL 608. Sport and Entertainment Event Development. 3 Hours.
 Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The first semester of a
two-course sequence designed to allow graduate students to acquire
the fundamental skills needed to plan events in all areas of the sport
and entertainment industry, including planning and event design,
understanding financial contracts, facility and security risk management,
marketing and promotions, and implementation and control methods. By
the completion of the sequence (SPTL 608/SPTL 610), students will have
designed, planned and implemented an actual event that will take place
at the end of the spring semester.

SPTL 610. Sport and Entertainment Event Development. 3 Hours.
 Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SPTL 608.
Designed to allow graduate students to acquire the fundamental skills
needed to plan events in all areas of the sport and entertainment industry,
including planning and event design, understanding financial contracts,
facility and security risk management, marketing and promotions, and
implementation and control methods. By the completion of the two-
course sequence (SPTL 608/SPTL 610), students will have designed,
planned and implemented an actual event that will take place at the end
of the spring semester.

SPTL 622. Sport Consumer Behavior. 3 Hours.
 Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course focuses on the
importance of understanding consumer behavior within contemporary
sport. Students will gain an appreciation for how understanding and
influencing sport consumer behavior is a fundamental marketing/
management strategy, and how an understanding of consumers (fans)
enables sport marketers and managers to more effectively meet the
needs of buyers in the market. The course explores psychological, social,
situational and marketing factors that influence the selection and usage
of sport products and services.

SPTL 623. Sport and the Environment. 3 Hours.
 Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is designed to
explore the relationship between sport and the environment. Specifically,
the course will investigate (a) the ways in which sport (participant and
spectator) affect the natural environment, (b) the ways the natural
environment effect sport and (c) the stewardship role sport can play with
respect to environmental issues.
SPTL 630. Sociology of Sport. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to sport leadership majors. Provides a systematic study of human behavior as it occurs in and is influenced by social groups, institutions, organizations and societies. Provides an understanding of sport as a social phenomenon and examines principles that govern social behavior and sport. Identifies the consequences of various social structures and critically examines these consequences based on the student's own ethical and moral positions.

SPTL 631. Contemporary Issues in Sport. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to sport leadership majors. Provides the opportunity to investigate contemporary issues in sports today. Issues utilized for discussion include ethics and values in sport, athlete's rights and issues, ownership rights and issues, media in sports and media's impact on sports, sports agents, women in sport business, Title IX and gender equality, and the NCAA.

SPTL 632. Sport Business. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to sport leadership majors. Provides an in-depth examination of pertinent aspects of business and law as applied to the sports industry. Topics include contract and tort, risk and reliability, organization structure and management, budget and business plans, and facility management. Provides the basic principles of business and law necessary for successful entry into sports related careers.

SPTL 633. Marketing of Sport. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Will familiarize the student with practical aspects of sports marketing including the dynamic nature of sport marketing and the importance of branding. Through lecture and case-study analysis, the course will provide students with the understanding of the importance of marketing theory and fundamentals specific to the marketing of sport. Designed to introduce students to marketing within the sport industry, including understanding the unique aspects of sport as product, the sport consumer market and the sport product market.

SPTL 634. Foundations of Coaching. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to sport leadership majors. Acquaints the student with principles, techniques and functions related to coaching and administrative fundamentals for any sport. Special emphasis on communication, motivation, organization and team building for success. Provides an understanding and overview of multiple elements that contribute to successful and productive coaching of athletes and managing athletics programs.

SPTL 635. Leadership Models in Sport. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to sport leadership majors. Acquaints the student with principles, techniques and functions related to management and leadership in all organizations. Focuses on the impact of leadership on organizations and their members. Discusses key ingredients of successful management and visionary leadership.

SPTL 640. Sport Media and Communications. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of the converging worlds of journalism, public relations, marketing and advertising as expressed in the new commercial reality of sport. Students will be provided with a history of sports media and the changes the media has undergone in recent years. Students will learn the many reasons media relations are important as well as methods to make sure those relations are strong with sport entities. Students will also have the opportunity to be placed in the media chair and produce written material as a reporter covering a team or an athletic program.

SPTL 641. Sports Psychology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An overview of the discipline of sports psychology designed to facilitate an understanding and application of mental skills as well as to provide an understanding of other applied domains, such as life skills within sport psychology. Goal setting, relaxation, imagery, burnout and communication are some of the key issues examined.

SPTL 642. Sport Ethics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Offers an application of the tools of moral reasoning and ethics to the management of sports and recreation programs. This class places students in ethical decision-making situations within the sport industry and provides the tools necessary to effectively navigate these circumstances.

SPTL 643. Sport Law. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An application of basic principles of law to the management of sports, events, teams, organizations, educational institutions and facilities. This course will involve the study of the application of various legal doctrines to a broad range of sports-related activities. Particular areas of the law that will be discussed include contracts, labor law, antitrust, taxation, torts, remedies, arbitration and constitutional law.

SPTL 644. NCAA Collegiate Coaching. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to prepare students for the daily responsibilities of assistant and head NCAA coaches by gaining knowledge and confidence through working with camps, managing a budget and developing an understanding of the NCAA rules and regulations. At the conclusion of the course, students will understand the many principles needed to be a successful coach at the collegiate level.

SPTL 645. Sales and Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to provide students with an in-depth analysis of sales and fundraising management, emphasizing strategies and techniques, sales presentations, professional image, product/service knowledge, customer relations, sales ethics, and return-on-investment. Additional topics will explore various aspects of development including annual fund management, corporate and foundation relations, prospect research, special events, major gifts, capital campaigns and gift planning.

SPTL 646. Facilities and Event Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to help graduate students acquire the fundamental skills needed to plan different types of events, from facility design to determining the nuts and bolts of event design and implementation.

SPTL 647. Global Sports Issues. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to provide a systematic study of human behavior as it occurs in and is influenced by social groups, institutions, organizations and societies pertaining to sports beyond the United States. Through this course students will gain a better understanding of sport as a social phenomenon (economically, politically, religiously, educationally, etc.) throughout the world.

SPTL 648. Issues in College Athletics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course seeks to identify contemporary issues and challenges in intercollegiate athletics. A primary objective is that students be cognizant of issues and concerns in sport, which may have a direct bearing in their future involvement in sport at the collegiate level. In addition, students will be encouraged to think critically about the current state of intercollegiate athletics and provide practical solutions for the sustainable growth and prosperity of athletic departments, student-athletes and institutions of higher education.
SPTL 650. European Model of Sport. 3 Hours.
Semester course. 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An opportunity for students to get a first-hand examination of how sports principles and techniques are carried out overseas. Students will learn the global business of sport through class sessions, tours and events with top sport professionals in Europe. This class provides an excellent chance to gain access to a distant market and build contacts and networks, while growing culturally in the understanding of sport on a global scale.

SPTL 651. Advanced Coaching Techniques. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to students in the coaching track. Designed to provide students who have career aspirations of coaching an in-depth analysis of the profession and its challenges. Students will examine topics including coaching philosophies, networking, recruiting, marketing, fundraising, crisis management and other pertinent topics.

SPTL 691. Topics in Sport Leadership. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for 9 credits. Check with department for specific prerequisites. A course for the examination of specialized issues, topics, readings or problems in sport leadership.

SPTL 692. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. Determination of the amount of credit and permission of the instructor and department chair must be procured prior to registration. Cannot be used in place of existing courses. An individual study of a specialized issue or problem in recreation.

SPTL 695. Externship. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a total of 6 credits. Prerequisites: permission of the fieldwork supervisor or executive director, and completion of 24 graduate credits. Restricted to sport leadership majors. Plan of work designed by the extern with prior approval of the offering program. Off-campus planned experiences for advanced graduate students designed to extend professional competencies in recreation, parks and sport leadership. Directed by university faculty in cooperation with placement site directors.

SPTL 701. Seminar in Sport Research. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Must be taken for a total of 3 credits. Restricted to students in the sport leadership track of the Ph.D. in Education program. Provides students with a broad, comprehensive understanding of academic research as it relates to the sport industry. This course is designed to fully engage students in the research process, including exploration of journals in the area of sport management and leadership, developing a literature review, overview of the manuscript review process and collaboration with faculty within the university and across the country. Students will also learn to prepare for academic research presentations at regional and national conferences and submit first-author manuscripts for scholarly journals.

SPTL 702. Seminar in Sport Leadership and the Profession. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to students in the sport leadership track of the Ph.D. in Education program. The course is designed to provide students with a broad, yet comprehensive preparation for a career in academe and offer a general sense of university structure and of the breadth of opportunities in higher education. Students will also explore their vision of "being a professor" and discuss timely and pressing topics in the field of sport leadership and academia, as well as receive assistance in the job-search process.

Teacher Education (TEDU)

TEDU 500. Workshop in Education. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. Repeatable to 6 credits. Designed to focus on a single topic within a curriculum area, the workshop offers graduate students exposure to new information strategies and materials in the context of a flexible instructional framework. Activities emphasize a hands-on approach with direct application to the educational setting.

TEDU 501. Supervising Student Teachers. 1-3 Hours.
3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Focuses on the role of clinical faculty as site-based supervisors of student teachers. Provides knowledge, skills and training necessary to supervise and evaluate student teachers.

TEDU 503. Guidance for Exceptional Children. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An introduction to guidance strategies for assisting exceptional children. Special attention is given to the interrelationships of home, school and community resources.

TEDU 512. Teaching Elementary Health and Physical Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Restricted to students in general health and physical education who have been admitted to teacher preparation program. Designed to enhance knowledge and advanced pedagogical skills in teaching elementary health and physical education. Through an analysis of the NASPE and AHEE standards, state SOL, goals, objectives and programs, students construct year-round curricula and daily lesson plans for use in public school settings. Emphasis also placed upon classroom management skills and administrative and organizational strategies dealing with facilities, equipment, teaching aids, measurement and safety.

TEDU 513. Teaching Health Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Restricted to students in general health and physical education who have been admitted to teacher preparation program. Prepares students to become independent problem-solvers and decision-makers by applying previously acquired knowledge to advanced instructional techniques in the public school health classroom. Students acquire advanced pedagogical skills and gain insight into the development of health education programs for middle and secondary schools. Course includes the development of curricula, unit plans and lesson plans.

TEDU 514. Teaching Physical Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Restricted to students in general health and physical education who have been admitted to teacher preparation program. Designed to enhance knowledge and advanced pedagogical skills in teaching secondary physical education. Through an analysis of the national standards, state SOL, goals, objectives and programs, students construct year-round curricula, units and daily lesson plans to be used in public schools. Emphasis also placed upon the acquisition of administrative and organizational knowledge dealing with facilities, equipment, teaching aids, measurement and safety.

TEDU 517. Science Education in the Elementary School. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: TEDU 414 and admission to teacher preparation program. Corequisites: TEDU 310 (Practicum B), 522 and 591. A course designed to renew and/or expand teachers’ knowledge and skills in the teaching of science in the classroom and the community. New materials and methodologies will be examined in the light of current trends, research findings and professional recommendations.
TEDU 521. Teaching Mathematics for Middle Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Emphasis on current instructional strategies, learning theories and manipulative materials appropriate for teaching mathematics to children. The content focuses on middle grades, but the developmental approach includes some topics from the primary grades.

TEDU 522. Teaching Mathematics for Elementary Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: TEDU 414 and admission to teacher preparation program or permission of instructor. Corequisites: TEDU 310 (Practicum B), 517 and 591. Emphasis on current instructional strategies, learning theories and manipulative materials appropriate for teaching mathematics to children. The content focus is on the primary and elementary grades.

TEDU 523. Implementing and Administering Programs for Young Children. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides the student with fundamental knowledge and skills in the implementation, supervision and administration of educational programs in schools, centers and homes for infants and young children. A problems approach will be utilized with emphasis on creative management and evaluative processes.

TEDU 524. Cross-cultural Perspectives in Child Rearing and Early Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Analysis of the impact of linguistic patterns, child-rearing techniques and socialization processes on the education of young children in various cultural settings.

TEDU 525. Teaching Language Arts. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Teaching techniques and materials for the developmental teaching of communication skills. Students will explore significant research and current literature related to content, organization and instruction in language arts for the elementary and middle schools.

TEDU 526. Word Study. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Integrates the linguistic, historical, theoretical and research bases of developmental spelling and word knowledge (phonics, phonemic awareness and vocabulary). A primary focus is on the stages of spelling development, including assessment and instruction of orthographic knowledge at each stage.

TEDU 528. Children's Literature II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of classic and current children's books from a variety of literary genres. Magazines and media-related reference resources and journals are reviewed. The creative use of literature, its sociocultural functions and its contribution to the development of the oral and written expression of children from nursery to grade eight are explored. A focus on children with special problems is included. May not be taken for credit toward undergraduate English major if student has taken ENGL 351/TEDU 351. May not be used to fulfill literature requirement for M.A. in English or M.F.A. in Creative Writing, but may be taken as elective credit. Crosslisted as: ENGL 528.

TEDU 531. Media Literacy in the K-12 Classroom. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Offered in online and traditional formats. Explores the role of media in society and methods for incorporating media literacy instruction in the K-12 school classroom. Participants will study the foundations of media literacy, critical thinking and the ways media shapes our views of culture, society and education. Through hands-on activities and projects, participants will become familiar with a variety of media tools and instructional methods for utilizing media to support student learning. Participants will research methods for assessing student learning when using paper-based and digital media.

TEDU 535. Problems of Social Studies Instruction. 3-6 Hours.
Semester course; 3-6 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor and appropriate teaching experience. An in-depth investigation into the nature of and alternatives to problems encountered by students while teaching. Developing and evaluating instructional alternatives will be stressed.

TEDU 537. Secondary School Curriculum. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Studies the background and objectives of the contemporary secondary school; basic issues, current trends and practices in curriculum construction and instructional planning are examined.

TEDU 540. Teaching Middle and High School Sciences. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EDUS 301 and admission to teacher preparation or permission of instructor. Examines the teaching strategies, materials and objectives of the sciences in middle and high schools. Emphasizes the nature of science in science instruction, teaching of experimental design and translating science education research into teaching practices.

TEDU 544. Introduction to the Middle School. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of the nature and capabilities of the middle school student, the school environment, teacher characteristics, instructional modes, the curriculum and the future of the middle school movement.

TEDU 545. Teaching Secondary School Mathematics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: upper-division mathematical sciences major or EDUS 301 and admission to teacher preparation or permission of instructor. Examines materials, resources, innovations, procedures, methods, equipment and learning principles appropriate for decision-making related to the teaching of secondary mathematics.

TEDU 547. Teaching Secondary School Social Studies. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines demands involved in secondary social studies instruction; preparatory approaches to using academic and professional insights in confronting the demands; formulating and implementing appropriate methodological approaches.

TEDU 548. Teaching Secondary School English. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EDUS 301 and admission to teacher preparation or permission of instructor. Studies teaching strategies, materials and objectives for literature, language and composition; developing and organizing English instruction; applying learning theory; examining evaluation strategies; questioning techniques; and classroom management.

TEDU 549. Diagnostic Reading in the Secondary School. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: TEDU 561 or 562 or permission of instructor. For prospective and practicing secondary school teachers. Studies diagnostic teaching of reading and techniques to help struggling readers in grades 6 through 12, as well as the role of the secondary reading specialist in reading instruction. Reading levels and selection of appropriate materials are considered. Various techniques and strategies for improving reading are investigated. Emphasis on evaluation of reading progress, differentiation of instruction, reading difficulties, and diagnostic and prescriptive procedures. Course techniques are practiced with students in grades 6 through 12.
TEDU 550. Teaching Interdisciplinary Language Arts and Social Studies in the Middle School. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Describes and applies basic principles of middle school education and early adolescence with attention to the persistence of the academic disciplines and traditional curricular approaches to English and social studies. Offers a rationale for interdisciplinary instruction and proposes solutions to the practical dilemmas that confront interdisciplinary teaching in the middle school. Identifies interdisciplinary themes drawn from history, the social sciences and literature; plans units of instruction around such themes; devises instructional strategies for the teaching of interdisciplinary skills and content.

TEDU 552. Teaching English as a Second Language. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides students who plan to teach English to people whose native language is not English with a variety of instructional/learning strategies. Presents and explores current approaches and methodology, as these relate to linguistic features and pedagogy. Crosslisted as: ENGL 552/LING 552.

TEDU 554. Applications of Computers in the Teaching of Mathematics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: College calculus course or permission of instructor. Introduction to computers and programming using the language, BASIC. Applications of the computer in algebra, geometry, trigonometry, statistics and calculus.

TEDU 555. Geography in Social Studies Curriculum. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A survey of geographic concepts and processes as a basis for examining curricular projects for and developing instructional approaches to geography as part of the social studies curriculum.

TEDU 556. Advanced Computer Applications in Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: TEDU 507 or its equivalent, a portfolio demonstrating content and skills covered in TEDU 507, or permission of instructor. Develops the technology instructional framework, including teaching strategies, models of instruction and best practices in technology integration; creation of instructional lessons integrating technology by using typical office suite production tools; and connecting theory to practice. Will satisfy most of the ISTE and state technology standards.

TEDU 560. Instructional Strategies Using the Internet. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Emphasizes understanding of informational technology instructional strategies; theoretical underpinnings of constructivism; preparation and assessment of instructional models that include project-based learning, inquiry-based learning, problem-based learning and collaborative learning using resources on the Internet.

TEDU 561. Reading Foundations: Sociological/Psychological Perspectives. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The purpose of this course is to provide a basic understanding of the theories, processes, and methodologies of reading instruction. Multidisciplinary, multicultural aspects of reading instruction are stressed. Topics of particular importance to the classroom teacher are emphasized.

TEDU 562. Reading Instruction in the Content Areas. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prepares teachers to apply skills and methods of reading instruction to content areas in elementary, middle and secondary school curricula. Includes theoretical bases and methodology for incorporating reading skills and strategies within content areas of instruction.

TEDU 564. Teaching the Gifted. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Curriculum development and organization of activities for the gifted at different maturational levels with specific attention given to program content, materials, resources and guidance.

TEDU 566. Diagnosis and Remediation in Reading. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours and 1 practicum hour. 4 credits. Prerequisite: TEDU 426 or 561. Studies reading problems by focusing on reading diagnosis and correction related to classroom and clinic. Involves evaluating and tutoring individuals with reading difficulties. A supervised practicum is a course component.

TEDU 569. Diagnosis and Remediation in Mathematics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. For classroom and resource teachers working with children whose arithmetic achievement is significantly lower than grade-level placement or expectancy level; designed to remediate learning problems in arithmetic at the child's level and to aid teachers in the sequential development of skills and concepts.

TEDU 575. Intercultural Communication. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An experientially oriented seminar for persons preparing for or in careers necessitating intercultural communication among persons of differing cultural and/or national backgrounds. Special attention is given to teachers and other professionals who work with a clientele from Latin America, the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe. American cultural patterns broaden understanding of specific groups and engagement in intercultural communication. Crosslisted as: FRLG 575.

TEDU 588. Classroom Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to assist teachers in becoming effective classroom managers. Emphasis on application of classroom management, motivational and instructional theories. Models of classroom management explored; personal management plans developed.

TEDU 591. Social Studies Education in the Elementary School. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: TEDU 414 and admission to teacher preparation. Corequisites: TEDU 310, 517 and 522. A course designed to renew and/or expand the knowledge and skills of the classroom teacher in the teaching of social studies. Curriculum emphasis on the development of knowledge, skills, values and attitudes will be examined in the light of professional recommendations, current trends and research findings.

TEDU 594. Topical Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. A seminar intended for group study by students interested in examining topics, issues or problems related to teaching and learning.

TEDU 602. National Board Certification I and Externship Proposal Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisites: participation in a two-day pre-candidacy workshop and approval of department. Analyze and reflect on teaching practices, study national teaching standards, and develop initial portfolio entries. Development of externship proposal.

TEDU 610. Developing and Critiquing Visual Literacy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Develop skills and evaluate the effectiveness and appropriateness of the use of media. Understand imagery, develop visual communication skills to appropriately represent data, video or text by applying design principles in creating print, as well as non-print, as an instructional resource.
TEDU 611. Critical Investigations in Mathematics Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: TEDU 521, 522 or 545, or permission of instructor. A critical investigation of current and appropriate learning theories, instructional activities, programs and manipulative materials applicable to mathematics education in the elementary school. This course assumes an overall knowledge of the more prominent techniques and materials used to teach mathematics in elementary and middle schools. Students will undertake in-depth critical studies of alternative curricula, materials and strategies based on experience, learning theory and research findings.

TEDU 615. Curriculum Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A basic graduate course in curriculum development. Curriculum decision making is examined in relation to foundation areas, content areas and current educational trends. Various conceptions of curriculum are explored.

TEDU 617. Instructional Models and the Curriculum. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course presents a layered, contextualized approach to curriculum and instruction. Students will consider broad families of instructional models. These models will then be reconsidered in light of current cognitive/psychological theories of learning and broader sociopolitical rationales that situate instruction. Throughout this three-tiered journey, students critically appraise and reappraise their initial understandings of instructional models and create a model of their own.

TEDU 618. Curriculum Construction. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3-6 lecture hours. 3-6 credits. A study of curriculum problems with special attention given to the organization and preparation of teaching units. The course is individualized to meet student needs and nature of study.

TEDU 619. Multicultural Perspectives in Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to enhance cultural competence in diverse classrooms and schools. Major considerations include race, ethnicity, linguistic, gender, abilities and sexual orientation differences. Key concepts include structural, curricular and instructional facets of working successfully in diverse educational settings. Personal and theoretical constructs of race, ethnicity, culture, disability and other related concepts are explored. This course is delivered online. Crosslisted as: SEDP 619.

TEDU 620. Video Applications in Instruction. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: TEDU 556 and 610 or permission of instructor. Emphasizes the design and instructional strategies used with the production of video resources. Differentiates analog and digital video, importing images, video and sound, editing, previewing, transitions, filters, motion settings, superimposing, titles, special effect options, and exporting video. Students will produce and edit a personalized instructional module using digital video hardware and editing software. Crosslisted as: MASC 681.

TEDU 621. Curriculum Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of curriculum theory, research, and practice for advanced students. The seminar is an opportunity for students to integrate previous course work and professional experiences in curriculum.

TEDU 622. Creative and Cognitive Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EDUS 603. Application of theories of creative and cognitive development in teaching.

TEDU 623. Child Study and Assessment in Early Childhood Education. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Investigation and application of methods of observing, recording, and interpreting the behavior of young children. Review of criterion and norm-referenced measures for assessing capacities and needs in early childhood education as a baseline for prescribing/providing appropriate activities.

TEDU 624. Early Childhood Education Programs and Policies. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A study of Early Childhood Education paradigms including historical, federally funded and current center and home-based programs. A review of legislation, state and federal, that has affected ECE program development.

TEDU 625. Young Child and the Curriculum. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Translation of curriculum development principles into appropriate curricular programs for young children. Impact of recent research on these curricula. Consideration of child development as related to planned activities and expected outcomes.

TEDU 626. Home-School Communication and Collaboration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: TEDU 414 or permission of instructor. Studies the rationale, methods, programs and current research of home-school partnerships, preschool through secondary education.

TEDU 627. Exploring Historical Consciousness. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is designed to introduce students interested in the fields of public history and history teaching to the contemporary scholarship on how people become conscious of history in schools and in the culture at large. Two inquiry questions will guide our work: What does it mean to be conscious of history? and How do people learn to understand history?

TEDU 640. Designing and Managing eLearning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: TEDU 556 or 560, or permission of instructor. Emphasizes identification of appropriate methods of instructional delivery to meet online learner needs, develop online modules and lessons for different virtual learning environments, including team and collaborative projects, and best practices associated with the development of online instruction.

TEDU 641. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. Determination of the amount of credit and permission of the instructor and department chair must be procured prior to registration. Cannot be used in place of existing courses. An individual study of a specialized issue or problem in education.

TEDU 642. Instructional Mentoring and Coaching. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to develop skills in mentoring, coaching and observing teachers to improve instruction. Students learn how to build an effective mentoring relationship, select appropriate coaching strategies, collect and analyze data during instruction; provide strategic feedback to teachers using supportive language and behavior; assist teachers in analyzing K-12 student work; employ differentiated instruction; and help teachers set professional goals. Emphasis on developing the knowledge, skills and dispositions necessary to respond to teachers’ individual and contextual needs through ongoing examination of classroom practice for the purpose of promoting high achievement for all students.
TEDU 643. Teacher as Change Agent. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to help teachers become more effective leaders by assessing and developing their leadership skills, deepening knowledge about policy, sharpening skills at influencing change and developing action plans and issue portfolios to address educational issues.

TEDU 644. Leadership Theory and Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed for teacher leadership as opposed to administrative leadership. Explores practical and theoretical models of leadership across several fields, with an emphasis on teacher leadership. Research examined on meaningful collegiality, the art and science of teaching, and the principles of leadership.

TEDU 647. Educational Technology for School Leaders. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an overview of the impact of technology — particularly Web-based technologies — on K-12 instruction, from pedagogical considerations and associated tool choices to more pragmatic leadership issues of planning, funding and faculty development. This course is designed for administrators, teacher leaders and other interested professionals who are or intend to be leaders in technology. Crosslisted as: ADMS 647.

TEDU 648. Preparation of Instructional Materials. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: TEDU 507 or permission of instructor. Development of materials for the classroom with an emphasis on determining medium, designing the message, producing the material and evaluating the effect. The design of these materials will be predicated on the learning modes and instructional styles.

TEDU 649. Educational Media: Theory and Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: TEDU 507 or permission of instructor. An analysis of educational media with emphasis on the use of media in instructional design and development of teaching strategies.

TEDU 650. Second Language Acquisition. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is designed for those who plan to work with English language learners in diverse instructional settings. A major focus of this course is analyzing second language acquisition theories and how they apply in classroom settings. In-depth analysis of readings will enhance the students' understanding of second language acquisition and the research related to this field. Students will observe classroom teaching, analyzing the application of SLA theories utilized in the instructional setting. Crosslisted as: LING 650.

TEDU 651. Special Topics in Education. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for 9 credits. Check with department for specific prerequisites. A course for the examination of specialized issues, topics, readings or problems in education.

TEDU 657. Mathematics Education Leadership I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Analyze and reflect on mathematics instruction in the grades K-8 classroom with respect to design, teaching and evaluation of mathematical tasks, inquiry based instruction and discourse. Appropriate learning theories, instructional programs and technology are investigated. This course is an introduction to the role of the mathematics specialist and is a core course for preparation as a K-8 mathematics specialist.

TEDU 658. Mathematics Education Leadership II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: TEDU 657 or permission of instructor. Designed for teachers to build skills, understandings and dispositions necessary for mathematics education leadership roles. Emphasis is on developing and refining coaching and professional development skills, becoming familiar with a body of research within mathematics education, and building one's ability to work within and to lead a school-level mathematics learning community. This is a core course for preparation as a K-8 mathematics specialist.

TEDU 659. Mathematics Education Leadership III. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: TEDU 658 or permission of instructor. Designed to acquaint prospective mathematics specialists with those skills, understandings and dispositions needed to facilitate the lesson study process, create and use formative and summative assessments for diagnosing student mathematical understandings and misunderstandings, and increase communication and formal professional presentation skills to work within and lead a district-level mathematics learning community. This is a core course for preparation as a K-8 mathematics specialist.

TEDU 661. Current Topics in Virtual Teaching. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Students will investigate and critically consider emerging technological tools and their impact on various forms of virtual teaching and learning. Affordances and constraints of emerging technologies will be identified and participants will consider the implications of these technologies on various content areas and pedagogical strategies.

TEDU 662. Foundations of Online Teaching. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours; 3 credits. This introductory course in online teaching provides participants the opportunity to explore current research in online teaching, standards for course design and facilitation, methods and models, and the latest tools available. Participants will explore multiple learning management systems, as well as discover how to work outside of these systems to design effective learning environments. This course will benefit teachers working in solely online environments as well as those who wish to use elements of online teaching in their face-to-face and hybrid courses.

TEDU 663. Facilitating Digital Communication. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours; 3 credits. The heart of online courses exists in communication: between instructors and students and among the students themselves. This communication requires strong writing and facilitation skills. This course will provide an overview of research related to online course communication as well as practical application for facilitating communications in online courses. Participants in the course will learn how to develop online discussions, employ a variety of techniques to encourage discussions, utilize a variety of tools to support discussion and moderate online conflict to create a healthy online learning environment. Activities will include analysis of online discussions to identify various discussion techniques, work in small groups to guide discussions and learning, respond to scenarios related to solving online conflict and experiment with Web-based discussion tools.

TEDU 664. Instructional Design of Online Environments. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours; 2 credits. This course emphasizes a systematic instructional planning for online teaching and was created based on the idea of the technological pedagogical content knowledge model. Students will learn how effectively they can prepare their online teaching through a systematic instructional planning process and the use of effective technology integration for pedagogy around their specific subject matter. Students will explore both basic concepts and applied examples in accordance with each step of the online instructional planning processes.
TEDU 665. Assessment and Evaluation in Online Environments. 1 Hour. Semester course; 1 lecture hour; 1 credit. Providing in-depth assessment and evaluation in online courses can be one of the most challenging parts of teaching and learning online. How does the instructor provide creative and useful assignments that incorporate Web-based tools and require students to demonstrate their learning in authentic ways? This course will provide an overview of formative and summative assessment techniques as they relate to online teaching and learning and provide participants with opportunities to practice those skills.

TEDU 666. Content Focus Workshop. 1 Hour. Semester course; 1 workshop hour; 1 credit. Effective technology integration requires an understanding of all aspects of teaching including content, pedagogy and technology. Participants in this course will be introduced to the TPACK model that focuses on the knowledge needed to make effective choices for the use of technology to support content-based instruction. In addition, they will learn about activity types as tools for planning pedagogically sound instruction. Students will practice using the model and the activity types to develop technology enhanced curriculum using the framework.

TEDU 667. Course Development Practicum. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 practicum hours; 3 credits. This course provides participants with collaborative support and guidance to effectively utilize the knowledge and skills gained from prerequisite courses in foundations of online teaching, facilitating digital communications, instructional design, and assessment and evaluation. Practicum participants will work with a group of peers and the course instructor to finalize the development of their online course.

TEDU 668. Time and Course Management for Online Learning. 1 Hour. Semester course; 1 lecture hour; 1 credit. Teaching and learning online makes different demands on both instructors and participants than the traditional face-to-face experience. In particular, working asynchronously means that instructors and participants must learn new ways of communicating -- with both the instructor and other students. One important role of the instructor is to help participants navigate this online learning environment, including developing appropriate time-management skills for discussion participation and assignment completion and managing student expectations related to instructor support and feedback. Participants in this course will develop policies and procedures to use as part of their online courses.

TEDU 669. Online Course Facilitation Practicum. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 practicum hours; 3 credits. In this practicum experience, participants will facilitate an online learning course with the guidance of an experienced mentor. The exact details of the experience will be dependent on each participant’s situation. Participants will collaboratively work together to reflect on various aspects of the experience to identify best practices, hurdles and other aspects of the experience.

TEDU 672. Internship. 4 Hours. Semester course; 4 hours. 4 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 12 credits. Prerequisites: passing scores on Praxis II examination and Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment and permission of adviser. Study and integration of theory with practice in clinical or off-campus settings supervised by an approved professional and university faculty. May include seminars, selected readings, projects and other activities designed and evaluated by supervising faculty.

TEDU 673. Technology Leadership and Staff Development. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: Admission to IT certificate or master's in curriculum and instruction program, or permission of instructor. Emphasis on professional preparation in educational technology leadership; studies of and experiences with leadership, staff development, and supervisory concepts and skills as they relate to the use of technology in K-12 education. Participation in field experience to observe the use of technology to support instruction required.

TEDU 674. Internship II. 1-6 Hours. Semester course; full time, eight weeks. 1-6 credits. Prerequisites: passing scores on Praxis II examination and Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment and permission of adviser. Study and integration of theory with practice in clinical or off-campus settings supervised by an approved professional and university faculty member. May include seminars, selected readings, projects and other activities designed and evaluated by supervising faculty.

TEDU 675. Internship in ESL. 3 Hours. Semester course; 150 contact hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires permission of instructor. The ESL internship serves as an integrative application experience. Candidates are expected to implement a planned internship project with English language learners, apply knowledge in their area of focus within the field of ESL/TESOL education and demonstrate their ability to be a critically reflective practitioner. Graded as pass/fail.

TEDU 680. Externship Proposal Seminar. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: enrolled in M.I.S. degree, mathematics specialist track; approval of externship goals by faculty specialist. Develops and refines the skills applicable to the preparation of an acceptable draft of an externship proposal.

TEDU 681. Investigations and Trends in Teaching. 1-3 Hours. Semester course; variable hours. 1 or 3 credits. Early and elementary education students register for 1 credit; secondary education students register for 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. A course designed to familiarize teachers and prospective teachers with recent trends and developments in course content, strategies for organizing learning experiences and in presenting course material in their classrooms. Laboratory experience may be incorporated where appropriate.

TEDU 682. Curriculum Development in Science Education. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A course for science teacher-developed curriculum innovations that emphasize the initiation of formal and informal classroom work on current scientific trends, as well as special class work and laboratory programs.

TEDU 683. ESL Assessment and Trends. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides future ESOL teachers with the ESL trends and assessment practices in K-12 settings including specific skills regarding instruction, evaluation, assessment and test construction for English learners. Examines policies that influence assessment and the role of standards in assessment.

TEDU 700. Externship. 1-6 Hours. Semester course; 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 9 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of department. Plan of work designed by extern with prior approval of the offering department. State certification or equivalent may be required for some externships. Off-campus planned experiences for advanced graduate students designed to extend professional competencies, carried out in a setting, under supervision of an approved professional. Externship activities monitored and evaluated by university faculty. Graded P/F.
TEDU 702. National Board Certification II and Externship. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisite: TEDU 602 with a minimum grade of B. Apply advanced analysis and reflection on teaching practice, culminating in the completion of a portfolio that provides evidence of meeting national teaching standards. Conduct externship.

TEDU 730. Professional Development for Changing Schools. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate standing and TEDU 617. This course cannot be used to meet a requirement for endorsement as a supervisor of instruction in Virginia. Provides educational leaders with the knowledge and skills necessary to design, implement and evaluate professional development programs that focus on instructional improvement within the context of changing schools. Includes the application of various staff development models that are designed to meet the needs of educators at different stages of their careers.

TEDU 731. Instructional Theories and Strategies. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate standing and TEDU 617. Provides instructional leaders with the knowledge and competence necessary to apply and evaluate instructional strategies that are appropriate for students at all levels of schooling. The focus of the course will be on case studies, applications of principles, use of simulation and practical problem-solving approaches.

TEDU 732. Advanced Seminar in Curriculum Studies. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Completion of TEDU 617 is recommended prior to enrollment. Designed to engage doctoral students in a range of readings, writings, discussions and other experiences that address the questions: What should be taught in schools? and Why? The course builds on earlier course work that examines curricular movements and frameworks, and considers contemporary approaches to curriculum study and the implications and effects of their epistemic and philosophical stances -- regarding the nature of knowledge, learners, schools and society -- on instruction.

TEDU 798. Thesis. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. A research study of a topic or problem approved by the student’s supervisory committee and completed in accordance with acceptable standards for thesis writing.

School of Engineering

Biomedical Engineering (EGRB)

EGRB 507. Biomedical Electronics and Instrumentation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Fundamental principles and applications of electronics and instrumentation as related to biomedical sciences.

EGRB 509. Microcomputer Technology in the Biomedical Sciences. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Microcomputer applications to the acquisition and manipulation of data in the biomedical laboratory.

EGRB 511. Fundamentals of Biomechanics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: Calculus and ordinary differential equations (MATH 200-201, MATH 301 or equivalent). Presents basic mechanical properties of materials, describes methods of material testing and introduces techniques for analyzing the solid and fluid mechanics of the body. Considers topics such as stress/strain relationships, particle mechanics, and force balances.

EGRB 517. Cell Mechanics and Mechanobiology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: previous course in biomechanics and a previous cell biology course, or permission of instructor. Graduate-level students will gain a quantitative understanding of cellular mechanics and the way cells detect, modify and respond to the physical properties within the cell environment. Students will gain a thorough understanding of relevant primary literature and mathematical models. Both experimental and theoretical approaches toward cell mechanics and mechanobiology will be addressed. Emphasis will be placed upon cells from the nervous, cardiovascular and pulmonary systems. Cancer cell mechanotransduction will also be addressed.

EGRB 603. Biomedical Signal Processing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: Calculus and differential equations (MATH 301 or equivalent), including Laplace and Fourier Transforms. Explores theory and application of discrete-time signal processing techniques in biomedical data processing. Includes discrete-time signals and systems, the Discrete/Fast Fourier Transforms (DFT/FFT), digital filter design and implementation, and an introduction into processing of discrete-time random signals.

EGRB 610. Microprocessor Interfacing for Biomedical Instrumentation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGRB 509 or permission of instructor. Principles and applications of microprocessor interfacing for biomedical instrumentation. Topics include microprocessor architecture, assembly language, programming and debugging techniques, EPROM programming and bus structure and interfacing.

EGRB 611. Cardiovascular Dynamics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: PHIS 501 or PHIS 502. Analyzes and models the cardiovascular system in health and disease through studies on the properties of heart and vascular tissue, the mechanics of blood flow and the application of engineering methods to the diagnosis and treatment of cardiovascular pathologies.

EGRB 612. Structural Biomechanics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGRB 511. Treats mechanical functions of the human body as an engineering structure used to assist and supplement these functions. Includes movement of the musculoskeletal system, joint reaction forces, stresses and strains developed within bones, function and design of orthopedic prostheses and braces, effect of vibration and impact on the body, mathematical and other models of the body.

EGRB 613. Biomaterials. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Undergraduate material science or permission of the instructor. Primary and secondary factors determining the performance of materials used for implants in the human body. Topics will include metallurgy of stainless steel, cobalt-chromium alloys, titanium alloys, biocompatibility of implant materials, mechanical and physical properties of biomaterials, corrosion of biomaterials and medical polymers.

EGRB 615. Medical Imaging. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Calculus and college physics. Covers the physical principles and techniques of medical imaging modalities such as ultrasound, X-ray and nuclear magnetic resonance. Includes generation and detection of images, consideration of system design and qualitative image analysis.
EGRB 616. Cell Engineering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHIS 501. This course will cover the cell and its engineering principles with an emphasis on current research techniques. Topics covered include the organization and structure of the cell, cell signaling, and application of cell biology to biomedical research. Advanced methods are taught enabling students to interpret and present findings from primary literature.

EGRB 618. Regenerative Engineering and Medicine. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: undergraduate or graduate level physiology or permission of instructor. Study of the design, development and clinical application of regenerative medicine strategies. Analysis of molecular and cellular engineering, biomaterials and tissue engineering, stem cell biology, and immunology as they pertain to pre-translational and clinically used regenerative medicine therapies, as well as the regulatory and ethical considerations of their implementation.

EGRB 619. Computational and Experimental Models of Cellular Signal Transduction. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Corequisite: EGRB 616 or permission of instructor. In this course students will study the process by which an extracellular protein binding event is transduced and interpreted as an incoming signal into a cell. Students will learn the biology of cellular signal transduction, as well as how to apply computational models and experimental techniques to predict and investigate these pathways. The course will follow the course of a protein within a signal transduction cascade, from binding to a receptor, activating intracellular pathways, inducing new transcription and translation, and targeting of the protein to its final location. Students will develop MATLAB-based mathematical models to predict signal transduction dynamics and then study experimental techniques that are used to both disrupt and measure signal transduction.

EGRB 635. Modeling for Biomedical Engineers. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Applies mathematical modeling techniques to biomedical systems. Covers linear and nonlinear systems, deterministic and random systems, large systems, ecosystems, numerical techniques, graph theoretical approaches and simulation packages. Utilizes examples of biochemical, physiological and pharmacokinetic systems throughout.

EGRB 670. Advanced Molecular Modeling Theory and Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; lecture and laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MEDC 641, EGRB 641 or permission of the instructor. Examines the principles and applications of computational chemistry and molecular graphics to current problems in drug design. Lectures focus on the application of specific computational methods and techniques to solve problems in drug/molecular design. Workshop sessions provide hands-on experience using state-of-the-art hardware and software for molecular modeling.

EGRB 690. Biomedical Engineering Research Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Presentation and discussion of research reports and topics of current interest to the program seminar or special group seminar.

EGRB 691. Special Topics in Biomedical Engineering. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 credits. Lectures, tutorial studies, library assignments in selected areas of advance study, or specialized laboratory procedures not available in other courses or as part of the research training.

EGRB 697. Directed Research in Biomedical Engineering. 1-15 Hours.
Semester course; 1-15 credits. Research leading to the M.S. degree or elective research projects for other students.

Chemical and Life Science Engineering (CLSE)

CLSE 543. Advanced Reaction Engineering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides the fundamental background needed to effectively design reactors at the macroscale exemplified by batch, pilot and plant operations or at the micro- and nanoscale exemplified by the current trend to miniaturize unit operations. A quantitative analysis is developed to explain why "real" reactor performance departs from ideal batch, CSTR and plug flow reactor performance.

CLSE 544. Applied Transport Phenomena. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides the basis for analyzing mass, energy and momentum transport issues in environmental, chemical, biological and industrial processes. Molecular mechanisms of momentum transport, energy transport and mass diffusion are utilized to develop an engineering analysis of a given process. This molecular approach is complemented with macroscopic mass, momentum and mechanical energy balances.

CLSE 549. Process Biotechnology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to provide a rational basis addressing engineering challenges in the emerging biotechnology area. The course material is broad in scope covering biochemical synthesis, bioreactor design and bioprocess monitoring and control. It also deals with important issues associated with separation and purification techniques used with biomaterials.

CLSE 560. Protein Engineering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with senior or graduate standing in the School of Engineering or School of Pharmacy, or by permission of instructor. This course focuses on the structure-function characterization of proteins and the quantification of protein-protein interactions for the design of novel protein and peptide therapeutics. Additional topics include biochemistry of proteins for engineers, large scale, batch production and manufacturing techniques for biologics.

CLSE 561. Stem Cell Engineering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 218 and CLSE 302. The production and behavior of adult and embryonic stem cells are studied and potential applications for the treatment of disease are surveyed. The importance of the extracellular matrix in cell differentiation and proliferation is established. Stem cell engineering techniques including parthenogenesis, nuclear transfer stem cells and embryonic carcinoma cells are introduced. The use of stem and germ cells for cloning, stem cells and tissue rejection, and ethical considerations in the use of embryonic human stem cells are discussed.

CLSE 562. Advanced Systems Biology Engineering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 218, CLSE 115, and CLSE 302. The system-level properties of biology will be surveyed to understand how DNA leads to cellular behavior through complex molecular interactions. Theoretical and experimental concepts associated with high-throughput data (genomics, transcriptomics, metabolomics, fluxomics, proteomics), cellular regulation and computational modeling will be introduced. Bioinformatic analysis, integration of data and current challenges are discussed.
CLSE 563. Metabolic Engineering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 218, CLSE 115, and CLSE 302. The principles and methods used in metabolic engineering of microbes will be covered. Theoretical and experimental concepts associated with metabolite production, strain design, strain construction and strain characterization will be introduced. Design principles, metabolic engineering challenges, metabolic engineering applications and ethical considerations of genomic alterations are discussed.

CLSE 570. Molecular Physiology and Microanatomy for Chemical and Life Science Engineering. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 218 and CLSE 302. Understanding physiology from the molecular perspective of cellular biochemical mass action kinetics, molecular diffusion and transport, biomolecular separation processes, and dynamic biochemical control theory is key to the engineering and design strategies for medical intervention in disease and human health. This course explores these biomolecular dynamic events in human physiology with an emphasis on the application of the fundamental biochemical transport phenomena, kinetics and separation processes, and dynamic control theory. Laboratory component emphasizes living, single-cell manipulation and analysis methods, such as patch clamp devices, and the microanatomy of internal organs.

CLSE 575. Nanotechnology in Life Science and Engineering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with senior or graduate standing in the School of Engineering or Department of Chemistry, or with permission of instructor. Nanobiotechnology is the application of nano- and micro-fabrication methods to build tools for exploring the world of biological systems. This course will introduce the principles and practice of microfabrication techniques and perspectives in the field of nanobiotechnology. Lectures will cover interdisciplinary topics such as biomolecules at interfaces, biosensors, micro- and nano-fabrication strategies, self-assembly, nanoparticles, micro- and nano-devices and microfluidics.

CLSE 645. Biosensors and Bioelectronic Devices. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course develops the methodologies used in the design, fabrication and application of biosensors and bioelectronic devices to monitoring problems in the environmental, medical and chemicals industries. Fundamentals of measurement science will be applied to optical, electrochemical, mass and thermal means of signal transduction. Fundamentals of surface science will be used to interpret bio-immobilization, biofouling and non-specific interactions of enzymes, antibodies and DNA at surfaces.

CLSE 650. Quantitative Analysis in Chemical and Life Science Engineering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MATH 301. An understanding of the quantitative descriptions of chemical and biological processes is required for engineering analysis, including prediction and design. Analytical approaches are necessary to simplify and provide limits of complex behavior. These approaches include perturbation theory and scaling, density functional formulations, control theory, and stability theory. This course represents the applied mathematical foundations on equilibrium and nonequilibrium analysis of chemical and biological systems.

CLSE 654. Equilibrium Analysis in Chemical and Biological Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CLSE 305. Provides a molecular-based, thermodynamic framework for the quantitative equilibrium analysis of a broad range of biological and chemical processes. Contemporary equations of state, liquid solution models and elementary statistical mechanics are used to predict the behavior of molecules. Important issues addressed include the estimation of solvation and partitioning of molecules between phases or media, the calculation of free energy changes associated with cellular events and prediction of order/disorder phenomena.

CLSE 655. Nonequilibrium Analysis in Chemical and Life Science Engineering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CLSE 301, CLSE 302 and MATH 301. An understanding of the spatial and temporal dynamics of biological systems is key to many cellular events including cell signaling processes, second messenger systems, positive and negative feedback control, transcription, translation, and many more. This course introduces nonequilibrium (dynamic) analysis as applied to biological and chemical systems.

CLSE 656. Advanced Chemical Reaction Engineering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MATH 301 and CLSE 312. This course builds upon fundamental principles of chemical reaction engineering including integration of mass balances, reactor design equations and chemical rate laws. Emphasis is given to development of mathematical models and computational simulation of chemical reaction systems with multiple reactions. Additional topics include analysis of systems with unknown reaction parameters and mechanisms and bioprocess/biochemical approaches to chemical production.

CLSE 660. Biomolecular and Computational Engineering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CLSE 650. Dynamic analysis of interacting cellular events, including cell signal pathways, clock reactions, etc., often requires large-scale computational approaches. Furthermore, these techniques are necessarily time dependent requiring unique methodologies, such as multi-time scale methods. This course introduces the subject of real-time biomolecular simulations.

CLSE 675. Polymers in Medicine. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is based on the need for integration of engineering and materials science of polymers with applications in life science engineering. Basic principles of polymer science including structural concepts at the molecular-, nano-, micro- and macro-scales are emphasized so that the student can understand structure/function correlation. The course covers polymer synthesis, molecular weight, morphology and surface science at an introductory level, but quantitative correlations are emphasized. Surface science is emphasized, as medical applications are often dependent on the interaction of a solid polymer with an in vivo environment (tissue, blood, membrane). The polymers chosen for emphasis include polyethylene (hip, knee replacement), poly(vinylchloride) (food bags, catheters), polyurethanes (artificial heart, wound care) and silicones (implants, catheters). The use of polymers in drug delivery applications is explored, including osmotic-pressure-driven drug delivery. Concepts surrounding polymeric surface modifiers are developed, including applications such as enhanced biodurability and biocidal function.
CLSE 690. Research Seminar in Chemical and Life Science Engineering. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. May be repeated up to eight times. Presentations and discussions of current problems and developments in life science engineering by faculty and visiting lecturers.

CLSE 691. Special Topics in Chemical and Life Science Engineering. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 lecture hours. 1-4 credits. Prerequisites: At least one graduate-level engineering course and permission of the instructor. Lectures, tutorial studies, library assignments in selected areas of advanced study or specialized laboratory procedures not available in other course offerings or as part of research training.

CLSE 692. Independent Study in Chemical and Life Science Engineering. 1-5 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture and/or 0-4 laboratory hours. 1-5 credits. Prerequisites: graduate standing or permission of instructor. The student must submit a prospectus to the graduate committee for approval and identify a faculty member willing to supervise the course. Investigation of specialized engineering problems through literature search, mathematical analysis, computer simulation and/or experimentation. Written and oral reports, final report and examination required.

CLSE 697. Directed Research in Chemical and Life Science Engineering. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-9 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor. Research directed toward completion of the requirements for the M.S. or Ph.D. in engineering, with concentration in chemical and life science engineering, under the direction of an engineering faculty member and advisory committee. Graded S/U/F.

Graduate courses

Computer and Information Systems Security (CISS)

CISS 609. Advanced Computational Intelligence. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: an undergraduate course in artificial intelligence, or equivalent background with permission of instructor. Exploration of issues related to application of computational intelligence techniques to system security, particularly in the detection of anomalous system behavior. Of particular interest are issues associated with the automated detection of anomalies caused by authorized users through intended malicious behavior or through accidental misuse, and issues associated with automated user authentication. Crosslisted as: CMSC 609.

CISS 616. Data Warehousing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 610. Covers important concepts and techniques in the design and implementation of a data warehouse. Topics include the data warehouse architecture, the logical and physical design issues in the data warehousing development process, technical factors (i.e., hardware, client/server technology, data warehousing and DBMS technologies) and implementation considerations (i.e., data extraction, clean-up and transformation tools). Introduces online analytical processing and data mining. Crosslisted as: INFO 616.

CISS 618. Database and Application Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Theory and practice of database and software security focusing in particular on some common database software security risks and on the identification of potential threats and vulnerabilities. Crosslisted as: CMSC 618.

CISS 622. Network and Operating Systems Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CISS 624. Studies the principles of network security and secure operating systems. Included are topics relating to the use of intrusion detection, intrusion prevention and other related tools. Crosslisted as: CMSC 622.

CISS 624. Applied Cryptography. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides a comprehensive survey of modern cryptography. Included are techniques of enciphering and deciphering messages using cryptographic algorithms, block ciphers and block cipher modes, hash functions and message authentication codes, public key cryptography and digital signatures, and steganography. Crosslisted as: CMSC 620.

CISS 634. Ethical, Social and Legal Issues in Computer and Information Systems Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Analyzing socio-political and ethical issues surrounding computer and information systems security. Topics include privacy laws, identity theft, information collection and retention policies, and enforcement.

CISS 644. Principles of Computer and Information Systems Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: INFO 640 or INFO 661. Explores issues related to protecting information resources of a firm. Various tools and techniques useful for assessing CISS security concerns in organizations are introduced. Principles and models for CISS security and security management are presented and selected computer and CISS security topics are introduced. Material is presented and discussed from a management frame of reference. Crosslisted as: INFO 644.

CISS 646. Computer and Information Systems Access Control. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Detailed discussion of access control, including administration, identification and authentication techniques, methodologies and implementations, methods of attack, monitoring, and penetration testing.

CISS 654. Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Planning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Fundamentals of business continuity and disaster recovery planning. Includes risk assessment, physical facility protection, data recovery planning, strategies for network backup, desktop recovery, emergency decision making, and maintenance and testing of the plan and its components.

CISS 693. Practice of Computer and Information Systems Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Students will undertake practical research projects. Written reports of the investigations are required. This course is intended to be taken at the end of the program.

CISS 697. Guided Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. Intended for graduate students in the Computer and Information Systems Security program wishing to do research on problems in computer and information systems security. Approval of proposed work is required by the director of graduate programs of the Department of Information Systems or of the Department of Computer Science no later than the 10th week of the prior semester. Each student will work with an appropriate faculty member on an approved research proposal. The student will submit a written report on the research conducted as the final product for the course. This course is intended to be taken near the end of the student’s degree program.
Computer Science (CMSC)

CMSC 501. Advanced Algorithms. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CMSC 401 or equivalent; graduate standing or acceptance into accelerated B.S. to M.S. program in computer science. Advanced graph algorithms, advanced data structures, applied numerical algorithms, optimization methods, approximation methods for hard graph and string problems, and computational geometry algorithms.

CMSC 502. Parallel Algorithms. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CMSC 312 and CMSC 401, graduate student standing or acceptance into the five-year accelerated B.S. and M.S. program in computer science. Software and hardware mechanisms for providing mutual exclusion in uniprocessor and multiprocessor environments. Architectural issues including pipeline design, superscalar computers, multiprocessors, memory systems, peripherals, interfacing techniques, networks, performance and software issues. Design and uses of parallel algorithms to solve concurrency problems in a distributed environment including message passing and remote procedure calls. Students will work in teams (as well as on individual projects) to design and implement parallel algorithms.

CMSC 506. Computer Networks and Communications. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CMSC 312. Theoretical and applied analysis of basic data communication systems; design of networks in the framework of the OSI reference model, Local and Wide Area Networks; performance analysis of networks; error control and security. Students will work in teams to design and implement a small computer network. Crosslisted as: EGRE 526.

CMSC 508. Database Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CMSC 401. Design and implementation of relational database systems. Emphasis is placed on entity-relationship diagrams, relational algebra, normal forms and normalization. Introduction to SQL. Discussion of physical level issues. Students will be required to complete a design project and give an oral presentation of the project. Not applicable toward M.S. in Computer Science or the Ph.D. in Engineering, computer science track.

CMSC 510. Regularization Methods for Machine Learning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate standing in computer science or related discipline such as bioinformatics or acceptance into five-year accelerated program in computer science. The course will assume undergraduate-level background in algorithms, linear algebra, calculus, statistics and probability. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to understand recent advances in machine learning and apply machine-learning tools that go beyond learning from data, as well as have the ability to incorporate additional knowledge about the learning problem. Topics covered will include optimization-based view of supervised machine learning; classical regularization approaches including weight decay and Lasso; regularization terms incorporating additional knowledge about structures in the feature space, including group lasso and graph-based regularization terms; semi-supervised learning using graphs linking unlabeled and labeled samples.

CMSC 512. Advanced Social Network Analysis and Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisites: CMSC 412 and CMSC 501. Enrollment requires graduate student standing in computer science or related discipline such as bioinformatics, or acceptance into five-year accelerated program in computer science. The purpose of the course is to teach algorithms for analyzing social networks and complex systems. The focus will be on understanding the inner workings of algorithms using in-network analysis and security threats in online social network sites. Topic covered will include modeling social and technological networks, methods for analyzing structure and dynamical processes on the network, and security and privacy issues in online social networks such as inference attacks, network anonymization, sybil attacks and defense, social bots.

CMSC 516. Advanced Natural Language Processing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to graduate students in computer science or related discipline, or acceptance into five-year accelerated program in computer science. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to understand recent advances in natural language processing and apply NLP algorithms and techniques for processing unstructured text. Word-level, syntactic and semantic processing will be considered. Specific topics include rule-based and statistical methods for creating computer programs that analyze, generate and understand human language. Regular expressions and automata, context-free grammars, probabilistic classifiers and machine learning. Applications to real-world problems such as spell-checking, Web search, automatic question answering, authorship identification and developing conversational interfaces.

CMSC 525. Introduction to Software Analysis, Testing and Verification. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CMSC 401, CMSC 403, graduate student standing or acceptance into the five-year accelerated B.S. and M.S. program in computer science. An introduction to the formal semantics and techniques used in the analysis of software for certain properties. Using analytic results to derive test data and verify the correct implementation of programs. Flow graphs, fault/failure model, theoretical and practical limitations. Control flow, data flow and error flow analyses. Testing strategies including random, structural, mutation and error flow. Software metrics.

CMSC 526. Theory of Programming Languages. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CMSC 403, graduate student standing or acceptance into the five-year accelerated B.S. and M.S. program in computer science. An introduction to the formal semantics of programming languages, logic programming and functional programming. Topics include denotational semantics, attribute grammars, Backus Formal Functional Programming, fixed point semantics, model-theoretic semantics and PROLOG.

CMSC 591. Topics in Computer Science. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisites may vary. Permission of the instructor required. Course is open to graduate students and students accepted into the five-year accelerated B.S. and M.S. program in computer science. A study of selected topic(s) in computer science at the graduate level. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.
CMSC 601. Convex Optimization. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CMSC 501 or permission of instructor. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate standing in computer science or related discipline. A background in undergraduate-level linear algebra is assumed. Convex sets and functions. Convex optimization problems: Linear, quadratic, semi-definite and cone programs. Duality theory. Approximation algorithms for NP-complete integer optimization problems via semi-definite relaxations and rounding schemes. Algorithms for optimization, such as gradient descent, proximal descent, alternating directions method of multipliers, interior point methods.

CMSC 602. Operating Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CMSC 502. A study of operating systems including those in multiprocessor and distributed environments. I/O programming, resource management (including processor and memory management), security and system performance evaluation.

CMSC 603. High Performance Distributed Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate standing in computer science or related discipline or acceptance into five-year accelerated program in computer science. The course will assume undergraduate-level background in algorithms, data structures and parallel programming. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to understand the concepts underlying distributed systems; analyze problems to identify performance bottlenecks, parallelization opportunities and concurrency issues in a distributed environment; create distributed and scalable implementations using multiple hosts/GPUs; design and implement algorithms using Hadoop, Spark and CUDA.

CMSC 605. Advanced Computer Architecture. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGRE 426 or with permission of instructor. This course will focus on the design and analysis of high performance computer architectures. Topics investigated include pipeline design, superscalar computers, multiprocessors, memory systems, peripherals, interfacing techniques, networks, performance and software issues. Crosslisted as: EGRE 635.

CMSC 608. Advanced Database. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CMSC 508. Topics discussed include: handling of missing information; the relationship between relational calculus, relational algebra and SQL; logic databases; distributed databases; outer joins; and transaction processing. Emphasis is placed on theoretical issues involved in these topics. In addition students will work in teams to develop a working database application.

CMSC 609. Advanced Computational Intelligence. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: an undergraduate course in artificial intelligence, or equivalent background with permission of instructor. Exploration of issues related to application of computational intelligence techniques to system security, particularly in the detection of anomalous system behavior. Of particular interest are issues associated with the automated detection of anomalies caused by authorized users through intended malicious behavior or through accidental misuse, and issues associated with automated user authentication. Crosslisted as: CISS 609.

CMSC 610. Algorithmic Foundations of Bioinformatics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Graduate student standing or acceptance into five-year accelerated program in computer science or related discipline such as bioinformatics. The purpose of the course is to teach algorithms for analyzing biological and medical data. The focus will be on understanding the inner workings of algorithms used in bioinformatics tools. Topic covered will include algorithms for assembling and searching biological sequences, finding patterns associated with disease, and exploring biological networks.

CMSC 611. Computer Multimedia. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Study of computer multimedia techniques relating to images, sound, video and text. Emphasis on compression techniques and standard storage formats. This course is programming-intensive.

CMSC 612. Game Theory and Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CMSC 401, graduate student standing or acceptance into the five-year accelerated B.S. and M.S. program in computer science. The course will provide an introduction to game theory and mechanism design concepts. Lectures cover topics such as introduction of games, equilibrium concepts, computation of game-theoretic solution concepts, mechanism, and issues in game theory and mechanism design.

CMSC 615. Cryptocurrency and Blockchain Techniques. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted to students with graduate standing in computer science or a related discipline. The course will assume undergraduate-level background in algorithms, data structures and programming. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to understand the major concepts about cryptocurrency and blockchain techniques; be familiar with major blockchain applications as well as real-world issues; understand the underlying consensus mechanisms in the Bitcoin system and other alternative cryptocurrency systems; analyze the security of Nakamoto consensus; understand, write and execute smart contracts using an Ethereum-like platform.

CMSC 618. Database and Application Security. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Theory and practice of database and software security focusing in particular on some common database software security risks and on the identification of potential threats and vulnerabilities. Crosslisted as: CISS 618.

CMSC 619. The Design and Specifications of User Interfaces. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Graduate standing and permission of instructor. Requires knowledge of first order predicate calculus and context-free languages. Focuses on human-computer interface design principles and methodology and formal specifications of user interfaces.

CMSC 620. Applied Cryptography. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides a comprehensive survey of modern cryptography. Included are techniques of enciphering and deciphering messages using cryptographic algorithms, block ciphers and block cipher modes, hash functions and message authentication codes, public key cryptography and digital signatures, and steganography. Crosslisted as: CISS 624.

CMSC 621. Theory of Computation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate student standing and permission of instructor. Discussion of the complexity and computability of problems and programs. Topics will include unsolvability, universal programs and abstract complexity.
CMSC 622. Network and Operating Systems Security. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CISS 624. Studies the principles of network security and secure operating systems. Included are topics relating to the use of intrusion detection, intrusion prevention and other related tools.

CMSC 623. Cloud Computing. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CMSC 622. Provides an introduction to cloud computing architecture and cloud computing security. The course covers the basic concepts of cloud computing, including memory virtualization, device virtualization and related security problems in cloud computing.

CMSC 624. Software Quality Assurance. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: a course in software engineering and graduate standing in computer science, or permission of instructor. A study of issues that affect the quality of software and of methodology to assure that software products are of the desired quality. This also includes issues in assessing product quality as well as the process by which the software is produced. Topics include various methodologies, standards, metrics and tools.

CMSC 625. Advanced Software Analysis, Testing and Verification. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CMSC 525. Studies the concepts and techniques used in the analysis of software and the derivation of test data. Focuses on software metrics and reliability; construction of tools to aid software analysis and testing. Requires students to review seminal and current papers from the literature, and lead their discussion in class.

CMSC 628. Mobile Networks: Applications, Modeling and Analysis. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted to students with graduate standing in computer science or related discipline. The course will assume undergraduate-level background in algorithms, data structures, programming and networks. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to understand the major concepts about mobile networks such as device-to-device communication technologies, mobility models and coverage; be familiar with various mobile network types (e.g., mobile social networks, delay tolerant networks, overlay networks, vehicular networks and cellular networks) and devices (e.g., smartphones, femtocells, WiFi), learn how to model mobile networks with stochastic processes and real datasets; be able to use different networking simulators; and understand various routing algorithms and analyze their behavior.

CMSC 630. Image Analysis. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate standing in engineering or science or by permission of instructor. Introduces theoretical and practical aspects of computer vision for image processing and understanding. It provides a comprehensive walkthrough from basics of image preparation to using computational intelligence tools for knowledge discovery from images. The course will cover basics of image processing and computer vision, including image sampling and quantization, color, pixel-based operations, image filtering, morphological image processing, and image transforms; information extraction including segmentation and feature extraction; pattern recognition for computer vision: classification, novelty and object detection, image understanding, learning from video streams, and tensor-based methods. Examples will include medical image analysis, object recognition in ground and aerial photographs and hyperspectral imaging.

CMSC 635. Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CMSC 401 or corequisite: CMSC 501. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate standing in computer science or related discipline such as bioinformatics or acceptance into five-year accelerated program in computer science. Covers knowledge discovery and data mining concepts, tools and methods; provides hands-on experience based on a project involving analysis of large real-life data. Topics include the knowledge discovery process, data storage and representation, preprocessing algorithms for missing data imputation, feature selection and discretization; unsupervised learning algorithms for clustering and association mining; supervised learning algorithms including decision trees, Bayesian models and introduction to support vector machines and neural networks; ensemble learning: protocols and measures for validation of predictive models; and data security and privacy issues.

CMSC 636. Artificial Neural Networks and Deep Learning. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate standing in computer science. The course will assume undergraduate-level background in programming, algorithms, linear algebra, calculus, statistics and probability. Topics ranging from fundamental learning rules, functional, cascade correlation recurrent and gradient descent networks, to neocognitron, softmax, deep convolutional networks, autoencoders and pretrained deep learning (restricted Boltzmann machines). Students will be required to work in teams on a class paper.

CMSC 678. Statistical Learning and Fuzzy Logic Algorithms. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH/STAT 309 or 310. The course considers two central problems in modern science and engineering: i) the problem of statistical learning from examples (empirical data) and ii) the problem of embedding existing human knowledge into workable mathematics. Topics include: examples of multivariate functional mapping, basics of classic classification and regression, support vector machines as a learning paradigm based on structural risk minimization, fuzzy logic algorithms, basics of multi-class classification over high dimensional spaces, curve and surface fittings, multivariate function approximation and nonlinear optimization; fuzzy logic systems; crisp and fuzzy sets, linguistic variables, fuzzy set theory; if-then rules, fuzzy interference, fuzzification and defuzzification, neuro-fuzzy paradigms.

CMSC 691. Special Topics in Computer Science. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: at least one graduate-level computer science course pertaining to the topic area and permission of instructor. An advanced study of selected topic(s) in computer science at the graduate level. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

CMSC 692. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours. Semester course; 1-3 variable hours (to be arranged). 1-3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate standing and consent of instructor. Independent study done under the supervision of a faculty member. The student must identify a faculty member willing to supervise the research and submit a proposal for approval by the computer science graduate committee no later than the 10th week of the prior semester. A written report and an oral presentation are required upon completion of the research project. Graded as Pass/Fail.
CMSC 697. Directed Research. 1-15 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours (to be arranged). 1-15 credits. May be repeated for credit. A total of 3 credits may be used to fulfill the M.S. in Computer Science thesis requirement. Prerequisite: graduate standing. Independent research culminating in the writing of the required thesis or dissertation. The student must identify a faculty member willing to supervise the research and submit a proposal to the computer science graduate committee no later than the 10th week of the prior semester. This proposal must be approved before the student can register for the course. Graded as S/U/F.

CMSC 701. Research Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Ph.D. standing or permission of instructor. Covers the principles of conducting a research project, reporting the findings in the form of a journal paper and promoting the research through public presentations. Students learn to write grant proposals and practice reviewing research papers and grant proposals. The main emphasis of the course is writing a paper and a grant proposal in a format compliant with NSF, NIH or DoD guidelines.

Electrical and Computer Engineering (EGRE)

EGRE 521. Advanced Semiconductor Devices. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EGRE 303, PHYS 420 and 440, or equivalents or permission of instructor. Studies the fundamentals of semiconductor heterojunctions, metal-semiconductor contacts, metal-oxide-semiconductor structures, defects, interface states, scaled MOS transistors and heterojunction bipolar transistors.

EGRE 525. Fundamentals of Photonics Engineering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EGRE 303, 309 and 310 or equivalents. An introduction to the interaction of electromagnetic lightwaves with solid-state materials. Based on the quantum mechanics of photon emission and absorption, the generation and detection of coherent light by semiconductor lasers and photodetectors are investigated. Optical waveguides also are studies for use in sensors employing interferometric and evanescent-field principles. Examples of integrated photonic sensors are presented for mechanical, chemical and biological systems.

EGRE 526. Computer Networks and Communications. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: CMSC 312. Theoretical and applied analysis of basic data communication systems; design of networks in the framework of the OSI reference model; Local and Wide Area Networks; performance analysis of networks; error control and security. Students will work in teams to design and implement a small computer network. Crosslisted as: CMSC 506.

EGRE 531. Multicore and Multithreaded Programming. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGRE 364 or CMSC 311 or permission of instructor. Introducing multicore architectures, multithreaded programming models, OpenMP, Phreads, thread synchronization, performance evaluation and optimization, load balancing and software tools for multicore/multithread programming.

EGRE 532. GPU Computing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: CMSC 502, EGRE 531 or permission of instructor. The primary objective of this course is to provide students with knowledge and hands-on experience in developing application software for graphics processing units. The course concentrates on parallel programming basics, GPU hardware architecture and software, GPU programming techniques, GPU performance analysis and optimization, and application development for GPUs.

EGRE 533. VLSI Design. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 3 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: EGRE 224 and EGRE 364. Analysis of NMOS and PMOS transistor design and their use in implementing digital logic. Implementation and layout of simple and complex digital logic cells using CMOS and other techniques. Fabrication design rules and design technology. VLSI chip layout and implementation. Students will design a complete VLSI chip using commercial design tools. The resulting designs will be submitted for fabrication using the MOSIS process.

EGRE 535. Digital Signal Processing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 3 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EGRE 337 or consent of instructor. The course focuses on digital signal processing theory and algorithms, including sampling theorems, transform analysis and filter design techniques. Discrete-time signals and systems, and filter design techniques are treated. Several applications of DSP in telecommunications, image and video processing, and speech and audio processing are studied.

EGRE 540. Electromagnetics and Passive RF Components. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGRE 309 or equivalent or permission of instructor. Basics of electromagnetics and passive RF components such as filters, isolators, tuners, phase shifters, resonators and tees are discussed, along with a succinct description of media such as ferrites and tunable ferrites.

EGRE 553. Industrial Control Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: senior or graduate student standing in the School of Engineering, EGRE 246 and EGRE 254, or permission of the instructor. This course provides an introduction to the systems, techniques and languages used in the control of manufacturing and process industries. Major topics include programmable logic controller operation and programming, supervisory control and data acquisition systems, and human machine interfaces. Other topics include an introduction to feedback control systems, analog-to-digital and digital-to-analog conversion, sensors and transducers, and actuators and motors.

EGRE 555. Dynamics and Multivariable Control I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 301 and 310 or the equivalent. Systems of differential equations with controls, linear control systems, controllability, observability, introduction to feedback control and stabilization. Crosslisted as: MATH 555.

EGRE 572. Electric Machines. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EGRE 206 and EGRE 309. Presents the principles of electric machines, including transformers, AC machinery fundamentals, modeling and simulation of AC machines, synchronous machines, induction machines, DC motors and generators, and special-purpose motors.

EGRE 573. Sustainable and Efficient Power Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EGRE 309 or EGRE 471 or permission of instructor. The course covers distributed power generation system and renewable energy technologies. It introduces models and tools for investigating electric power generation and efficiency analysis, the wind and solar power, energy storage, renewable integration, and environmental impacts. At the completion of the course students will be able to apply appropriate models and complete a feasibility study of practical renewable energy systems.
EGRE 591. Special Topics in Electrical and Computer Engineering. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. Prerequisite: senior or graduate standing in the School of Engineering or permission of the instructor. Lectures, tutorial studies, library assignments in selected areas of advanced study or specialized laboratory procedures not available in other courses or as part of research training.

EGRE 620. Electron Theory of Solids. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: PHYS 420 and 440 or permission of instructor. The study of electronic structures, band structure calculations, optical absorption and emission, lasing in semiconductors, electron-photon interactions, heterostructures and nanostructures. Quantum theory of electron-photon interaction, absorption and emission, semiconductor lasers, linear response transport, Landauer Buttiker formulas, mesoscopic devices and phenomena, resonant tunneling, single electronics, non-equilibrium Green's function formalism, second quantization, coupled mode theory, electrons in a magnetic field, and integer quantum Hall effect.

EGRE 621. Spintronics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGRE 620 or equivalent, or with permission of instructor. Basic concept of spin, spin interactions, spin transport, spin-based classical devices, single spintronics and spin-based quantum computing.

EGRE 622. MEMS Design and Fabrication. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EGRE 303 and EGRE 334 or permission of instructor. The course provides the background required to conduct research in microelectromechanical systems. The course provides an overview as well as detailed coverage of material properties, specialized fabrication techniques and the fundamental principles of the major classes of MEMS devices. This will include mechanical sensors and actuators, surface acoustic wave devices, optical sensors, modulators and switches, bioMEMS, chemical and biochemical sensors, and microfluidic devices.

EGRE 623. Nanostructures and Nanodevices. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EGRE 303, PHYS 420 and 440, equivalents or permission of instructor. Devoted to the fundamentals and technology of semiconductor nanostructures and relevant devices. Engineering and physics of new solid state devices, confined structures in one, two and three dimensions and their effect on more traditional solid state devices are covered.

EGRE 624. Nonlinear Optical Materials and Devices. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGRE 525 or equivalent or permission of instructor. This course describes the principles of nonlinear optics and discusses the operation of photonic devices and systems that utilize various second- and third-order nonlinear optical effects. The topics include electromagnetic wave propagation in anisotropic media, nonlinear optical susceptibility tensor, linear and quadratic electro-optic effects, second harmonic, sum- and difference-frequency generation, phase-matching, parametric amplification, optical switching, multi-photon absorption, and self-focusing and self-phase modulation.

EGRE 625. Clean Room Lab Practicum. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 3 laboratory hours. 1 credit. Prerequisite: EGRE 334 or permission of instructor. The course develops the detailed knowledge and skills required to design and fabricate advanced microscale and nanoscale devices for doctoral thesis work in a micro- and nano-fabrication facility cleanrooms. The course focuses on fabricating a nanostructured device and involves photolithography, wet and dry etching, oxidations, diffusions and thin film depositions. Students will complete the processing of the device and perform characterization experiments. Design skills will also be developed, including design and layout using software tools and fabrication of custom photomasks. Students will document all aspects of the laboratory work.

EGRE 626. Advanced Characterization of Electronic Materials and Devices. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGRE 303 or permission of instructor. This course discusses crystal symmetry in relation with physical properties of crystalline solids, with special emphasis on semiconductor materials forming the basis of modern electronic and optoelectronic devices, point and extended defects and their effects on electronic and optical properties of semiconductor materials and device performance, and defect formation during processing. The course also covers in depth structural, electrical and optical techniques used to reveal various structural defects: the theory and practice of X-ray, neutron and electron diffraction methods, transmission and scanning electron microscopy, scanning probe microscopy, Hall effect, deep-level transient spectroscopy, photo- and cathodoluminescence, and time-resolved spectroscopy, with particular focus on their applications to real semiconductor materials and device structures.

EGRE 627. Nanophotonics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGRE 525 or equivalent or permission of instructor. Advances in nanotechnology and fabrication have allowed scientists to control light like never before, bringing topics of science fiction such as cloaking, unlimited resolution imaging, nanometer-thick optics and breakthrough treatments for disease into the realm of reality. This course explores what is possible when students can confine light at the nanoscale and engineer materials at will, covering topics such as light guiding by metals (plasmonics), optical lattices (photonic crystals), arbitrary materials (meta-materials/surfaces), nanoscale lasers (spasers) and stopping light (static optics). Students are exposed to the newest advances in the field through discussion, projects and presentations.

EGRE 630. Neural Networks. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Introduces students to the fundamental theory, design and applications of neural networks. Topics covered will include network architectures, the learning process, types of learning, single layer perceptrons, multilayer perceptrons and neural network applications.

EGRE 631. Real-time and Embedded Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGRE 426 or equivalent or permission of instructor. Presents advanced material in the area of the design, implementation and testing of embedded computer systems intended to operate as part of a larger system. Topics to be discussed include design challenges of embedded computing, real-time scheduling theory, worst-case execution time analysis, embedded architectures, embedded software design and performance optimizations. Hands-on labs and a research project on advanced topics in this field will be included in this course.
 EGRE 632. Dependable Embedded Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGRE 364 or permission of instructor. This course explores the rich set of issues that must be considered when dealing with dependable embedded systems in smart energy delivery, transportation, interconnected health and medical devices and smart buildings, which have one or more of the following attributes: need for safety, continuous reliable operation, resilient to disruptions, secure against cyber-attacks, operate in real-time, maintainable and designed correctly. Among the topics covered are fault-tolerant computing, reliability and safety engineering, understanding the origins of failures and errors, design criteria, software reliability, formal verification of designs, cyber security, review of standards in safety critical systems and social/legal concerns.

 EGRE 633. Advanced VLSI Systems Design. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGRE 533. Design techniques, implementation technologies and device design for high speed, large scale and low power integrated circuits. Topics presented include: submicron technologies, devices and architectures for low power VLSI, high speed clocking issues, BiCMOS devices and circuits, I/O circuit design, design for testing, analog VLSI, VLSI design methodologies, and physical design and VLSI algorithms. The course will include a design project for a complex VLSI device which will be performed using commercial design tools.

 EGRE 634. Advanced Digital Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGRE 254 or equivalent. Addresses topics and techniques in advanced switching theory that are relevant to the design of modern digital systems. Topics covered include: mathematical foundations, logic functions and their representations, optimization, verification, synthesis, synchronous and asynchronous finite state machines, modular designs, and fault detection.

 EGRE 635. Advanced Computer Architecture. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGRE 426 or with permission of instructor. This course will focus on the design and analysis of high performance computer architectures. Topics investigated include pipeline design, superscalar computers, multiprocessors, memory systems, peripherals, interfacing techniques, networks, performance and software issues. Crosslisted as: CMSC 605.

 EGRE 636. Introduction to Cyber-Physical Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EGRE 335 and EGRE 365 or equivalents or permission of instructor. This course introduces students to the research, design and analysis of cyber-physical systems – the tight integration of computing, control and communication. The main focus is on understanding existing and emerging models of CPSs, as well as physical processes in terms of differential equations and computational models for discrete time systems, such as extended finite-state machines and hybrid automata. State-charts are introduced and combined with the physical models for analysis of embedded systems. Linear temporal logic is introduced and applied to specify the desired system behavior. Tools for analytical study and verification of the satisfaction of linear temporal logic formulae are presented and discussed in numerous applications. Dependability attributes such as safety, reliability and cyber-security are discussed in the context of high integrity CPSs.

 EGRE 640. Semiconductor Optoelectronics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGRE 309 or equivalent or permission of instructor. Discussions of optical processes in semiconductors and semiconductor heterostructures in terms of radiative and nonradiative processes, as well as absorption. Also covers in depth the theory and practice of light-emitting diodes, including those intended for solid-state lighting, lasers and detectors.

 EGRE 644. Wireless Communications. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGRE 444 or permission of instructor. The main objective of this course is to introduce the fundamental principles of wireless communications. The focus will be on the physical layer and wireless transceiver design issues. Students are expected to gain a thorough understanding of wireless channel modeling, the concept of channel fading, the means to mitigate the effect of fading through diversity techniques. Some practical wireless communication techniques will also be introduced such as space-time coding, multiple input multiple output communications and orthogonal frequency-division multiplexing.

 EGRE 651. Intelligent Linear Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGRE 337 or permission of instructor. This course covers selected topics on intelligent systems and fundamental principles of system analysis. Emphasis is placed on the student gaining mathematical modeling experience, performing computer simulations and designing systems architecture. Topics include intelligent agents, autonomous control, linear algebraic equations for state variable equations, complex dynamic systems, controllability and observability, linear discriminant functions in algorithm-independent optimization, multilayer neural networks, unsupervised learning and clustering, mobile robot localization and kinematics, and perception for planning and navigation.

 EGRE 655. Dynamics and Multivariable Control II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MATH 555 and MATH 507 recommended, or permission of instructor. Control problems for nonlinear systems of ordinary differential equations, methods of feedback control to achieve control objectives. Crosslisted as: MATH 655.

 EGRE 656. Estimation and Optimal Filtering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: MATH 310, EGRE 337 and EGRE 555/MATH 555. This course will expose students to the fundamental issues in parameter estimation and recursive state estimation for dynamic systems. Topics covered will include maximum likelihood estimation, maximum a posteriori estimation, least squares estimation, minimum mean square error estimation, Cramer-Rao lower bound, discrete-time Kalman filter for linear dynamic systems, extended Kalman filter for nonlinear problems and system models for the Kalman filter.

 EGRE 671. Power System Operations and Controls. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGRE 471 or equivalent. This course covers the fundamental concepts of economic operation and controls of power systems, including real and reactive power balance, optimized generation dispatch, steady state and dynamic analysis, real-time monitoring and controls, and contingency analysis. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to develop equivalent circuits and compute programs for power flow analysis, define and analyze automatic generation control scheme on a power system, develop generation dispatching schemes, define and analyze state estimation of a power system using analysis programs, and perform contingency studies of the grid.
EGRE 691. Special Topics in Electrical and Computer Engineering. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisites: at least one graduate-level engineering course and permission of instructor. An advanced study of selected topic(s) in electrical and computer engineering. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

EGRE 692. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture and 1-3 laboratory hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate standing and permission of instructor. The student must identify an electrical and computer engineering faculty member willing to supervise the course and submit a proposal for approval to the electrical and computer engineering graduate committee. Investigation of specialized electrical and computer engineering problems through literature search, mathematical analysis, computer simulations and/or experimentation. Written and oral reports, final report and examination are required.

EGRE 697. Directed Research in Electrical and Computer Engineering.
1-15 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-15 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing and permission of instructor. Research directed toward completion of the requirements for the electrical and computer engineering track in the M.S. or Ph.D. in Engineering performed under the direction of an electrical and computer engineering faculty member and advisory committee. Graded as S/U/F.

Engineering (ENGR)

ENGR 591. Special Topics in Engineering. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 lecture hours. 1-4 credits. Prerequisite: senior or graduate standing in the School of Engineering, or permission of the instructor. Lectures, tutorial studies, library assignments in selected areas of advanced study or specialized laboratory procedures not available in other courses or as part of research training.

ENGR 690. Engineering Research Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 credit. May be repeated for a maximum of 2 credits. Presentations and discussion of current problems and developments in engineering by students, staff and visiting lecturers.

ENGR 691. Special Topics in Engineering. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 lecture hours. 1-4 credits. An advanced study of selected topic(s) in engineering. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

ENGR 692. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture and 1-3 laboratory hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate standing and consent of instructor. The student must identify a faculty member willing to supervise the course and submit a proposal for approval to the appropriate track's graduate committee. Investigation of specialized engineering problems through literature search, mathematical analysis, computer simulation and/or experimentation. Written and oral reports, final report and examination are required.

ENGR 697. Directed Research. 1-15 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-15 credits. Research directed toward completion of the requirements for M.S. and Ph.D. in Engineering degrees under the direction of engineering faculty and an advisory committee. Graded S/U/F.

Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering (EGMN)

EGMN 501. Advanced Manufacturing Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EGMN 425 and EGMN 426, graduate standing in the School of Engineering, or permission of instructor. Studies the fundamental systems required for mechanical, chemical and electrical manufacturing, including material procurement, logistics, quality and distribution. The principles are applied to all types of manufacturing processes from project through continuous. Advanced systems for lean, agile and global manufacturing also are covered.

EGMN 502. Product Design and Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: senior or graduate standing in the School of Engineering, or permission of instructor. Presents engineering concepts and techniques necessary to successfully develop new products and introduce them to the marketplace. Topics include development processes, converting direct customer input to marketing specifications, creating technical specifications, quantifying customer input, using rapid prototyping to reduce development time, design for manufacturability and product certification issues.

EGMN 505. Characterization of Materials. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: senior or graduate standing in the School of Engineering, or permission of instructor. Focuses on characterization techniques of solids at the molecular, surface and bulk levels, including resonant, vibrational and electronic spectroscopies, X-ray methods and optical and electron microscopies. A connection will be developed between the theoretically-derived and experimentally-observed properties of materials and a rationale also will be developed for choosing an appropriate characterization technique for a given material.

EGMN 507. Law and Engineering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with senior or graduate standing in the School of Engineering or by permission of instructor. The course will acquaint students with methods used by industrial hygienists to identify, evaluate and control human exposure to toxic contaminants and harmful physical agents in the workplace and in the environment. Students will develop an understanding of the ethical issues confronting industrial hygienists and other health professionals.

EGMN 508. Lean Manufacturing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with senior or graduate standing in the School of Engineering or by permission of instructor. The course proposes to acquaint the student with legal concepts that affect the engineering community and enable the student to understand how technical and scientific regulations are promulgated and how interest groups attempt to ensure that regulations consider their positions. In addition, the course introduces intellectual property law: patents, copyrights and trademarks.

EGMN 509. Product Design and Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: senior or graduate standing in the School of Engineering or by permission of instructor. The objective of the class is to introduce lean thinking—defined as a systematic, logical method of identifying and eliminating waste using continuous assessment. The classes focus on managing flow, identifying and eliminating waste, problem-solving, and product and process design.
EGMN 509. Advanced Lean Manufacturing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with senior or graduate standing in the School of Engineering or by permission of instructor. The course builds on the knowledge gained in lean manufacturing. The class allows the student to use their lean tools in a real manufacturing environment. The course reviews automation, load leveling, distribution, logistics, flow and added work, among many other topics. At the end of the course students will be able to take the Lean Bronze Certificate Test, given by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers.

EGMN 510. Probabilistic Risk Assessment. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: senior or graduate standing in the School of Engineering, or permission of instructor. An introduction to probabilistic risk assessment methods as applied to nuclear power plants. Students will receive hands-on experience in PRA methods by designing and building a PRA model for an operational nuclear power plant. Students will use state-of-the-art software to design a nuclear plant model, using event trees, fault trees, industry failure and unavailability data, and current human reliability analysis methods. Using the completed model, students will calculate and use appropriate risk metrics in typical applications.

EGMN 515. Vibrations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGMN 201 with a minimum grade of C, graduate standing in the School of Engineering or permission of the instructor. Provides students with vibrations theory and practical applications for machines and structures necessary (a) to perform analysis and evaluation of vibrations problems and (b) to recognize suspicious results from canned computer software. Emphasis placed on the formulation of governing differential equations, solution methods, evaluation of results and interpretation of response characteristics of discrete mass systems and continuous mass systems. Work and energy methods, variational methods, and Lagrange's Equations will be used to formulate problems. Solution methods will use exact and approximate methods, including eigensolution methods. Applications to the vibrations of various mechanical systems will use computational techniques, computer simulation and analysis.

EGMN 518. Advanced HVAC. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate standing in the School of Engineering or by permission of instructor. The course intends to reinforce the fundamentals of HVAC systems and apply them to research topics. Student will review the basics of HVAC systems; the use of psychrometric charts to deal with various moist-air processes; indoor environment health, thermal comfort and indoor air quality control; heat transmission in building structures; solar irradiation, basic space heating and cooling load calculations; and space air distribution and related equipment.

EGMN 525. Feedback Control. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: experience using MATLAB software, EGMN 315 and EGMN 410, with a minimum grade of C in both; graduate standing in the School of Engineering; or permission of instructor. In-depth study of the fundamentals of feedback control systems theory and design. Topics covered include transfer function modeling, system stability and time response, root locus, Bode and Nyquist diagrams, lead, lag, and PID compensators.

EGMN 530. System Analysis of the Nuclear Fuel Cycle. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGMN 355, with a minimum grade of C, graduate standing in the School of Engineering or permission of instructor. Provides an in-depth technical and policy analysis of various options for the nuclear fuel cycle. Topics include uranium supply, enrichment fuel fabrication, in-core physics and fuel management of uranium, thorium and other fuel types, reprocessing, and waste disposal. Also covered are the principles of fuel-cycle economics and the applied reactor physics of both contemporary and proposed thermal and fast reactors. Nonproliferation aspects, disposal of excess weapons plutonium and transmutation of actinides and selected fission products in spent fuel are examined. Several state-of-the-art computer programs are provided for student use in problem sets and term papers.

EGMN 545. Energy Conversion Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EGMN 204 and EGMN 301, with a minimum grade of C in both; graduate standing in the School of Engineering, or permission of the instructor. Quantitative and qualitative study of traditional and alternative systems used to generate electricity. Topics include combustion, coal-fired boilers, nuclear reactors, steam turbine blading, gas turbine combustors, turbo-generator design, internal combustion engines, solar thermal systems, photovoltaic devices, wind energy, geothermal energy and fuel cells. Additional topics of interest to the students may be discussed.

EGMN 550. Energy and Sustainability. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires senior or graduate standing in the School of Engineering or permission of instructor. This course will explore the various available energy resource options and technologies with a focus toward achieving sustainability on a local, national and global scale. The course will examine the broader aspects of energy use, including resource estimation, environmental effects, interactions among energy, water and land use, social impacts, and economic evaluations. Students will review the main energy sources of today and tomorrow, from fossil fuels and nuclear power to biomass, hydropower and solar energy, including discussions on energy carriers and energy storage, transmission, and distribution.

EGMN 551. Experimental Methods for Engineers. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: senior or graduate standing in the School of Engineering or permission of the instructor. An introduction to design of experiments theory, DoE and methods such as such-sigma and factorial experimental design to engineering projects. Provides students with the necessary background to plan, budget and analyze an experiment or project.

EGMN 555. Smart Materials. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: senior standing and EGMN 202 and EGMN 309, with a minimum grade of C in both; graduate standing in the School of Engineering, or permission of the instructor. Covers various smart materials, such as shape memory alloys and piezoelectric and magnetostrictive materials, current research in material development and diverse applications in areas such as medicine, automobiles and aerospace. The aim of the course is to bridge the gap between different areas of material development, characterization, modeling and practical applications of smart materials.
EGMN 560. Monte Carlo Simulations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with senior or graduate standing in the School of Engineering or by permission of instructor. The course covers key aspects of computer modeling and simulation with the emphasis on statistical resampling and Monte Carlo techniques. Students will complete a number of modeling projects utilizing programming languages commonly used in the nuclear industry. As such the course includes gaining a basic proficiency in the appropriate programming language, including the development of good programming practices.

EGMN 565. Design Optimization. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EGRM 420 and 421, with a minimum grade of C in each, graduate standing in the School of Engineering, or permission of instructor. Focuses on providing students with a methodology and set of skills to apply in improving engineering components, systems and processes. The design of better products and processes is a fundamental goal of all engineering.

EGMN 566. Advanced Computer-aided Design and Manufacturing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EGMN 420, EGMN 421, EGMN 425 and EGMN 426, with a minimum grade of C in each, graduate standing in the School of Engineering or permission of instructor. Provides students with an understanding of how modern computer techniques can enhance the generation, analysis, synthesis, manufacturing and quality of engineering products. The design and manufacture of better products and processes is a fundamental goal of all engineering disciplines.

EGMN 568. Robot Manipulators. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in the School of Engineering or permission of instructor. Provides students with a basic knowledge in the dynamic analysis and control of robot manipulators. Topics include Jacobian analysis, manipulator dynamics, linear and nonlinear control of manipulators, force control of manipulators, robot manipulator applications and an introduction to telemanipulation.

EGMN 570. Effective Technical Writing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: UNIV 200 or equivalent with a minimum grade of C, or permission of instructor. The course will involve intensive study of different aspects of technical communications. Critical reading and writing skills will be developed particularly for technical essays, targeted for both educated and specialized audience. Nontechnical writing will be used as an inspiration for technical writing. Other aspects of technical communications will also be covered.

EGMN 571. Introduction to Computational Fluid Dynamics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGMN 301 with a minimum grade of C, graduate standing in the School of Engineering or permission of the instructor. Students will become familiar with basic aspects of CFD, including characteristics of the governing equations, finite-difference and finite-volume solution methods, implicit versus explicit solution algorithms, grid generation, and numerical analysis. Emphasis placed on mechanical, chemical and bioengineering systems. The final course project will emphasize issues of current research such as biofluid mechanics, medical devices and MEMS.

EGMN 573. Engineering Acoustics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in the School of Engineering or permission of the instructor. Designed to equip students to perform design work, testing and research in structural acoustics and vibrations. Applications from the fields of automotive, aerospace, marine, architectural, medical equipment and consumer appliance industries will be investigated.

EGMN 574. Nuclear Safeguards, Security and Nonproliferation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with senior or graduate standing in the School of Engineering or by permission of instructor. This course will explore the political and technological issues involved with nuclear safeguards, security and nonproliferation. Topics studied will include the history of nuclear weapons development, description and effects of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear material safeguards, protection of nuclear materials, proliferation resistance and pathways in the nuclear fuel cycle, international and domestic safeguards, nuclear terrorism, and safeguards measurement techniques for material accountability programs and physical protection mechanisms.

EGMN 575. Fast Breeder Reactors. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with senior or graduate standing in the School of Engineering or by permission of instructor. This course will examine the physical, technical and economic features of fast breeder reactors. In particular, the course will study the need for fast reactors and their design objectives, typical core design principles, and important plant systems. The course will also discuss the major nuclear safety topics and their design approaches.

EGMN 580. Flow Control. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGMN 301 with a minimum grade of C, graduate standing in the School of Engineering or permission of instructor. Passive, active and reactive flow management strategies to achieve transition delay/advance, separation control, mixing augmentation, drag reduction, lift enhancement and noise suppression. Unified framework for flow control. Futuristic reactive control methods using MEMS devices, soft computing and dynamical systems theory.

EGMN 591. Special Topics in Engineering. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 variable hours. 1-4 credits. Prerequisite: senior or graduate standing in the School of Engineering, or permission of the instructor. Lectures, tutorial studies, library assignments in selected areas of advanced study or specialized laboratory procedures not available in other courses or as part of research training.

EGMN 602. Convective Heat Transfer. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate standing in the School of Engineering, or permission of instructor. In-depth quantitative study of convective heat transfer. Topics include laminar boundary layer flow, laminar duct flow, external natural convection, internal natural convection, transition to turbulence, turbulent boundary layer flow, turbulent duct flow, free turbulent flows, convection with change of phase, convection in porous media.

EGMN 603. Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Dynamic Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGMN 504 or graduate standing in mechanical and nuclear engineering. This course presents the technical foundation for application and use of dynamic systems and presents methods to formulate the governing differential equations of such systems and to obtain realistic analytical and numerical solutions. The organization of the course presents theory and methods and specific applications for typical dynamic systems.
EGMN 604. Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Materials. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The course consists of advanced topics in both fundamental and applied materials science including solid state fundamentals, crystal structure,diffraction in crystals, postulates of quantum mechanics, Bloch functions and energy bands, Fermi distributions, classification and processing of materials, alloys and phase diagrams, defects, dislocation dynamics, solid state diffusion, thermal and mechanical properties, corrosion, high temperature deformation mechanisms, basics of fracture mechanics, fundamentals of ionization radiation, irradiation effects on material properties, and materials selection for extreme environment applications.

EGMN 605. Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate standing in mechanical and nuclear engineering. The course covers advanced topics in applied mathematics most important for solving practical problems in mechanical and nuclear engineering. Topics include Fourier analysis, partial differential equations, boundary value problems, series solutions, complex analysis, conformal mapping, complex analysis and potential theory, applications in fluid mechanics, vibrations, and mechanical and nuclear engineering problems.

EGMN 606. Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Continuum Mechanics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate standing in mechanical and nuclear engineering. The topics include scalars, vectors and tensors; indicial notation; transformation law; principal values and directions; tensor fields; integral theorems of Gauss and Stokes; stress; Mohr’s circle; strain; kinematics of deformation and motion; rate of deformation; general principles (continuity, momentum, energy); constitutive equations; linear elasticity; Hooke’s law; three-dimensional elasticity; classical fluids; Navier-Stokes equations; Bernoulli equation; flow (viscous, steady, irrotational).

EGMN 607. Heat and Mass Transfer Theory and Applications. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EGMN 503. Enrollment requires graduate standing in MNE. A solid theoretical and applied understanding of heat and mass transfer is critical for training competent mechanical and nuclear engineers. This course will provide students with a theoretical understanding of the heat transport processes of conduction, convention and radiation as well as an understanding of parallels with mass transfer. Solution techniques will be both analytical and numerical, consistent with problems faced by modern engineers. Applications in the field of mechanical engineering include the design of cooling systems for automobiles, conventional power plants, heat engines and computers. Applications in the field of nuclear engineering include maintaining nuclear core temperatures and nuclear plant heat dissipation. Mass transfer applications include any process involving multiple species (e.g., two gases) as well as medically oriented transport problems (e.g., blood oxygenation), which are frequently encountered when developing materials or medical devices. Specific topics to be covered include 1D conduction, 2D and 3D conduction, transient conduction, external forced convection, internal forced convection, convection with phase change, thermal radiation, and principles of mass transfer (diffusion and advection).

EGMN 608. Solid Mechanics and Materials Behavior. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in the School of Engineering or permission of the instructor. Studies of stresses and strains in two- and three-dimensional elastic problems. Failure theories and yield criteria. Analysis and design of load-carrying members, energy methods and stress concentrations. Elastic and plastic behavior, fatigue and fracture, and composites will be discussed.

EGMN 609. Advanced Characterization of Materials. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: knowledge of material science and graduate standing in the School of Engineering, or permission of instructor. Study of the physical properties of a wide range of materials by advanced microscopy techniques including electron and scanning probe-based microscopy. Advanced study of deformation and failure in materials including characterization by hardness, fracture toughness and tensile testing, as well as X-ray diffraction.

EGMN 610. Topics in Nuclear Engineering. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: knowledge of calculus and differential equations and graduate standing in the School of Engineering; or permission of instructor. A survey covering the scope of nuclear engineering. Concepts of atomic and nuclear structure, mass and energy, nuclear stability, radioactive decay, radioactivity calculations, nuclear reactions, interaction of radiation (neutrons and photons) with matter, fission chain reaction, neutron diffusion, nuclear reaction theory, reactor kinetics, health physics, reactor power plants (PWR and BWR), waste disposal. Required first course for graduate students in nuclear engineering track who enter with degrees in other disciplines; suitable as a technical elective for other graduate engineering tracks.

EGMN 612. Advanced Computational Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EGRM 512 and graduate standing in the School of Engineering, or permission of instructor. Exposes students to the fundamentals of modern numerical techniques for a wide range of linear and nonlinear elliptic, parabolic and hyperparabolic partial differential equations. Topics include equation characteristics; finite difference, finite volume and finite element discretization methods; and direct and iterative solution techniques. Applications to engineering systems are presented, including fluid dynamics, heat transfer and nonlinear solid mechanics.

EGMN 620. Reactor Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EGMN 610, proficiency in solving first- and second-order differential equations and graduate standing in the School of Engineering; or permission of the instructor. The neutronics behavior of fission reactors, primarily from a theoretical, one-speed perspective. Criticality, fissile product poisoning, reactivity control, reactor stability and introductory concepts in fuel management, followed by slowing-down and one-speed diffusion theory.

EGMN 627. Advanced Manufacturing Simulations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate standing in the School of Engineering and knowledge of material science, computer-aided engineering and manufacturing; or permission of the instructor. Advanced mechanics of the manufacturing processes, their modeling and simulation. Fundamentals of process modeling and use of computational tools. Details and governing theory behind the construction of numerical analysis tools such as FEA will not be provided. However, the intelligent use of this kind of FEA tool in the solution of industrial problems will be taught in addition to analytical methods in rapid assessment of manufacturing processes and systems.
EGMN 630. Technology, Security and Preparedness. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An overview of the role of technology in detecting and defeating terrorism. The course begins with a detailed review of weapons of mass destruction including chemical, biological and radiological devices. This is followed by a review of the various technologies currently being developed and deployed to detect the presence of terrorist weapons and associated activities. These technologies include chemical sensors, biosensors and radiation detectors, portal monitors, satellite and infrared imaging systems, as well as acoustic sensors and magnetometers.

EGMN 640. Nuclear Safety. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EGMN 610, background in mathematics through differential equations and graduate standing in the School of Engineering; or permission of instructor. Designed to introduce graduate students to the fluid mechanics and graduate standing in the School of Engineering, or permission of instructor. Teaches students the principles used in analyzing/designing compressors and turbines. Students will be expected to design a gas turbine to meet specific mission requirements. In-depth passive, active and reactive flow-management strategies to achieve transition delay/advance, separation control, mixing augmentation, drag reduction, lift enhancement and noise suppression. Unified framework and theoretical underpinnings of flow control. Futuristic reactive control methods using MEMS devices, soft computing and dynamical systems theory. An extensive project will be included as part of this class. Not open to undergraduate students. Mechanical engineering students may use EGRM 580 or EGRM 680 (but not both) to meet the requirements for the M.S. and/or Ph.D. degrees. Students cannot receive credit for both EGRM 580 and EGRM 680.

EGMN 650. Nuclear Radiation and Shielding. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EGMN 610, knowledge of calculus and differential equations and graduate standing in the School of Engineering; or permission of instructor. Basic and advanced concepts in radiation sources, gamma ray and neutron shielding, geometry factors in shielding, computational techniques (such as Monte Carlo and discrete ordinates), special topics (such as shield heating, duct steaming and albedo theory) and practical aspects.

EGMN 655. Nuclear Power Plants. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EGMN 610, knowledge of thermodynamics and graduate standing in the School of Engineering; or permission of instructor. Descriptions of mechanical features (containment, core design, steam generation, Rankine and Brayton cycles) of PWR and BWR power plants. Reactor core heat generation. Thermal analysis of fuel pins, fuel elements, flow channels and reactor core. Single- and two-phase heat transfer. Single- and two-phase fluid mechanics. Steady-state and unsteady-state thermodynamic analysis.

EGMN 661. Computational Fluid Dynamics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in the School of Engineering, or permission of instructor. Teaches students how to perform two- and three-dimensional fluid flow and heat transfer analyses. Students will be able to understand and use most of the commercial flow analyses applied in industry today.

EGMN 662. Advanced Turbomachinery Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate standing in the School of Engineering and EGRM 561 and 661, or permission of instructor. Teaches students the principles used in analyzing/designing compressors and turbines. Students will be expected to design a gas turbine to meet specific mission requirements. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to understand the design systems and techniques used in the aeronpropulsion and gas turbine industries.

EGMN 663. Viscous Flows. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: knowledge of fluid mechanics and graduate standing in the School of Engineering, or permission of instructor. Designed to introduce graduate students to the fundamentals and the theoretical underpinnings of viscous fluid flows. An extensive project will be included as part of this class.

EGMN 664. Advanced Fluid Mechanics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing in the School of Engineering or permission of instructor. Covers the principles necessary to analyze viscous flow. Students learn how to formulate solutions to general viscous flow problems.

EGMN 665. Advanced Biofluid Mechanics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate standing in the School of Engineering and EGRM 512 or EGRM 561, or permission of instructor. Emphasizes the application of fluid mechanics to understand the properties of biological materials pertaining to the human body. This objective will be achieved through the application of fundamental laws (mass, momentum and energy) that govern fluid mechanics. Emphasis will be on respiratory flow dynamics, biofluid measurement techniques, steady and unsteady blood flow, flow through biodevices, turbulence, and mass transport with physiologic boundary conditions.

EGMN 668. Advanced Flow Control. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: knowledge of fluid mechanics and graduate standing in the School of Engineering, or permission of instructor. In-depth passive, active and reactive flow-management strategies to achieve transition delay/advance, separation control, mixing augmentation, drag reduction, lift enhancement and noise suppression. Unified framework and theoretical underpinnings of flow control. Futuristic reactive control methods using MEMS devices, soft computing and dynamical systems theory. An extensive project will be included as part of this class. Not open to undergraduate students. Mechanical engineering students may use EGRM 580 or EGRM 680 (but not both) to meet the requirements for the M.S. and/or Ph.D. degrees. Students cannot receive credit for both EGRM 580 and EGRM 680.

EGMN 690. Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: graduate standing. Mechanical engineering graduate students will attend a weekly one-hour research seminar. The topic and speaker will change each week in order to cover a broad range of subjects at the forefront of mechanical engineering research. The objective is to expose students to research topics and scholars in the field of mechanical engineering.

EGMN 691. Special Topics in Engineering. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 lecture hours. 1-4 credits. An advanced study of selected topic(s) in engineering. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

EGMN 692. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisites: graduate standing or consent of instructor. The student must identify a faculty member willing to supervise the course and submit a proposal for approval to the appropriate track’s graduate committee. Investigation of specialized engineering problems through literature search, mathematical analysis, computer simulation and/or experimentation. Written and oral reports, final report and examination are required.

EGMN 697. Directed Research in Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering. 1-15 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-15 credits. Prerequisite: graduate standing or permission of instructor. Research directed toward completion of the requirements for the M.S. or Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering, under the direction of a mechanical engineering faculty member and advisory committee. Graded S/U/F.
L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs

Criminal Justice (CRJS)

CRJS 501. Principles of Criminal Justice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Survey of the American criminal justice system, and the relationships among crime, law, police, courts and corrections. Review of contemporary criminal justice literature.

CRJS 550. Professional Ethics and Liability. 3 Hours.
3 credits. The ethical basis for decision-making in criminal justice. How ethical considerations affect every important decision in criminal justice, especially as they involve the liberty interests of others. These decisions include: police stop and arrest decisions, prosecutor charging decision, defendant plea decisions, defense strategy decisions, judicial evidentiary rulings, sentencing decisions, among others. The consequences of unethical decisions on management ability, civil and criminal liability faced by criminal justice professionals.

CRJS 591. Topic Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Periodic seminar in contemporary criminal justice topics. Topics to be determined.

CRJS 612. Criminal Justice Politics and Planning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Assesses political and public policy issues as they relate to the administration of justice planning and policy strategies. Emphasizes planning implications of interagency relationships, the impact of social change in the criminal justice process, and community involvement in the control and prevention of crime.

CRJS 616. Justice Policy and Administration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Analyzes the legal, philosophical, political and management influences that shape the criminal justice policy and its administration. Organization and management principles as they apply to the justice system with emphasis on leadership and human resource development.

CRJS 620. Seminar in Criminology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examination and analysis of social, psychological, and economic theories and correlates of criminal behavior. Typologies of offenders. Crosslisted as: SOCY 620.

CRJS 622. Comparative Criminal Justice Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Study of crime, law and criminal justice from an international perspective, emphasizing their comparative aspects.

CRJS 623. Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduction to the scope and methods of applied research for the public sector. Focuses on problem structuring through logical methods, exploring problems through observation and other methods of data collection, analyzing and summarizing findings using both qualitative and quantitative methods. Crosslisted as: GVPA 623/PADM 623/URSP 623.

CRJS 624. Problems in Policing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires graduate status. Intended to provide an overview of the causes, nature and potential solutions to many of the most significant problems in modern American law enforcement. Problems include issues related to excessive force, corruption, police pursuit and other areas of police discretion.

CRJS 631. Criminal Justice Management and Leadership. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Application of organizational theory and administrative behavior to criminal justice policy, management and operation. Administrative concepts, program planning and development, and innovative management practices.

CRJS 641. Jurisprudence. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the theoretical underpinnings of law and justice. Studies the evolution of theories of jurisprudence within the context of evolving concepts of responsibility and law. Systems of law will be contrasted and emphasis will be placed on contemporary developments in substantive laws.

CRJS 660. Seminar in Legal Process. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Studies the formal and informal procedures of various criminal justice systems. Advanced study of criminal procedure and the major legal constraints and authorizations placed upon arrest, prosecution, trial, sentencing and appeal.

CRJS 680. Forensic Psychiatry. 3 Hours.

CRJS 691. Special Topics in Criminal Justice and Public Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated with different topics. Enrollment requires graduate status. Periodic seminar in contemporary criminal justice or policy topics. Topics to be determined.

CRJS 692. Directed Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. The instructor's review and approval of the study proposal must precede independent work by student. Provides an opportunity for an advanced student to pursue an independent research project or extensive literature review under the supervision of an instructor.

CRJS 693. Internship. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Students must apply for this internship a semester in advance. Provides student an opportunity to relate theory to practice through observation and experience in an approved agency. The internship should be taken near the end of the degree program. Graded as pass/fail.

CRJS 763. Seminar in Social Justice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the philosophical and historical underpinnings of the principles of justice and their relationship to equality, liberty, government and law.

CRJS 798. Thesis Research. 1,3 Hour.
Semester course; 3 credits with 1 credit extension. Prerequisite: CRJS 601; a graduate statistics course is strongly recommended. Permission of graduate instructor. Registration for this course is permitted only upon approval of the candidate's detailed research proposal and statement of qualifications reviewed a semester in advance by a faculty committee. A two-semester project resulting in an advanced research paper that involves a comprehensive literature review, approved research design, and an original analysis or replication study. CRJS 798 involves preparation and oral defense of the thesis prospectus. Graded as S/U/F.

CRJS 799. Thesis. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. Prerequisite: completion of CRJS 798. Execution of the research prospectus approved in CRJS 798. The master's thesis will be written according to university guidelines, approved by the student's faculty committee and defended orally before the faculty committee. Graded as S/U/F.
Government and Public Affairs (GVPA)

GVPA 591. Special Topics in Government and Public Affairs. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An intensive focus on a specialized subject area relevant to graduate programs in the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester. Also open to graduate students in programs outside of the Wilder School with permission of the instructor.

GVPA 601. Principles of Public Administration. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Dynamics of governmental administration including administrative principles, decision-making, communication, leadership, organizational models, and the social, economic, legal and political milieu of administration. Crosslisted as: PADM 601.

GVPA 623. Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduction to the scope and methods of applied research for the public sector. Focuses on problem structuring through logical methods, exploring problems through observation and other methods of data collection, analyzing and summarizing findings using both qualitative and quantitative methods. Crosslisted as: URSP 623/PAFM 623/CRJS 623.

GVPA 625. Public Policy Analysis. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The examination of various methods for identifying and structuring public policy problems and issues, formulating and analyzing alternative responses, recommending policy actions for decision-making, and designing and evaluating implementation plans and the means to monitor and evaluate the resulting policy outcomes. Crosslisted as: PADM 625.

GVPA 632. Planning Theory and Processes. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines major traditions in the theory of planning in the context of actual planning processes and outcomes. Explores in depth the political, economic, and institutional constraints to effective planning and plan implementation. Discusses the planners' ethical dilemmas. Crosslisted as: URSP 632.

GVPA 635. Theorizing Gender Violence. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Teaches students to think structurally about gender and violence. Familiarizes students with social science and feminist scholarship and explanatory theories related to preventing and responding to gender violence. Students will learn about the experiences of and responses to sexual and domestic violence in specific social contexts, with a focus on less visible and underserved populations. Guest lectures provided by community experts in these areas. Also examines social policy and research implications of various approaches.

GVPA 640. River Policy. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines public policy related to rivers and watersheds. Uses the James River for exploring and illustrating generic river policy issues. Crosslisted as: ENVS 640.

GVPA 672. Social Equity and Public Policy Analysis. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to provide an overview of the concept of social equity and its relationship to public policy. A survey course that will introduce students to an array of public policy areas along the core dimensions of race, ethnicity, gender and class.

GVPA 683. Administrative Ethics. 2,3 Hours. Semester course; 2 or 3 lecture hours. 2 or 3 credits. A philosophical investigation into the problems of making ethical decisions, focusing on issues likely to confront the public administrator. Examples of such issues are equity in social services delivery, affirmative action, loyalty to the bureaucracy vs. "whistle blowing," and conflicts of interest between personal and public interest. Crosslisted as: PADM 683/PHIL 683.

GVPA 691. Special Topics. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An intensive focus on a specialized subject area relevant to graduate programs in the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs. Also open to graduate students in programs outside of the Wilder School, with permission of the instructor. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

GVPA 693. Internship. 1-9 Hours. Semester course; 1-9 hours. 1-9 credits. Permission of instructor required. A graduate-level internship that allows students to explore professional opportunities that relate to one or more of the graduate programs in the Wilder School. See graduate coordinator for specific hour requirements.

Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (HSEP)

HSEP 501. Institutional Challenges of Security Preparedness. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A detailed examination of the post-9/11 institutional transformation within the U.S. Both the theoretical and practical aspects of the new environment of homeland security and emergency preparedness are examined in the context of local, state and federal government, as well as the private and nonprofit sectors. The dilemmas of coordination, collaboration, competition and decision-making across and within governmental levels and between government and other sectors are explored.

HSEP 502. Survey of Terrorism. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An introduction to the theoretical and practical aspects of terrorism and counter-terrorism. Provides a broad overview of the general use of terrorism as a political tool and the idiosyncratic strategies and tactics used by specific terrorist groups. Focuses upon the relationships between terrorism and religion, technology, globalization and organizational design (network organizations). The counter-terrorism policies of various nations are examined in terms of strategic purpose, implementation and success.

HSEP 601. Emergency Management: Response Planning and Incident Command. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An advanced analytical examination of emergency management, including mitigation (designing programs to reduce the risk to vulnerable targets/infrastructure), preparedness (response planning and training, particularly interagency and intergovernmental agreements on joint operations and burden sharing), response (actual operations during and after a terrorist attack or natural disaster) and recovery (maintaining services in the immediate aftermath of a disaster and the long term). Through discussions of theory and numerous case studies, students will be able to identify and investigate the strengths and weaknesses of the current practice of emergency management in the U.S.
HSEP 602. Government, Industry and Community Strategic Planning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of the guiding principles of strategic planning and the manner in which strategic plans can be used to better identify resource requirements and a prioritized acquisition process. Analyzes the strategic planning goal of designing a coordinated and unified effort that is all inclusive of the multiple agencies (governmental and nonprofit), distinct communities and private industries that have a role in and are impacted by natural disasters or terrorist incidents.

HSEP 603. Risk Assessment. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An introduction to the assessment and management of risk. Focuses on analytical techniques that assess risk; the primary application will be threats to critical infrastructure. Students will learn to conduct a risk and vulnerability analysis of a specific target, city or region using various assessment techniques and to manage that risk by assessing the efficacy of both prevention and response measures. The techniques covered will be both quantitative and qualitative.

HSEP 610. Law Enforcement Policy and Judicial Precedent. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies’ evolving policies on crisis and consequence management, as well as court decisions guiding these policies and interpreting their implementation. Students will engage in case-study analysis while learning the fundamentals of policy development. Course content will include analysis and discussion of relevant statutes and court cases, and the issues, processes and procedures associated with the development and implementation of judicial policies that attempt to balance civil rights and homeland security, as well as legal aspects of natural disasters and public health crises.

HSEP 620. Private Sector Issues in Security and Preparedness. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A survey of the private sector’s dilemmas and responsibilities in homeland security and emergency preparedness. Class will focus on issues such as the critical emergency management functions for private industry (resumption, recovery, restoration, continuity); the question of “how much security is enough”; and the central dilemma of private sector-public sector security and preparedness: the overwhelming majority of critical infrastructure is privately owned, yet it is the government’s responsibility to prepare, protect and reconstitute it. Information sharing, communications and regulatory issues are examined.

HSEP 650. Public Health Preparedness. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of the role of the public health sector in preparing for and responding to natural disasters, emerging infectious diseases, catastrophic terrorism and bioterrorism. The class focuses on coordination and cooperation of federal, state and local government and the public-, private- and nonprofit-sector components of the public health infrastructure. Topics include epidemiological and mental health issues related to disasters, command/communication concerns, national stockpile management, surge planning, all-hazard planning and exercise design.

HSEP 690. Capstone Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: 27 credits in HSEP courses or permission of instructor. A capstone and assessment course. Readings, writing assignments and the large research project are designed to allow students to use the sum of their knowledge and analytical skills to examine homeland security and emergency preparedness in a broad and comprehensive way. Students will engage in research linked to a role-playing simulation/exercise that will be held when the class meets in the last week of the semester.

HSEP 691. Special Topics in Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated with different topics. Enrollment requires graduate status. Periodic seminar in contemporary homeland security and emergency preparedness topics. Topics to be determined.

HSEP 692. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. The instructor’s review and approval of the study proposal must precede independent work by student. Provides an opportunity for an advanced student to pursue an independent research project or extensive literature review under the supervision of an instructor.

Policy and Leadership (DPAL)
DPAL 701. Cross Sector Leadership. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to doctoral students. Concepts of leadership have largely emerged from the study of people in positions of authority in business and politics whose characteristics, behaviors and values tend to dominate leadership theory. Less well-developed are concepts of public leadership, though its failures have dire consequences. More recently, scholars have turned to the study of civic leadership, which recognizes the benefits and challenges of civic action in shaping action based on shared goals. The course will explore the benefits and challenges of citizens and institutions (government, nonprofit and business) working together to advance sustainable communities.

DPAL 702. Web Technologies and Digital Governance. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to doctoral students. This course emphasizes the importance of Web 2.0 technologies and digital governance. Students will learn about the nature of Web 2.0 technologies and their impacts on public policy and administration as well as how Web 2.0 applications can support the goals of government organizations.

DPAL 711. Theory and the Public Process. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to doctoral students. Applying a broad theoretical lens, students will critically examine issues surrounding an actual policy or leadership problem within a chosen concentration. Emphasis is placed upon critical analysis, developing a substantive level of knowledge within an existing literature, and developing and supporting an argument grounded in theory.
DPAL 712. Institutions and Organizations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to doctoral students. Organizational and institutional theories look to the political, organizational and cultural contexts that shape social life. Some theories conceptualize environments in terms of networks and resources, within which social actors are “embedded.” Others stress historically built-up structures (e.g., laws and governmental agencies) that shape and channel subsequent dynamics. More radical theories argue that the core features of modern social actors, themselves, are largely products of social constructs, rather than existing a priori as often assumed. This course explores theories of institutions and organizations to inform our thinking about the roles and behavior of public and nonprofit organizations in shaping democratic organizational life in societies.

DPAL 721. Systematic Inquiry. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to doctoral students. This course is designed to teach students how to design and assess research in the policy setting. The course focuses on problem structuring through logical methods, exploring problems through multiple methods of data collection, analysis and summarization of findings using qualitative, quantitative and mixed-method designs. Through interpretation and critique of various research reports students gain an understanding of the different purposes that research can serve in applied policy settings.

DPAL 722. Methods of Decision-making. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to doctoral students. This course examines qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods approaches to decision-making with an emphasis on situation factors impacting the decision-maker. Students will be able to describe, understand, evaluate, apply and create synergistic methods for making decisions.

DPAL 780. Synthesizing Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to doctoral students. Policy is frequently a bridge between political aspiration and practice. Focuses on studies, reports, research and public initiatives demonstrating the cycle of “idea” to “implementation.” The Masseygill Report (Virginia Tech tragedy), Richmond mayor’s anti-poverty task force and meals tax referenda are examples of case studies that could be reviewed.

DPAL 890. Capstone. 6 Hours.
Semester course; 6 lecture hours. 6 credits. Restricted to doctoral students. Advanced doctoral students will design a capstone project with the advice and under the supervision of selected faculty. The doctoral student is expected to develop a formal proposal designed to respond to a current problem situation relevant to policy and leadership in governance. Once the proposal is approved, the student is to carry out a regimen of research and project development based in professional practice and seeking an innovative solution or model to advance the practice of their chosen concentration.

Public Administration (PADM)

PADM 583. Effective Managerial Communications. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Describes and explains the communications process as it applies in public organizations. Acquaints students with the theoretical basis of interpersonal communications and with applied methodologies from a managerial perspective.

PADM 584. Planned Organizational Change. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Describes and explains strategies and tactics of planned organizational change. Emphasis is placed on the change process in organized situations and on various strategies and tactics the manager may employ to achieve desired change in his or her organization.

PADM 585. Power, Influence and Organizational Competence. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. This course will explore the strategies and tactics of power and influence use in large-scale public organizations. A framework for use of influence strategies will be presented and tactical methodologies will be examined through case study and simulation.

PADM 591. Topic Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Seminar in contemporary public administration issues.

PADM 601. Principles of Public Administration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Dynamics of governmental administration including administrative principles, decision-making, communication, leadership, organizational models, and the social, economic, legal and political milieu of administration. Crosslisted as: GVPA 601.

PADM 602. Public Administration Theory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines historical and contemporary public administration theories and paradigms. Emphasizes the practical significance of such theories for both macro and micro issues in public administration.

PADM 603. Politics and Economics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines political and economic institutions and concepts as they affect and are affected by the practice of public administration. Topics include microeconomics and the public sector; the interrelationship between the private and public sectors; macroeconomics concepts and related institutions.

PADM 604. Comparative Public Institutions. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Applies a comparative methodology to explore theories and models of public institutions in the United States and in selected developed and developing countries. Focuses on administrative structures and practices, with emphasis on the relationship between administrative practice and cultural and political context. Institutions examined will be changed periodically to focus on interjurisdictional comparisons within the United States - at the local, state and federal levels - as well as among other countries and the United States.

PADM 605. Survey Research Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SOCY 601, SOCY 602 and SOCY/STAT 608, or permission of instructor. Examines all major areas of survey research methodology including sampling, design, data collection methods, questionnaire design, data analysis and data processing. Addresses problems specific to survey research, such as telephone interviewing, constructing large representative samples and nonresponse rates. Crosslisted as: SOCY 605.

PADM 606. Government Management Models. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An examination of current thought and research on management theory and organizational design in government. Theory and research from diverse sources, i.e., political science, sociology, industrial psychology and administrative science will be explored to provide each student with the macro conceptual framework necessary for development or refinement of effective public management skills.
PADM 607. Public Human Resource Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The general concepts, principles, and techniques of personnel administration and employee relations as applied in governmental units and agencies.

PADM 609. Financial Management in Government. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The general concepts, principles and techniques of financial management as they are applied in governmental units and agencies. Students specializing in nonprofit organizations may substitute PADM 659 for this core course.

PADM 621. Organizational Behavior and Management in Government. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The general concepts, principles, and theories of management and organizational behavior as they relate to the administration of governmental units and agencies are dealt with in lecture, discussion and workshop formats.

PADM 622. Public Sector Budgeting. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. Prerequisite: PADM 609. Advanced theory and practice of public agency budgeting in the decision-making process and its impact on policy-making. Topics include alternative budgeting systems, capital planning and budgeting, budget execution, budgeting analysis techniques, and revenue and expenditure forecasting.

PADM 623. Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduction to the scope and methods of applied research for the public sector. Focuses on problem structuring through logical methods, exploring problems through observation and other methods of data collection, analyzing and summarizing findings using both qualitative and quantitative methods. Crosslisted as: GVPA 623/CRJS 623/URSP 623.

PADM 624. Quantitative Methods for Public Administration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. Prerequisite: PADM 623 or permission of the instructor. Introduction to statistical methods for use in managerial decision-making, policy analysis and social science research. Descriptive and inferential statistics are explored through computations and using SPSS/PC computer software.

PADM 625. Public Policy Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The examination of various methods for identifying and structuring public policy problems and issues, formulating and analyzing alternative responses, recommending policy actions for decision-making, and designing and evaluating implementation plans and the means to monitor and evaluate the resulting policy outcomes. Crosslisted as: GVPA 625.

PADM 626. Intergovernmental Relations. 3 Hours.
3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on various models of federalism and examines the pragmatic evolution of federal, state and local intergovernmental relations in the United States. Topics include policy implementation and implications, fiscal transfers, and local government cooperation and conflict in the metropolis.

PADM 627. Workshop in Policy Analysis and Evaluation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: PADM 624 and PADM 625, or permission of the instructor. This course is project-oriented, emphasizing practical experience in the design and conduct of policy analysis or program evaluation studies. Emphasizes political environment and client relationships.

PADM 628. Environmental Policy and Administration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course explores the relationship between environmental policy and its implementation within a democratic political system. It includes an investigation of basic concepts that underlie environmental policy and the difficulties encountered when attempting to apply them in a real-world setting. It also surveys a variety of tools and methodologies that may be useful in attempting to develop and implement environmental policy. Crosslisted as: ENVS 628.

PADM 630. Strategic Planning and Management in the Public Sector. 3 Hours.
3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores the benefits and limitations of strategic planning and management in the public sector, examines approaches to strategic management, especially in terms of the role and behavior of top management, and provides an introduction to the analytic and process methods used in strategic planning and management. Crosslisted as: URSP 630.

PADM 637. Organic Human Resources Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PADM 607 or equivalent. An examination of current thought, research, and personnel management theory and practice in government that is person-oriented is presented in this course. Topics include rank-in-the-person personnel systems; career development, executive personnel systems; forecasting human resource needs; individual-based performance evaluation; employee assistance programs; and special emphasis program.

PADM 642. Grants Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Principles and practices of managing federal and state funds and implementing a grant-funded program. Topics include federal grant-making process, applying for a grant, developing grant accounting systems, joint funding, disputes, appeals and remedies, and close-out procedures.

PADM 650. Principles of Nonprofit Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores the history, theories and dynamics of not-for-profit organizations in the United States, with focus on organizations with local or regional services areas. Emphasizes political, legal, cultural and constituent environments; revenue generation; decision-making, communications leadership; and organizational models. Compares the mission and operations of nonprofit organizations, government organizations, and for-profit enterprises in the delivery of services.

PADM 652. Administrative Law. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The course considers the administrative process from the perspective of rule-making and decision-making within the framework of public agencies. It will examine the development of the law, the use and control over administrative discretion, legislative and judicial controls over the administrative process, and remedies for improper administrative acts.

PADM 654. Program Design and Evaluation in the Nonprofit Sector. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: PADM 623 and PADM 624, or permission of instructor. Designed to train students of nonprofit administration and management in the principles of program design and evaluation. Students will be introduced to the theoretical, organizational, political and ethical foundations of the program as well as practical research design and methodologies, both qualitative and quantitative.
PADM 656. Fund Development for the Nonprofit Sector. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Students will study the multiple methods and sources for funding nonprofit organizations, the various methods for identifying and securing funding resources and for differentiating among them. Sources of funding that will be explored include corporate, annual, planned giving/endowment, individual, major gift, the use of special events and direct mail. Grant writing will be explored in detail. Students will examine ethical issues related to fund raising as well as the stewardship of funds received.

PADM 657. Nonprofit Advocacy and Government Relations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Addresses the growth and expansion of the nonprofit sector’s relationship to the government sector both in the United States and internationally. Students will study historical and current partnerships with and regulation by government entities. Students also will study the nonprofit organization’s advocacy role on behalf of its missions and beneficiaries, the scope of permitted lobbying and political activities, the state’s role in regulating speech by nonprofits and government funding of service delivery through religious-based organizations.

PADM 659. Financial Management for Nonprofit Organizations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to introduce students to the financial practices of nonprofit organizations including budgeting, forecasting, accounting, auditing, and debt and cash management. The general concepts, principles and techniques of financial management will be studied in the context of the political, behavioral and social environments in which the nonprofit organization operates in order to determine the best manner for achieving the objectives of the nonprofit financial administrator/manager. This course may be substituted for the core course, PADM 609 Financial Management in Government, for students pursuing a nonprofit specialization.

PADM 660. Community Power Dynamics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examination of the location of power in the American community, operational concepts and general methodological approaches defined, empirical findings based on various methodological approaches, conclusions on community political systems and power.

PADM 661. Nonprofit Law, Governance and Ethics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines fundamental governance issues in nonprofit corporations with a focus on boards of trustees and their fiduciary responsibilities as established by law as well as moral imperatives stemming from their actions on behalf of the public interest. The ethical dimensions of work in nonprofit organizations are explored with specific emphasis on risk management, tax liability and human resource management.

PADM 662. Advanced Topics in Revenue and Taxation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ECON 616 or permission of instructor. An advanced examination of governmental revenue and taxation policies, tax incidence, and alternative funding techniques.

PADM 664. Local Government Administration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An intensive examination of the major functional responsibilities with a special emphasis on the organization, standards, operational imperatives, interrelationship with other functions, and special management problems at the local level, including small and rural jurisdictions.

PADM 670. Advanced Public Financial Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: PADM 609 and ECON 616, or permission of department. Brings together specialty aspects of public financial management such as economic and political implications, practical skill-building, operational financial administration issues and tactics, and accounting principles and approaches, and integrates these disparate segments of public finance. The emphasis is on policy-level implications and strategies of public financial management strategies of executive planning, analysis, and management of the financial sector of public organizations.

PADM 675. Comparative Public Administration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores methodology, theories and models used in comparative approach to public administration, functional processes of administration in selected developing and developed countries, and role of bureaucracy in development and nation building.

PADM 680. Executive Leadership Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores aspects of current interest in leadership style, skills and roles. This course allows participants to explore areas of personal interest in contemporary public management leadership theory and practice and to share findings in seminar format.

PADM 681. Governmental Administrative Decision-making Processes. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Identification of alternative decision-making processes in public sector management environments. Choosing the proper method of the appropriate management-level theory and method of controlling administrative decisions within governmental organizations. Dealing with political, budgetary and personal constraints in achieving organizational goals.

PADM 682. Advanced Public Human Resources Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PADM 607 or equivalent or permission of instructor. Public personnel management is analyzed in process and systems perspectives, with specific emphasis on the interrelatedness of discrete system components with other systems. Attention is given to the integration of personnel elements through the development of feedback systems, positive and negative impacts’ analyses, and personnel policy development and implementation.

PADM 683. Administrative Ethics. 2,3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 or 3 lecture hours. 2 or 3 credits. A philosophical investigation into the problems of making ethical decisions, focusing on issues likely to confront the public administrator. Examples of such issues are equity in social services delivery, affirmative action, loyalty to the bureaucracy vs. “whistle blowing,” and conflicts of interest between personal and public interest. Crosslisted as: PHIL 683/GVPA 683.

PADM 689. Seminar in Public Administration: Integration of Theory and Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: 24 credits in public administration or permission of instructor. Integration of public management and administration theory and practice; goal setting for professional growth and approaches to lifelong continuing self-development; integration of theory, models, knowledge, skills, behaviors, values, ethics, and philosophy of public management and administration. This is a capstone, required course for M.P.A. students.
PPAD 690. Reading Seminar. 3 Hours.
3 credits. Prerequisites: 24 credits in public administration or permission of instructor. A reading and writing intensive Internet course which may be taken in lieu of PADM 689. Students will read up to 15 newly published titles in public administration and related fields, write reviews of each and post them on the course website forum for peer review and critique.

PPAD 691. Topics in Public Administration. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1, 2 or 3 lecture hours. Variable credit. Course may be repeated with different topics as approved. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. An in-depth study of a selected topic in public administration. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester.

PPAD 693. Public Administration Practicum. 3 Hours.
3 credits. A professional internship in public service for those students without significant professional-level experience in a public agency.

PPAD 697. Directed Research in Public Administration. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Independent research into public administration problems, issues, applications and theories related to student's field of concentration.

Public Policy and Administration (PPAD)

PPAD 711. Seminar in Public Policy I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to doctoral students only. Provides a critical and comparative review of public policy and administration focusing on the empirical and theoretical literature in the field. Emphasizes the development of the policy studies field and its epistemological foundations. Includes alternative approaches to policy analysis, the place of analysis in the decision-making environment and the role of policy in shaping administrative institutions.

PPAD 712. Seminar in Public Policy II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to doctoral students only. This seminar aims to facilitate examination of public policy in its macro context. It will assist participants in gaining an overview of fundamental and contextual features of public policy as it has evolved. It will explore underlying and outlying perspectives that shape thinking and theorizing about public policy, and suggest fresh ideas about public policy. This will include selected aspects of philosophy of public policy, philosophy of methodology relating to public policy and epistemic pluralism as it relates to public policy. Continuation of PPAD 711.

PPAD 715. U.S. Political Processes and Institutions. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course examines the operation of the major national political institutions in the United States, the processes that help to define and shape those institutions, and the contexts in which these entities operate. The course familiarizes students with a broad range of scholarship and with the principal theoretical debates about U.S. politics.

PPAD 716. Public Policy Economics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is designed to introduce students to a set of applied microeconomic models that can be used to understand and evaluate important policy issues. Students will be shown how these models can be used as tools to design, to predict the effects of and to evaluate public policies. Specific models used in this course will include consumer theory, production theory, cost theory and the theory of economic organization. Discussions of policy analysis and evaluation will rely upon theoretical approaches to welfare economics.

PPAD 717. Law and Public Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An introduction to basic legal and constitutional issues that shape and limit the creation of public policy. An examination of court cases leads the student to examine the interaction between legislative policymakers, courts and administrative implementers, and how the law may be used both to support the role of policymakers as well as to constrain them. Issues to be examined include health care, regulation of commerce, First Amendment issues, the environment and educational policy.

PPAD 720. Public Organization Design and Behavior. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to doctoral students only. Provides an intensive examination of the public (and nonprofit) organization design and behavior literature. Students will review theories, models and latest research findings as vehicles for understanding behavior in and the design of effective public organizations.

PPAD 721. Survey of Applied Research Methods in Public Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to doctoral students only. Provides a critical and comparative review of public policy and administration focusing on the empirical and theoretical literature in the field. Emphasizes the development of the policy studies field and its epistemological foundations. Includes alternative approaches to policy analysis, the place of analysis in the decision-making environment and the role of policy in shaping administrative institutions.

PPAD 722. Survey of Data Analysis Techniques in Public Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to doctoral students only. Provides a critical and comparative review of public policy and administration focusing on the empirical and theoretical literature in the field. Emphasizes the development of the policy studies field and its epistemological foundations. Includes alternative approaches to policy analysis, the place of analysis in the decision-making environment and the role of policy in shaping administrative institutions.

PPAD 723. Survey Research Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Overview of survey research methods with an emphasis on hands-on training in how to evaluate, conduct and analyze survey research.

PPAD 726. Advanced Research Design. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Covers skills needed to develop independent research projects including all aspects of research design, measurement design, data analysis planning and interpretation, and report writing.

PPAD 730. Seminar in Health Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines key issues and alternative policy responses in health. Presents a framework for understanding health policy in terms of the regulatory environment, developing initiatives and emerging trends. Designed to assist students to build a program of research in health policy.

PPAD 740. Seminar in Public Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Doctoral students only. Examines key theoretical and empirical literature in public sector administration with an emphasis on state and local government. Covers the management of human resource, financial and information systems. Includes the impact of leadership, organizational design and policy on the conduct of public activities. Designed to assist students to build a program of research in public management.
PPAD 741. Advanced Theory in Public Administration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This seminar aims to contribute to understanding public policy by examining the public administration context. It will assist participants, first, in gaining an overview of fundamental features of varieties of traditional public administration. The categories of public administration theory are described by Harmon and Mayer as classical, neoclassical, systems, human relations, market, interpretive and critical theories. Elsewhere, they are described in terms of science, technology, enterprise and hermeneutics. Second, this overview will also include exploring underlying and outling perspectives that shape thinking and theorizing about public administration. Perspectives include traditional, business, economic, political, critical theory, post-structural, psychoanalytic, neuroscience, feminist, ethical and data. Third, this overview will provide post-traditional examples that can assist students in developing their own view of how public policy and administration theory and practice should be shaped.

PPAD 742. Institutions and Organizations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Organizational and institutional theories, in the broadest sense, look to the political, organizational and cultural contexts that shape social life. Some theories conceptualize environments in terms of networks and resources, within which social actors are "embedded." Others stress historically built-up structures (e.g., laws and governmental agencies) that shape and channel subsequent dynamics. More radical theories argue that the core features of modern social actors, themselves, are largely products of social context, rather than existing a priori as many theories assume. This course explores theories of institutions and organizations to inform our thinking about the roles and responsibilities of the public, business and nonprofit organizations in shaping public life in a democratic society.

PPAD 750. Seminar in Urban Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Doctoral students only. Examines key issues in urban policy. Explores public policy as it relates to the natural, built, social, economic and political environments of urban life. Designed to assist students to build a program of research in urban policy.

PPAD 760. Criminal Justice Policy and Program Evaluation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the main concepts of program evaluation, including but not limited to goals and objectives, needs assessment, process evaluation, and outcome evaluation in criminal justice settings.

PPAD 761. Risk Assessment in Criminal Justice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A large portion of criminal justice policy, research and practice has been devoted to risk assessment at the individual, group, and community or environmental levels. This course will assess what is known about applying existing risk, classification and prediction methods in the criminal justice system, and how data can be used to test the efficacy of these methods in different settings.

PPAD 780. Synthesizing Seminar in Public Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This is a required course for the Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration. It is designed to expose students to various areas within public policy, particularly those of the concentration areas within the program: public policy (e.g. health and education), public administration, criminal justice policy and urban and regional policy. The course is designed to acquaint advanced doctoral students with the academic profession with primary focus on research, teaching and service.

PPAD 791. Topical Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Prerequisites: doctoral standing and permission of program director and instructor. An in-depth study of a selected topic in public affairs, policy or administration.

PPAD 792. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1, 2 or 3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Prerequisites: doctoral standing and permission of program director and instructor. Independent study and research in selected areas of public affairs, policy and administration under the guidance of a graduate faculty member.

PPAD 898. Dissertation Research. 1-12 Hours.
Semester course; 1-12 hours. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisite: admittance to doctoral candidacy. Research on an approved dissertation subject.

Urban Studies and Planning (URSP)

URSP 502. Global Economic Change and Geography. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines the global economy, its changing geographies and its impact on cities and regions. Considers the role of technological progress, industrial organization and international institutions in shaping the locations of production and services. Topics include global economic trends, evolution of the industrial core and periphery, globalization of production systems, global cities, rise of knowledge-based and creative industries and transnational economic integration.

URSP 517. Historic Preservation in Planning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The course surveys the process of historic preservation that includes the evaluation of sites, identification of architectural styles, the adaptive use of sites and structures, and the various sources available for implementing preservation proposals in government or the private sector. Preservation is considered as a tool in the planning process; and its application to neighborhoods, downtowns, and other city districts is considered.

URSP 520. Park Planning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores the general approaches and strategies for planning recreation areas and facilities. Topics include specific principles of design relating to outdoor recreation facilities; standards relative to space requirements, locations and programs; and trends in site design and planning.

URSP 521. Introduction to Geographic Information Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. An introduction to creating and using geographically referenced databases for urban and environmental analysis and planning. Includes geographic and remote sensing data structures, global positioning systems, spatial analysis, geographic data standards, public domain software and data resources, and principles of cartography design. Lab exercises in the use of geographic information systems software tools. Crosslisted as: GEOG 521/ENVS 521.

URSP 525. Site Planning and Graphics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Addresses the environmental impacts and capacity of environmental systems in relation to the site requirements of various urban and rural situations. Introduces the use of graphics as an aid in presenting and analyzing planning and design ideas, maps and plans.
URSP 541. Urban Public Policy-making Processes. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Discusses the politics of urban life. Examines the physical, demographic and economic environments in which conflict resolution occurs, as well as the actors on the local, state and federal levels that participate in the political process.

URSP 567. The American Suburb. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides students with an understanding of the suburban movement in America, the elements of suburban growth and an awareness of current and emerging approaches to suburban planning and design. Includes neotraditional design, transit oriented development, new urbanism and master planned communities. A working knowledge of the U.S. Census is needed for some assignments.

URSP 605. Urban Planning History. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Discusses the historical context of planning solutions to contemporary urban problems by examining the rich planning tradition since the mid-nineteenth century in the U.S. Significant plans, people and movements in the history of planning are discussed in relation to the evolving traditions of the profession.

URSP 610. Introduction to Planning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces students to the planning profession. Provides an overview of the urban system and the history of planning, and covers the basics of comprehensive planning, including the context, process, agents, methods, components, and implementation. Prepares students for taking more specialized planning courses by introducing the sub-areas of planning, such as transportation planning, land use planning, environmental planning, housing, and urban design.

URSP 611. Principles of Urban Design. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Principles of urban design at the micro- and macro-scale. Expression of planning objectives in physical design, with emphasis on the relationship between urban design at various scales and the needs of individuals and groups.

URSP 621. Introduction to Geographic Information Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours 3 credits. Introduces the components, capabilities, and functionalities of Geographic Information Systems. In addition to the concepts upon which GIS is based, how it works and what it does, this course introduces cartographic techniques necessary to design and construct effective maps with an emphasis on thematic mapping. It also examines the processing, compilation and symbolization of spatial data and the application of related analytical techniques. Laboratory work emphasizes practical applications and uses of ArcGIS and the spatial analyst extension.

URSP 622. Community Socioeconomic Analysis Using GIS. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Introduces students to data sources and database management for community analysis using geographic information systems. Includes an overview of database structures, public domain software and data resources, descriptive statistical analysis, population projection, graphic presentation of data, and principles of cartographic design. Laboratory exercises using GIS software and public domain data to describe communities and identify planning issues. Laboratory work emphasizes practical applications and uses of ArcGIS.

URSP 623. Research Methods for Government and Public Affairs. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduction to the scope and methods of applied research for the public sector. Focuses on problem structuring through logical methods, exploring problems through observation and other methods of data collection, analyzing and summarizing findings using both qualitative and quantitative methods. Crosslisted as: GVPA 623/PADM 623/CRJS 623.

URSP 625. Spatial Database Management and GIS Modeling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: URSP 621 or 622, or permission of the instructor. Introduces principles and applications of Geographic Information Science and GIS to transportation. Students discuss the fundamental scientific principles of capturing, representing, integrating, processing and analyzing digital geographic information about transportation infrastructure and systems. Concentrates on the applications of GIS-T software, tools and related technologies to transportation planning, intelligent transportation systems, environmental and hazards analysis and logistics.

URSP 626. Transportation Analytics and Modeling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Introduces conventional travel demand forecasting techniques, i.e., the Urban Transportation Modeling System. UTMS typically consists of trip generation, trip distribution, mode choice and trip assignment. Land-use modeling and post-processing procedures will also be introduced. Additionally, other latest modeling developments, such as activity/tour-based modeling, 4D post-processing and land use/transportation integration models will also be explored. Case studies of the Virginia Transportation Modeling and its Cube Voyager applications are included.

URSP 627. GIS Applications in Urban Design. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: URSP 621 or 622, or permission of the instructor. Covers GIS tools and techniques in relation to 3D visualization, decision analysis, program evaluation and Internet-GIS. Emphasizes the integration of exploratory/predictive spatial analyses and 3D visualization into the decision-making process. GIS tools and techniques are used to automate decision analysis and facilitate future visioning in analyzing and visualizing decision actions. Laboratory work emphasizes practical applications and uses of ArcGIS, ArcIMS and the Scenario 360 software suite.

URSP 628. Land Use Planning. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces students to the context, substance, practical skills, and implementation of land use planning. Covers such topics as land capacity, land use system and design, land use controls, state and regional growth management, resource land preservation, rural growth management, urban containment, and facility planning.

URSP 630. Strategic Planning and Management in the Public Sector. 3 Hours.
3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Explores the benefits and limitations of strategic planning and management in the public sector, examines approaches to strategic management, especially in terms of the role and behavior of top management, and provides an introduction to the analytic and process methods used in strategic planning and management. Crosslisted as: PADM 630.

URSP 632. Planning Theory and Processes. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines major traditions in the theory of planning in the context of actual planning processes and outcomes. Explores in depth the political, economic, and institutional constraints to effective planning and plan implementation. Discusses the planners' ethical dilemmas. Crosslisted as: GVPA 632.
URSP 635. Legal and Legislative Foundations of Planning. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Delineates the legal and legislative basis for planning at local, state, and federal levels. Judicial precedents in land use controls and environmental protection are investigated, including private controls, traditional zoning, administration of zoning ordinances, new flexible zoning concepts, development timing and growth controls, exclusionary land use practices, subdivision controls, and eminent domain regulations for environmentally sensitive areas, and environmental review.

URSP 637. Sustainable Community Development. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course includes both theoretical and practical aspects of sustainable development and its relationship to land-use planning. Through examination of the literature, class discussion, focused exercises and guest speakers, students will develop the skills needed to evaluate and propose activities to plan for sustainable development. The course begins with an overview of the origins and definitions of sustainability and developing operational principles of sustainable development. The three "Es" of sustainability (environment, equity and economics) are then explored and connected to the role of the planner in influencing the balance between these dimensions in practice. A variety of tools and initiatives for sustainable practices are introduced, followed by examination of standards for measuring progress toward sustainable goals. Finally, through the evaluation of case studies and construction of policy recommendations, students will propose guidance for adapting local government function and modifying regulations and policies for implementing and governing sustainable communities.

URSP 641. Citizen Participation and Negotiation. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Studying the theory and practice of citizen participation and negotiation, planners learn to work with citizens in a democratic process while practicing respect for differing views.

URSP 643. Housing Policy. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines federal, state, and local housing policy. Discusses the issues of affordable housing, homelessness, and the private sector's contribution to housing.

URSP 645. Sustainable Energy Planning and Policy. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Discusses current energy production and consumption trends and related economic, environmental and social issues. Reviews energy planning and policy approaches from the international to local levels. Analyzes and evaluates different types of energy systems and existing and proposed energy policies.

URSP 647. Adaptive Reuse of Buildings. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Describes from a public sector perspective identification for new uses, evaluation of benefits and preparation of implementation proposals for recycling older buildings. Discusses methods used to develop the necessary design guidelines as well as analyze these opportunities that can be a catalyst for urban revitalization.

URSP 650. Natural Resources and Environmental Planning. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines key problems and challenges linked to the use and abuse of natural resources, both nationally and globally, through urbanization, agriculture, coastal zone development, waste generation and other human activity. Students explore these problems in terms of the biophysical processes to which they relate, as well as their underlying political-economic and sociocultural causes. Also studied are policy and planning strategies aimed at more efficient and sustainable use of natural resources and the environment.

URSP 651. Transportation Policy and Planning. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an introduction to the urban transportation system. Sets the scene by exploring core concepts, providing an overview of passenger and freight movements in the urban context, describing the history of transportation and urban form and assessing the likely impact of information technology on travel patterns and urban form. Introduces the urban transportation planning process and contemporary trends in this process, places the planning process within the political context and provides an overview of the use of GIS in transportation planning. Course will also address pressing policy issues such as public transportation, land use/transportation integration, clean vehicles, clean fuels, land use, energy, finance, equity and environmental impacts.

URSP 652. Environmental Analysis. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 1 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: URSP 650. Familiarizes students with methods to carry out an environmental analysis. Provides a deeper understanding of environmental issues.

URSP 653. Transportation Projects. 3 Hours.  
3 credits. Directed-research course in which students will complete a professional transportation project for a local or state government agency or nonprofit organization. For example, students might evaluate the effectiveness of a new high occupancy vehicle/toll lane in northern Virginia; develop an emergency evacuation plan for a small or midsized city; help a local government evaluate the likely transportation impacts of a new shopping mall; assist a local bus system in the development of more cost-effective transit routes; or finish a traffic-modeling and GIS application project.

URSP 654. Environmental Remote Sensing. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ENVS 602, or permission of the instructor. This course provides a basic and applied understanding on the use of digital remote sensor data to detect, identify and characterize earth resources. Students are required to demonstrate an understanding of the spectral attributes of soils, vegetation and water resources through various labs involving both image- and non-image-based optical spectral data. Crosslisted as: ENVS 654/BIOL 654.

URSP 655. Environmental Policy and Planning. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Investigates the environmental protection role of urban and regional planning, including the ways in which local planning implements and enforces state- and federal-level environmental policies. Explores the role of planners in environmental assessment, i.e. evaluating the environmental impacts of public and private sector development.

URSP 658. Transportation Finance. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces urban transportation financing principles, procedures and funding mechanisms. Explores existing governmental institutions, intergovernmental relations and laws/regulations pertaining to transportation financing. Also details urban transportation financing procedures, such as fund estimates, Call for Projects, fund programming and contract management, and the auditing process. In particular, the Local Assistance Program and Transportation Improvement Program in the Virginia Department of Transportation will be emphasized. Innovative financing mechanisms and procedures will also be incorporated. More recent state-of-the-practice funding mechanisms used by VDOT will be introduced through guest lectures by VDOT administrators and other practitioners.
URSP 659. Transportation Project Development and Evaluation. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces urban transportation project development and evaluation concepts, principles, methodologies and procedures. Related transportation laws, regulations and guidelines will be covered. Some case studies in the greater Richmond area will also be included to help students understand real-world transportation development and implementation processes.

URSP 662. Foundations for Development Planning. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces public planners to the nature and development of the urban economy. Uses case study analysis of an economy's industrial structure, labor market, and other features. Considers the roles of public planners in maintaining a healthy economy.

URSP 664. Urban Economic Development Policy. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: URSP 662 or permission of the instructor. Examines the economic development planning and implementation processes through theory and case studies in urban settings. Special topics include economic development institutions and practices, small business development programs, labor force development, community-based development, and sustainable development strategies.

URSP 666. Urban Commercial Revitalization. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines renewal of declining commercial areas in cities and towns as tools in the planning process. Discusses and applies through fieldwork, market studies and other analysis methods, strategies for revitalization, public and private project financing and development.

URSP 672. Food Systems, Rural Development and Landscape Conservation. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An interdisciplinary analysis of the socioeconomic and environmental issues facing rural regions, mainly of the United States, and their relationship to the modern food system and other factors. Also examines policy and planning strategies that can help improve rural economic conditions, conserve rural resources and landscapes and achieve food system sustainability.

URSP 681. International Urban Policy and Planning. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Offers a comparative analysis of planning practices and policies in both developing and developed countries. Covers such topics as local implications of globalization, regional development strategies, urban governance and management, urban economic policies, sustainable development and urban infrastructure and shelter delivery.

URSP 691. Topics in Urban and Regional Planning. 1-3 Hours. Semester course; 1, 2 or 3 credits. Students will have an opportunity to examine in detail some questions of significance in the field of urban and/or regional planning. See the Schedule of Classes for the specific topics to be offered each semester.

URSP 761. Planning Studio. 3 Hours. Semester course; 1 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: All core courses except URSP 762 and 764. Involves students as a group in a community-based planning project.

URSP 762. Professional Plan. 6 Hours. Semester course; 1 lecture and 10 laboratory hours. 6 credits. Prerequisites: URSP 761 and permission of instructor. Requires individual students to apply theory and methodology gained from the core courses to solve selected planning problems. With the consent of instructor and department chair, URSP 764 is an acceptable substitute. Extended time may be granted with a grade of PR. Final grade of A, B, C, D or F will be awarded upon completion.

URSP 764. Thesis or Projects. 2-6 Hours. 2-6 credits. Prerequisite: Appropriate research methods course, a 3-credit URSP 797 and permission of instructor. Planning, preparation, completion, and presentation of a thesis or project. URSP 764 is an acceptable substitute for URSP 762. Consent of instructor and chair required for this substitution.

URSP 794. Planning Practicum Seminar. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 credits. Provides an opportunity for a structured analysis of the student's internship experience. Professional skills are enhanced through lectures, assignments and discussions.

URSP 797. Directed Research. 1-3 Hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Prerequisites: Permission of instructor and graduate standing. Independent research into planning problems, issues, and theories.

School of Medicine
Anatomy and Neurobiology (ANAT)

ANAT 501. Dental Gross Anatomy. 6.5 Hours. Semester course; 4 lecture and 3 laboratory hours. 6.5 credits. A systematic dissection and study of the human body with clinical correlation and emphasis on the head and neck.

ANAT 502. Microscopic Anatomy (Dentistry). 5 Hours. Semester course; 44 lecture and 88 laboratory hours. 5 credits. A study of the normal tissues and organs of the human body at the microscopic level, with emphasis on the histological organization and development of the oral cavity.

ANAT 503. Dental Neuroanatomy. 1 Hour. Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Through this course, students will develop broad-level knowledge of neuroanatomical structures and principles and the role of the nervous system. Dental clinical correlations will be used to illustrate the future clinical necessity for and application of this scientific background.

ANAT 505. Principles of Human Anatomy (Pharmacy). 3 Hours. Semester course; 2.5 lecture and 1.5 laboratory hours. 3 credits. The structure of the human body is surveyed by studying micro-, neuro-, and gross anatomy. Emphasis is placed on basic concepts and their application to various body components.

ANAT 525. Advanced Functional Anatomy (Occupational Therapy). 5 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 5 credits. A study of the anatomy and kinesiology of the human body using proxected specimens and the dissected cadaver. Emphasis is placed on the study of the extremities, particularly the hand. Enrollment requires admission to the M.S.O.T. program.

ANAT 608. Functional and Clinical Neuroanatomy. 2 Hours. Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Survey of the basic morphological and functional aspects of the mammalian nervous system, with emphasis on functionally and clinically relevant neuroanatomical concepts.
ANAT 609. Gross Anatomy. 5 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 5 credits.
Macroscopic study of the human body, with clinical correlations, dissection and pro-section sessions.

ANAT 610. Systems Neuroscience. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. A study the neural circuits and function of systems in the central nervous system. Topics include sensory perception and integration, neural control of reflexes and voluntary movement, as well as a neural-systems approach to understanding certain diseases.

ANAT 611. Histology. 5 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 5 credits. A study of the basic light and electron microscopic structure of cells, tissues, and organs. Emphasis on correlating structure with function.

ANAT 612. Human Embryology. 2 Hours.
3-week course. 2 credits. Lectures present an overview of human embryology covering fertilization, implantation and the early stages of embryogenesis. Major organ systems including the gastrointestinal, cardiovascular and urogenital are covered, as well as the development of the limbs, pharynx, face and skull. In addition, students prepare a report on a selected topic in embryology affecting human health.

ANAT 613. Advanced Studies in Anatomy. 1-6 Hours.
1-6 credits. An in-depth study in specific areas of anatomy: histology, gross anatomy, and neuroanatomy.

ANAT 615. Techniques in Neuroscience and Cell Biology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture/lab hours. 3 credits. Recommended preparation: BIOC 503-504 or equivalent. Designed to provide in-depth coverage of techniques commonly used in neuroscience and cell biology. Topics include tissue processing for light and electron microscopy, immunocytochemistry, laser confocal microscopy, protein purification and analysis, molecular approaches to the study of the nervous system, genetic manipulation of protein expression, gene arrays, transgenic and knockout animal modes, and electrophysiological techniques including single and multi-unit extracellular recording, sharp intracellular recording and patch clamp recording. Consists of one two-hour meeting per week. Graded as Pass/Fail.

ANAT 617. Developmental Neurobiology. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Designed to expose students to the fundamental mechanisms underlying the development of the central nervous system, including patterning, birth and death of neurons, axon guidance, formation, maintenance and plasticity of synaptic connections, and glial biology. Emphasis will be on the cellular and molecular aspects of these topics. The course consists of one meeting a week devoted to lectures (two one-hour lectures) and a second meeting devoted to a student-led discussion of scientific papers (two one-hour discussion meetings).

ANAT 620. Scientific Writing and Grantsmanship. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Lectures present an overview of preparation for writing scientific manuscripts and grant proposals. Emphasis is placed on putting methods of writing into practice. Students will submit written samples to be discussed and critiqued each week. Special sessions on manuscript and grant review processes are included, as well as instruction on how to best utilize electronic and library resources. Graded as Pass/Fail.

ANAT 630. Research Presentations. 1 Hour.
Semester course. 1 credit. Weekly research presentations by master's and doctoral students that focus on the students' ongoing research. Course provides a weekly forum for students to develop presentation skills and foster scientific discussion among students and faculty. Graded as Pass/Fail.

ANAT 690. Anatomy and Neurobiology Seminar. 1 Hour.
1 lecture hour. 1 credit. A course consisting of faculty and student-led seminars presenting current research in neurobiology, immunobiology, and reproductive biology. Graded as S/U/F.

ANAT 691. Special Topics in Anatomy. 1-4 Hours.
1-4 credits. Lectures, seminars, tutorial sessions, and/or library research assignments in selected areas of advanced study not available in other graduate level anatomy courses, or as concentrated emphasis on a particular area of research.

ANAT 697. Directed Research. 1-15 Hours.
1-15 credits. Research leading to the M.S. or Ph.D. degree and elective research projects for other students.

Biochemistry (BIOC)

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students accepted in the School of Medicine. An introduction of structural biochemistry, intermediary metabolism, cell biology and methods of biochemical analysis as part of the fundamental background of modern medicine.

BIOC 503. Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology. 1-5 Hours.
Continuous course; variable hours. 1-5 credits. Prerequisites: undergraduate organic chemistry, physical chemistry recommended. Permission of instructor is required for any student not enrolled in a graduate (certificate, M.S. or Ph.D.) program. A comprehensive introductory course that describes basic biochemistry and reviews current concepts of modern cell and molecular biology.

BIOC 504. Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology. 1-5 Hours.
Continuous courses; variable hours. 1-5 credits. Prerequisites: undergraduate organic chemistry, physical chemistry recommended. Permission of instructor is required for any student not enrolled in a graduate (certificate, M.S. or Ph.D.) program. A comprehensive introductory course that describes basic biochemistry and reviews current concepts of modern cell and molecular biology.

BIOC 505. Experimental Biochemistry. 2 Hours.
Continuous courses; 4 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: BIOC 503 (or concurrent) or equivalent quantitative chemistry. Laboratory work, including theory and practice of advanced biochemical research methods.

BIOC 506. Experimental Biochemistry. 2 Hours.
Continuous courses; 4 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: BIOC 503 (or concurrent) or equivalent quantitative chemistry. Laboratory work, including theory and practice of advanced biochemical research methods.

BIOC 507. Bioorganic Chemistry. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of the instructor. Study of structure, chemistry, and mechanism of small, biologically important molecules.
BIOC 510. Radiation Safety. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 15 lecture hours. 1 credit. Provides basic principles for the safe use of radioactive materials in biological research and meets the minimum training requirements set forth for responsible investigators in the university's Nuclear Radiation License. Offered on a demand basis (2-4 times or approximately 20 students per year).

BIOC 524. Biochemistry (Pharmacy). 2 Hours.
Continuous courses; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: BIOC 501 or 523. Specialty topics in biochemistry are presented in the spring semester as part of the fundamental background of modern pharmacy.

BIOC 530. Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 1: Protein Structure and Function. 2 Hours.
Modular course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: undergraduate organic chemistry, physical chemistry recommended. Permission of instructor is required for any student not enrolled in a graduate (certificate, M.S. or Ph.D.) program. The first module of a group of four (BIOC 530-533), which taken together provide a comprehensive introductory course that describes basic biochemistry and reviews current concepts of modern cell and molecular biology.

BIOC 531. Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 2: Basic Metabolism. 1 Hour.
Modular course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisites: undergraduate organic chemistry, physical chemistry recommended. Permission of instructor is required for any student not enrolled in a graduate (certificate, M.S. or Ph.D.) program. The second module of a group of four (BIOC 530-533), which taken together provide a comprehensive introductory course that describes basic biochemistry and reviews current concepts of modern cell and molecular biology.

BIOC 532. Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 3: Central Dogma of Molecular Biology. 1 Hour.
Modular course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisites: undergraduate organic chemistry, physical chemistry recommended. Permission of instructor is required for any student not enrolled in a graduate (certificate, M.S. or Ph.D.) program. The third module of a group of four (BIOC 530-533), which taken together provide a comprehensive introductory course that describes basic biochemistry and reviews current concepts of modern cell and molecular biology.

BIOC 533. Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology Module 4: Lipids/Membranes and Bioenergetics. 1 Hour.
Modular course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisites: undergraduate organic chemistry, physical chemistry recommended. Permission of instructor is required for any student not enrolled in a graduate (certificate, M.S. or Ph.D.) program. The fourth module of a group of four (BIOC 530-533), which taken together provide a comprehensive introductory course that describes basic biochemistry and reviews current concepts of modern cell and molecular biology.

BIOC 601. Membranes and Lipids. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOC 503. Comprehensive presentation of important areas in biological membrane research. Key topics include techniques in the study of membrane lipids and proteins, "order" and organization in membranes, transport, receptors and cell surface antigens, physical measurements in membranes, reconstituted systems, and signal transduction.

BIOC 602. Physical Properties of Macromolecules. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 1-4 credits. Prerequisites: BIOC 503 and physical chemistry or permission of instructor. Structure of macromolecular components and macromolecules; biophysical approaches to the determination of structure.

BIOC 604. Enzymology. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Students may register for module 1 only, modules 1 and 2, or modules 1, 2 and 3. Prerequisite: BIOC 503. Physical and chemical properties and mechanisms of action of enzymes. Treatment of chemical catalysis, enzyme kinetics and correlation of enzyme structure to mechanisms.

BIOC 605. Molecular Biology. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: undergraduate chemistry or biochemistry. An advanced course on molecular biology. Eukaryotic replication, transcription, RNA processing, control of gene expression, translation, cell cycle, oncogenes and tumor suppressors, viral vectors, and gene therapy.

BIOC 610. Current Trends in Biochemistry. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: BIOC 503-504. A study and literature review of common and complex biochemical substances using recent research methodology.

BIOC 651. Biochemistry Journal Club. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Talks given by students describing and critiquing recent published research or review articles.

BIOC 652. Cancer Biology Journal Club. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Permission of instructor is required for any student not enrolled in a graduate program. Oral presentations/discussions on the advances in cancer biology research in order to further the field in cancer research and critically evaluate and understand scientific research articles. Graded S/U/F.

BIOC 661. Critical Thinking. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Paper presentations and discussions of important topics in biomedical science.

BIOC 662. Signal Metabolism Lipids. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Talks given by faculty members, students describing research progresses or discussion of recent published research or review articles.

BIOC 690. Biochemistry Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course. 1 credit. Reports on recent biochemical literature and research by students and staff. Graded as S/U/F.

BIOC 691. Special Topics in Biochemistry. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 credits. Lectures, tutorial studies and/or special assignments in selected areas of advanced study not available in other courses or as part of research training.

BIOC 692. Special Topics. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 variable hours. 1-4 credits. Lectures, tutorial studies, library assignments in selected areas of advanced study or specialized laboratory procedures not available in other courses or as part of the research training. Graded as S/U/F.

BIOC 695. Biochemistry Student Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 seminar hour. 1 credit. Reports by students on their thesis research projects. Graded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory/Fail.

Semester course; 1-15 credits. Research leading to the M.S. or Ph.D. degree and elective research projects for other students.
Biostatistics (BIOS)

BIOS 513. Mathematical Statistics I. 3 Hours.
Continuous course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MATH 307. Probability, random variables and their properties, distributions, moment generating functions, limit theorems, estimators and their properties; Neyman-Pearson and likelihood ratio criteria for testing hypotheses. Crosslisted as: STAT 513.

BIOS 514. Mathematical Statistics II. 3 Hours.
Continuous course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: STAT 513/BIOS 513. Probability, random variables and their properties, distributions, moment generating functions, limit theorems, estimators and their properties; Neyman-Pearson and likelihood ratio criteria for testing hypotheses. Crosslisted as: STAT 514.

BIOS 516. Biostatistical Consulting. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. The principles dealing with the basic art and concepts of consulting in biostatistics. The nonstatistical course discusses role, responsibilities of biostatisticians, relationship between clients and consultants, method of writing reports, etc.

BIOS 524. Biostatistical Computing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Techniques for biostatistical computing are presented by way of contemporary statistical packages. Students learn how to create and manage computer data files. Methods for data entry, preparation of data for analysis and summarative procedures are covered. Students learn the basics of random number generation and its applications, numerical methods for statistical algorithms, and concepts of numerical accuracy and stability. Advanced topics include interactive matrix and macro languages. Emphasis is placed on computational methods and data management rather than on statistical methods and procedures.

BIOS 531. Clinical Epidemiology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is intended primarily for clinicians. Permission of the course coordinator is required for others interested in registering. Epidemiological concepts necessary for evidence based studies of medicine. Specific topics will include: cause and effect criteria, demographic rates, measures of association or effect, study designs, decision trees, meta-analysis, evaluation of the literature, sources of data, reliability and validity, bias, confounding and effect modification, screening and diagnostic tests, sensitivity, specificity, false positives, false negatives, applications of the above to diagnosis and treatment, treatment efficacy and improved patient care.

BIOS 543. Graduate Research Methods I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment is restricted to students with graduate standing, or one course in statistics and permission of instructor. This course is intended for graduate students and researchers without formal training in the statistical and biostatistical sciences. Students enrolled in this course will study various aspects of the research process, from creating the research question to publication. Particularly, students will learn sampling theory, the roles of probability, chance and variability in measurement and decision-making, study design characteristics and validity, basic data management, visualization and summarization, simple techniques for analyzing categorical data (e.g., chi-square test, exact tests), common techniques for analyzing continuous data (t-tests, analysis of variance, correlation and simple linear regression), and statistical decision-making. These topics will be covered through a variety of approaches, including traditional lecture, group discussion and in-class activities, and students will be assessed on their ability to understand statistical considerations in the study design process, appropriately perform simple statistical procedures and report statistical findings using the IMRaD format. The appropriate use of data management and statistical procedures will be modeled using several commonly used software packages. Students may receive degree credit for only one of STAT 543, BIOS 543 or STAT 641. BIOS 543 is not applicable toward the M.S. degree in mathematical sciences or the M.S. degree in computer science.

BIOS 544. Graduate Research Methods II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOS 543 or STAT 543 or permission of instructor. This course is intended for graduate students and researchers without formal training in the statistical and biostatistical sciences. Students enrolled in this course will study various aspects of statistical model-building, including adjusting estimates for other measurements, creating multivariate models, analyzing noncontinuous outcomes and summarizing results. Particularly, students will learn multiple linear regression, multivariate analysis of variance, analysis of covariance, random and mixed effects models, repeated measure and longitudinal data analysis, logistic and Poisson regressions, and time-to-event analysis. These topics will be covered through a variety of approaches, including traditional lecture, group discussion and in-class activities, and students will be assessed on their ability to understand statistical considerations in the model-building process, appropriately perform intermediate statistical procedures and report statistical findings using the IMRaD format. The appropriate use of data management and statistical procedures will be modeled using several commonly used software packages.

BIOS 546. Theory of Linear Models. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOS 513 and BIOS 553. Review of linear algebraic concepts and matrix operations. Topics include generalized inverses and systems of equations; distribution of quadratic forms under normal theory; general linear model of full rank and less-than-full rank; least squares and maximum likelihood estimation; hypothesis testing; multiple linear regression; analysis of variance; balanced and unbalanced design.
BIOS 547. Applied Data Analysis in Public Health I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Corequisite: EPID 547. This course is the first in a two-semester sequence in biostatistical methods for students in the Master of Public Health program. Basic probabilistic and statistical concepts will be introduced, such as probability theory and distributions, hypothesis testing, and sampling methodology. The course will also focus in detail on commonly used statistical methods for categorical and continuous measurements, including chi-square tests, t-tests, ANOVA and regression. The material will be motivated by data sets from public health studies.

BIOS 548. Applied Data Analysis in Public Health II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Corequisite: BIOS 547. This course is the second in a two-semester sequence in biostatistical methods for students in the Master of Public Health program. Advanced statistical methods commonly used in public health research will be covered, including ANOVA, multiple linear regression, ANCOVA, mixed-effects models, repeated measure designs, logistic regression and survival analysis. The material will be motivated by data sets from public health studies.

BIOS 549. Spatial Data Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOS 543 and BIOS 544 or permission of instructor. Introduces students to spatial data and the statistical methods to appropriately analyze them. Covers spatial data visualization and manipulation, spatial point pattern analysis, interpolation and geostatistics for point-referenced data, and spatial regression modeling of areal data. Includes the use of a statistical software package for data analysis.

BIOS 553. Biostatistical Methods I. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: one course in statistics and permission of instructor. Introduces applied biostatistical concepts intended primarily for graduate students in the Department of Biostatistics. Topics include linear algebra for statistical algorithms, distributions of quadratic forms, simple and multiple linear regression, model selection and regression diagnostics, analysis of variance and covariance, and linear mixed effects models.

BIOS 554. Biostatistical Methods II. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: BIOS 553. Continued study of applied biostatistical concepts intended primarily for graduate students in the Department of Biostatistics. Topics include categorical data analysis, generalized linear models, generalized linear mixed models, generalized additive models, non-linear regression and survival analysis.

BIOS 557. Statistical Methods for High-Throughput Genomics Data I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOS 524 and 546; and BIOS 544 or 554; or permission of instructor. Provides a detailed overview of all aspects pertaining to the preprocessing and analysis of data from high-throughput genomic experiments, such as normalization techniques, expression summaries, quality control assessments and data reduction methods. Presents strategies for class and identification of important molecular features. Includes hands-on experience using statistical software for processing and analyzing genomic data.

BIOS 571. Clinical Trials. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Concepts of data management and statistical design and analysis in single-center and multicenter clinical trials. Data management topics include the collection, edition, and validation of data. Statistical design topics include randomization, stratification, blinding, placebo- and active-control groups, parallel and crossover designs, and power and sample size calculations. Statistical analysis topics include sequential and group sequential methods.

BIOS 572. Analysis of Biomedical Data I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: one course in statistics and permission of instructor. This course provides an overview of the analysis of continuous response data. The material begins with a brief review of theoretical tools used in inference and segues into common univariate and bivariate statistical methodologies for the analysis of continuous response data. Model-based statistical methodologies including logistic regression, ANOVA, ANCOVA and mixed-effect models will also be covered. Practical consideration and usage of statistical methods, utilizing commonly used statistical software packages, will be emphasized over theoretical underpinnings of the methods.

BIOS 573. Analysis of Biomedical Data II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOS 572. This course provides an overview of the analysis of categorical data. The course begins with a brief review of commonly used probability distributions for binary, ordinal, count and time-to-event measurements, then segues into chi-square and tabular testing. Model-based statistical methods including logistic regression, Poisson regression, log-linear modeling and survival analysis will be covered. Practical consideration and usage of statistical methods, utilizing commonly used software packages, will be emphasized over the theoretical underpinnings of the methods.

BIOS 610. Research Processes and Methods for the Health Professions. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOS 531 or permission of instructor. Focus on research processes, methods and research proposal (RO1) writing for the health professions. Course will emphasize conceptual underpinnings of research; the continuum of methodologies, including qualitative date collection; and development of a relevant research question -- all toward writing a fundable proposal. Topics include framing a relevant research question, writing a problem statements and aims, synthesizing and critiquing relevant literature, project management, developing project budget and justification, as well as critically reviewing grants and serving on a mock study section.

BIOS 615. Advanced Inference. 4 Hours.
BIOS 616. Advanced Inference. 4 Hours.
Continuous courses; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: BIOS 514 or permission of instructor. Mathematical preliminaries: probability and measure; integration; modes of convergence. Decision theoretic approach to statistical inference; decision rules; admissibility. Bayes and minimax procedures, invariance; complete classes. Point estimation; unbiasedness; efficiency; M, L, and R estimators; U statistics. Hypothesis testing: the Neyman-Pearson theory; unbiased and invariant tests; conditional tests; permutation tests; rank tests; likelihood based tests. Interval estimation; confidence sets; relationship between confidence sets and families of tests; unbiased and invariant confidence sets. Asymptotics; stochastic convergence; statistical limit theorems; ARE; asymptotic likelihood based procedures. Overview of robust statistical procedures.

BIOS 621. Nonparametric Statistical Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: any two courses of statistics or permission of instructor. Estimation and hypothesis testing when the form of the underlying distribution is unknown. One-, two- and k-sample problems. Tests of randomness, Kolmogorov-Smirnov tests, analysis of contingency tables and coefficients of association. Crosslisted as: STAT 621.

BIOS 625. Categorical Data Analysis and Generalized Linear Models. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: BIOS 514, 554 and 572. Introduction to the theory and methods of analysis of categorical data. Topics include exact and asymptotic analysis of contingency tables; measures of association and agreement; theory and applications of generalized linear models, maximum likelihood estimation and related numerical methods; linear models with different link functions and distributions; model fitting; and diagnostics.

BIOS 631. Mixed Models and Longitudinal Data Analysis. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: BIOS/STAT 514, 546 and 554. Introduction to longitudinal data structures and statistical inference. Multivariate theory and applications of normal mixed models, generalized linear mixed models, mixed models for categorical data, nonlinear mixed models and multiple imputation methods for missing data.

BIOS 632. Multivariate Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOS/STAT 514 and 554. One-and two-sample multivariate tests; invariance: MANOVA, MANCOVA and multiple design models; nonparametric methods; inference with covariance matrices; principal components; factor analysis; discriminate analysis; clustering.

BIOS 638. Statistical Design and Analysis in Toxicology. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 3 lecture hours. 3-3 credits. Prerequisites for BIOS students: BIOS 514 and 554. Prerequisite for non-biostatistics students (who can enroll on a Pass/Fail basis): BIOS 554. Classical bioassay, dose-response relationships, continuous and quantal data; probit and logit analysis; estimation of the ED50; combination experiments; low dose extrapolation and risk assessment; carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, and teratogenicity screening; overview of laboratory and experimental problems for the toxicologist. Non-biostatistics students may enroll on a pass/fail basis.

BIOS 639. Statistical Design and Analysis in Toxicology. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 3 lecture hours. 3-3 credits. Prerequisites for BIOS students: BIOS 514 and 554. Prerequisite for non-biostatistics students (who can enroll on a Pass/Fail basis): BIOS 554. Classical bioassay, dose-response relationships, continuous and quantal data; probit and logit analysis; estimation of the ED50; combination experiments; low dose extrapolation and risk assessment; carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, and teratogenicity screening; overview of laboratory and experimental problems for the toxicologist. Non-biostatistics students may enroll on a pass/fail basis.

BIOS 647. Survival Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOS 514 and 554 or permission of instructor. The analysis of survival (or failure time) data, with/without censoring. Actuarial and life-table methods, nonparametric and parametric estimation of survival functions, and comparison of survival curves; regression methods, such as the Cox proportional hazards model; competing risks; sequential models; applications to clinical trials.

BIOS 650. Design and Analysis of Response Surface Experiments. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate status in mathematical sciences or systems modeling and analysis, or permission of the instructor. Philosophy, terminology and nomenclature for response surface methodology, analysis in the vicinity of the stationary point, canonical analysis, description of the response surface, rotatability, uniform information designs, central composite designs and design optimality. Crosslisted as: STAT 650.

BIOS 660. Sequential Analysis and Advanced Design and Analysis of Clinical Trials. 3 Hours.
3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOS 514 and 554. Sequential methods versus fixed sample methods; the sequential probability ratio test with extensions and modifications; some applications of Cox's theorem; overview of analysis of clinical trials; closed and truncated tests; group sequential tests in clinical trials; sequential monitoring; sequential estimation; other topics with emphasis in clinical trials.

BIOS 667. Statistical Learning and Data Mining. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOS 514, 524 and 554. Provides a detailed overview of statistical methods used to discover the underlying structure of large complex datasets. Specific topics will include discrimination analysis, k-nearest neighbors, naive Bayes classifiers, classification and regression trees, ensemble methods, random forests, L1 penalized models, bootstrap and cross-validation methods. The course includes hands-on experience using statistical software for each method.

BIOS 668. Statistical Methods for High-throughput Genomic Data II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOS 567. A continuation of BIOS 567 that will introduce methods of additional high-throughput genomic assays, including comparative genomic hybridization for copy number change analysis and next generation sequencing methods. Methods that will be addressed include issues in mapping reads, variability in representation of sequences, normalization of raw count data, ChIP-Seq analysis, and RNA-Seq analysis.
BIOS 671. Nonlinear Models. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOS 554. Nonlinear modeling is an important tool for biostatisticians working with clinical and pre-clinical applications of dose responsiveness. Addresses issues regarding estimation, inference and experimental designs associated with nonlinear models. Special attention is paid to sigmoid-shaped models and threshold or piecewise models. Both the generalized nonlinear least-squares and quasi-likelihood estimation criteria are developed for these models. In addition to the usual univariate data structure, nonlinear mixed models are described and illustrated with examples. Includes hands-on experience with available SAS software for data analyses.

BIOS 688. Applied Bayesian Biostatistics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces the basic paradigm of Bayesian statistics along with the tools toward application of the methods in various data analysis situations. Covers Bayesian point estimation, interval estimation and model selection in univariate and multivariate cases. Both conjugate and nonconjugate problems will be discussed. Modern Bayesian computational tools, such as rejection sampling, importance sampling, Gibbs sampling and Metropolis-Hastings algorithm, will be introduced with details of applied examples. A first introduction to Bayesian nonparametrics will also be done.

BIOS 690. Biostatistical Research Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Talks by the students, faculty, and visitors describing recent research or reviewing topics of mutual interest.

BIOS 691. Special Topics in Biostatistics. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; lecture and laboratory hours by arrangement. 1-4 credits. Lectures, tutorial studies, library assignments in selected areas of advanced study or specialized biostatistical procedures not available in other courses or as part of the research training.

BIOS 692. Special Topics. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 variable hours. 1-3 credits. Lectures, tutorials, library assignments in selected areas not available in other courses or as part of the research training. Graded as S/U/F.

BIOS 697. Directed Research in Biostatistics. 1-15 Hours.
Semester course; 1-15 credits. Research leading to the M.S. or Ph.D. degree and elective research projects for other students.

Drug and Alcohol Studies (IDAS)

IDAS 689. Independent Study in Addiction. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. Prerequisite: permission of program director. Independent study to be done with a faculty adviser.

Family Medicine and Population Health (EPID)

EPID 543. Statistical Methods I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Graduate standing, or one course in statistics and permission of instructor. Basic concepts and techniques of statistical methods, including: the collection and display of information, data analysis, and statistical measures; variation, sampling and sampling distributions; point estimation, confidence intervals and tests of hypotheses for one and two sample problems; principles of one-factor experimental design, one-way analysis of variance and multiple comparisons; correlation and simple linear regression analysis; contingency tables and tests for goodness of fit. Students may not receive degree credit for both STAT 541 and STAT 543. STAT 543 is not applicable toward the M.S. degree in mathematical sciences or the M.S. degree in computer science.

EPID 547. Applied Data Analysis Lab I. 1.5 Hour.
Semester course; 1.5 laboratory hours. 1.5 credits. Corequisite: BIOS 547. Lab sessions will focus on hands-on data analysis and presentation techniques using SAS statistical software. The labs will also provide exercises to help students more fully understand the statistical principles presented in the corequisite lecture course (BIOS 547).

EPID 548. Applied Data Analysis Lab II. 1.5 Hour.
Semester course; 1.5 laboratory hours. 1.5 credits. Prerequisite: BIOS 547, EPID 547 with minimum grade of B. Must enroll concurrently in BIOS 548 to take this course. Lab sessions will focus on hands-on data analysis and presentation techniques using SAS statistical software. The labs will also provide exercises to help students more fully understand the statistical principles presented in the corequisite lecture course (BIOS 548).

EPID 571. Principles of Epidemiology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Corequisites: BIOS 547 and EPID 547. Offers the theoretical foundations, concepts and principles of epidemiological research methods utilized to examine the distribution and determinants of diseases or other health problems. Entails understanding of measures of disease frequency and association, descriptive and analytic studies, community surveys, sampling, bias, confounding surveillance, outbreak investigation, screening and research proposal writing. Also provides basic foundations for data analysis and its translation into health care planning, management and policy formulation.

EPID 580. Public Health Ethics. 1 Hour.
Online course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. The class examines, from an ethical perspective, federal and state public health practices, privacy and confidentiality issues; mental health practices; abortion, contraception and sterilization; patients’ rights; medical care; human experimentation; terminal illness; AIDS and other infectious diseases; environmental justice; health planning and reimbursement; and medical malpractice. The national health care reform legislation will be discussed.

EPID 593. MPH Practicum I. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Enrollment restricted to M.P.H. program students. First in a two-semester course series of practical knowledge and experience for first-year Master of Public Health students. The course will offer didactic training in basic public health operations, work of local public health organizations and research teams, human research subjects protection, selected career skills and leadership principles in preparation for a future assignment in a professional public health setting. By the end of the semester, the student will have selected a professional public health organization or research team with which they will complete practical experience hours the following semester. Graded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.

EPID 594. MPH Practicum II. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 4 practicum hours. 1 credit. Prerequisite: EPID 593. Enrollment restricted to M.P.H. students. Students will be asked to work approximately 60 practical hours over the course of one semester in a professional public health setting and engage in selected training to develop a foundation of basic skills in areas such as communication, leadership and professionalism. The practicum placement will be made according to student area of interest. Students will work as members of collaborative public health teams fulfilling varied missions. They will complete assigned team tasks, shadow public health professionals, attend meetings and take part in other organizational activities that will provide a basic foundation of knowledge and experience in public health practice and/or research. Graded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.
EPID 600. Introduction to Public Health. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Describes the public health system in the United States. Explores the disease prevention and philosophy and foundations of public health management, economics, law, ethics and education. Examines the use of epidemiology and statistics to determine personal, environmental, and occupational health problems.

EPID 601. Contemporary Issues and Controversies in Public Health. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course introduces students to current issues and controversies in public health such as HIV transmission risk behavior, poverty, globalization, gun control, health care access and obesity. Students will be able to describe these controversies and argue differing perspectives on the major issues.

EPID 603. Public Health Policy and Politics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides an understanding of the public health policy development process, the influence of politics and special interest groups on this process, and current governmental policies for the provision of major public health services. The legislative process is a major focus of the course.

EPID 604. Principles of Environmental Health. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Major public health issues associated with exposure to toxic substances and harmful physical or infectious agents in the environment and the workplace. Covers naturally occurring and human contamination of air, water and land by toxic substances and other agents. Includes overview of relevant governmental legal and regulatory policy.

EPID 606. Epidemiologic Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EPID 571. minimum grade of B. Focuses on examining the design, conduct and analysis of major epidemiologic studies and the methods to deal with the problems of bias, confounding and effect modification; using multivariate modeling techniques focusing on applications of logistic regression and Cox proportional hazards models to answer relevant research questions; solving meta-analytic problems using fixed and random effects models; understanding specific research areas of disease screening and exposure assessment; writing a research paper based on literature review and data analyses of a large dataset demonstrating application of essential epidemiologic abd biostatistical principles.

EPID 607. Nutritional Epidemiology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EPID 571. This course focuses on methods of measuring exposures to dietary factors for epidemiological investigations of diet-disease relationships and risk assessment. An introductory course in basic epidemiology is a prerequisite. Students learn to select the most appropriate method(s) of collecting and analyzing food intake and to evaluate the adequacy of dietary assessment methods used in published epidemiological studies.

EPID 620. Cancer Epidemiology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EPID 571, BIOS 547-548, minimum grade of B and EPID 547-548, minimum grade of B. Covers general principles of carcinogenesis and the genetics of cancer; domestic and international patterns in cancer incidence and mortality; cancer surveillance and screening, and their relation to cancer prevention; epidemiologic characteristics and risk factors for cancers to the lung, breast, prostate, gastrointestinal tract, pancreas, bladder, endometrium, ovary, cervix and skin, as well as cancer in children and young adults; and the public health implications of cancer. Additional focus on critical evaluation of different methodological approaches used in cancer research and potential biases inherent given study designs.

EPID 622. Maternal and Child Health. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EPID 571; BIOS 543 and BIOS 544, with minimum grades of B; and EPID 547 and EPID 548, with minimum grades of B; or permission of instructor. Exposes students to current issues in maternal and child health in the U.S., taking an applied approach that balances discussion of literature, applications to public health practice and practical data experience. The course will explore how policies and social determinants of health influence MCH outcomes. Students will learn about key MCH topics including intergenerational risk factors, low birth weight, infant mortality, developmental disabilities and injury and violence prevention. Students will use epidemiological methods to evaluate MCH data to determine risk and protective factors for women and children and describe how these data guide public health policy and program-planning efforts.

EPID 624. Chronic Disease Epidemiology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EPID 571 with a minimum grade of B or permission of the instructor. Course will cover the contribution of chronic diseases to population disease and disability as well as identify the incidence, prevalence and financial impact of each of the model diseases addressed. At the conclusion of the course, the student should be able to apply the concepts to all chronic diseases. The student will analyze selected current research in the area and determine points at which translational research is likely to improve the ability of the health care system to manage these problems.

EPID 642. Advanced Epidemiological Protocol Design. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EPID 571; EPID 606 or equivalent; and BIOS 554 Develops skills needed to design and describe in written format a valid and appropriate epidemiology study to address specific hypotheses. Hypotheses and possible design methods will be discussed in class and subsequently students will present (both orally and in written form) a research design to include a critical review of the literature and hypotheses to be tested. The proposal must address sample size and power, exposure definition, methods for accurate exposure assessment, prevention of measurement errors, and statistical methods proposed for analysis.

EPID 646. Epidemiology of Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 1 laboratory hours. 3 credits. This course is intended to introduce the descriptive and analytic epidemiology for major mental disorders of childhood, adulthood and late adult life. The course will address three main topics: (1) conceptual and methodological considerations in psychiatric epidemiologic research, (2) the descriptive epidemiology of major psychiatric and substance use disorders and (3) the analytic epidemiology of major psychiatric and substance use disorders. The course will also examine issues of classification and the nosology of psychiatric disorders as well as operational case definitions and the measurement techniques for field surveys and risk-factor research. Students will become familiar with epidemiologic surveys appropriate for risk factor research for psychiatric and substance use disorders. Prerequisite for master's students: EPID 571 with a minimum grade of B; prerequisite for doctoral students: EPID 650 with a minimum grade of B; or permission of instructor.
EPID 649. Analysis of Health Datasets. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Corequisites: EPID 650 and BIOS 553 concurrently taken; or permission of instructor. Epidemiologic research, health services research and social/behavioral science research very often conduct "secondary analysis" of existing population-level datasets, as well as different forms of health care data (claims data, electronic prescribing data, electronic medical records). At the end of the course, students will be familiar with the scope of available large, population-based public datasets for health care and public health research. They will understand the strengths and limitations of using these datasets for secondary research and be able to apply this understanding to decisions regarding research questions, dataset use and analysis plans. In the process, they will also develop skills in manipulating complex administrative data sources (including claims data, electronic prescribing data and electronic medical records). Students will acquire knowledge to deal with potential challenges in implementing case-control or cohort studies based on data collected for reasons other than for research. Competencies in sampling methods, weighting, small area estimation techniques, probabilistic matching, multiple imputation methods, geocoding and other issues will be emphasized. Students will download, link and analyze several data sets to understand the advantages of these data. Familiarity with statistical analysis software is required.

EPID 650. Epidemiologic Methods for Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Intermediate level epidemiology course (such as VCU's EPID 606) at the master's level, with minimum grade of B; or permission of the instructor. Students will learn principles of epidemiologic methods and their application for analysis and interpretation of public health data. This course provides advanced introductory training for conducting epidemiologic investigations of disease etiology, surveillance and health care services, as well as for interpretation of published epidemiologic studies. Upon completion, students should be sufficiently familiar with epidemiologic research methods to begin applying these methods in their own work. The course is intended for doctoral students in epidemiology or related disciplines.

EPID 651. Intermediate Epidemiologic Methods for Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: EPID 650, minimum grade of B. Course will provide in-depth understanding of epidemiologic methods and their application for analysis and interpretation of public health data. This course emphasizes decision-making in research methods to increase the efficiency of study design by reducing bias. Students will gain expertise in methodologic thinking as applied to their own work. Nonexperimental study designs are the focus of the class. Course provides opportunities for students to develop expertise in reading epidemiologic methods research. Upon completion, students should have attained expertise in epidemiologic research methods to apply in their own work. The course is intended for doctoral students in epidemiology or related disciplines.

EPID 652. Advanced Epidemiologic Methods and Data Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: Intermediate level epidemiology course at the master's level (such as VCU's EPID 606) with a minimum grade of B and BIOS 554, minimum grade of B. Focuses on development of analytical strategies for data analysis guided by epidemiologic principles. Specific statistical modeling will be tailored for analysis of data from cross-sectional, case-control and cohort studies with emphasis on causal inference, prediction, controlling for confounding and assessment of interaction and intermediate effects. Course topics include logistic regression, Poisson regression, Cox proportional hazards model, propensity score method, generalized estimating equations and path analysis technique.

EPID 652. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-6 credits. Provides the opportunity for students to explore a topic of interest under the direction of a faculty member. A proposal must be submitted for approval and credits are assigned commensurate with the complexity of the project. Arrangements are made directly with the appropriate faculty member.

EPID 653. Public Health Internship. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisites: 18 credits in the M.P.H. program, EPID 571 and BIOS 547, both with minimum grades of B. Students will spend 180 hours in a planned, supervised experience with a community agency. Such agencies might include a local free clinic or other nonprofit organization, such as the American Cancer Society, or a local, state or federal public health agency. Graded as S/U/F.
EPID 694. MPH Capstone Project. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-6 credits. Each student will complete a research project that demonstrates the application of the knowledge acquired in the MPH program. The student will answer one or more relevant research or applied practice questions; the final product is a scholarly written report of publishable quality. A proposal must be submitted for approval and credits are assigned commensurate with the complexity of the project. Arrangements are made directly with a faculty member and approved by the graduate program director. Graded as S, U or F.

EPID 696. Special Topics. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 variable hours. 1-3 credits. Provides the opportunity for students to focus in depth on a particular area of interest and allows students to tailor their education to their specific needs and interests. Such flexibility adds strength to the program and promotes the independence of dedicated students. Arrangements are made with the appropriate faculty member. Graded as S/U/F.

EPID 697. Directed Research in Epidemiology. 1-15 Hours.
Semester course; 1-15 credits. Research leading to the Ph.D. degree. Graded as "S," "U" or "F."

Healthcare Policy and Research (HCPR)

HCPR 601. Introduction to Health Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The course will familiarize students with the major players and issues in health care policy, using health reform in the U.S. as a framework through which to analyze the issues of cost, quality and access, and will focus on the roles of payers, providers and patients in the health care system. This course is interactive and uses studies from the scientific literature, class discussion and lectures from experts in the field. Students are required to write a paper evaluating the challenges regarding a public health policy topic in the U.S. and prepare a group presentation addressing questions related to key issues of the U.S. health care system.

HCPR 610. Foundations in Health Services Research Methods. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Will provide students with the opportunity to learn and apply basic data analysis skills and statistical methods common in health services research including programming, data cleaning and fundamental approaches in univariate, bivariate and multivariate analyses.

HCPR 691. Special Topics in Healthcare Policy and Research. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. The course may include discussion of research topics of emerging interest/importance and published papers of current interest; new findings in health services research, health economics and health policy; and the application of research methods and study design to current topics within the broad field of healthcare policy and health services research, focusing on interdisciplinary research and applied methods. Graded S/U/F.

HCPR 692. Special Topics in Healthcare Policy and Research. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. The course may include discussion of research topics of emerging interest/importance and published papers of current interest; new findings in health services research, health economics and health policy; and the application of research methods and study design to current topics within the broad field of healthcare policy and health services research, focusing on interdisciplinary research and applied methods.

HCPR 697. Independent Study in Healthcare Policy and Research. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Provides the opportunity for students to conduct research under the direction of a faculty member. A proposal for a course of study must be submitted to and approved by the program director of the Ph.D. in Healthcare Policy and Research. Credits will be assigned commensurate with the complexity of the project. Arrangements are made directly with the appropriate faculty member and department chair. Graded as S/U/F.

HCPR 699. Departmental Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Students will attend seminars presented by faculty and invited guests on topics and trends within health policy and health services research. Students and faculty will meet weekly to discuss the theoretical concepts and papers presented and other related topics. Graded as S/U/F. Crosslisted as: SBHD 690.

HCPR 701. Health Services Research and Policy I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The first course of a two-semester sequence intended to familiarize students with the major players and issues in health care policy, using health reform in the U.S. as a framework through which to analyze the issues of cost, quality and access and to help students develop an independent research proposal. The focus is on the roles of payers, providers and patients in the health care system. This course will be interactive and use studies published in the scientific literature, policy briefs, government reports and textbooks about the health care system as teaching tools. Students will be required to write several short response papers addressing questions related to key issues under health reform as well as develop a research topic and conduct a literature review related to that topic.

HCPR 702. Health Services Research and Policy II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The second course of a two-semester sequence intended to familiarize students with the major players and issues in health care policy. Students will focus mainly on health care delivery and quality of care and also introduce the issues of costs and access. The course will be interactive and use studies published in the scientific literature. Students will be required to critique and present research articles related to the topics studied while developing conceptual frameworks, hypotheses and key measures of quality, cost or access for their own research papers.

HCPR 703. Health Economics: Theory and Principles. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A doctoral-level course in health economics with a focus on the theory and principles forming the basis of the field. Students will study foundational theory and research as well as recent applied studies contributing to the current knowledge in the field. Upon completing the course, students should have the theoretical grounding to allow them to frame applied research questions in health economics in terms of past theory and research as well as a sense of where further evidence is needed.
HCPR 720. Economics of Health Disparities. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This doctoral-level survey course is designed to study the causes and consequences of population health disparities from an economic perspective. In addition to studying theories and current approaches from health, labor, public and stratification economics, students will also integrate perspectives from other disciplines, including sociology and psychology. Students will be expected to complete problem sets, in-class presentations and a research paper that will demonstrate the ability to use theoretically grounded approaches to the empirical study of health inequality. After completing this course, students should have an understanding of the economic approaches to health disparities and how to apply these approaches to empirical research.

HCPR 730. Survey Research Methods and Analysis for Health Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ECON 612 or equivalent. Designed to familiarize students with the design and use of surveys for health services research and health policy; to understand the strengths and limitations of health surveys; and to compare and contrast health surveys with other data sources such as administrative records, claims data and electronic medical records. The course is designed to focus more on the applied use of health surveys for research and less on the theoretical aspects of survey and sample design. Class lectures and assignments are designed to guide students incrementally through the actual development and completion of a research project using publicly available survey data.

HCPR 732. Research Design and Proposal Preparation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on the design of experimental, quasi-experimental and nonexperimental studies in the healthcare field. Issues related to measurement will be stressed. Specific learning objectives include exploring the methodological issues in health services research; assessing scientific research and causal inference; evaluating a research problem and developing testable hypotheses; conducting data collection and assessing the sampling process; evaluating variable definition in terms of validity and reliability; assessing the various facets of experimental, quasi-experimental and observational designs; and preparing a healthcare research proposal.

HCPR 733. Statistical Methods in Analysis of Healthcare Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOS 553; ECON 612; and one of BIOS 625, BIOS 631, BIOS 646 or ECON 642; or permission of instructor. Exposes students to large survey data and administrative databases that are commonly used in health services research. Students will learn how to organize files, protect data and link databases from multiple sources by applying state-of-the-art deterministic and probabilistic linkage methods. Students will check the quality of merged datasets and learn the advanced techniques used in handling common problems such as missing data, selection bias and handling extreme outliers. Students will also apply the statistical methods that meet the qualities of these data in order to evaluate healthcare interventions and policies. This will be a hands-on course requiring students to download and manipulate data. While the primary emphasis is not on mathematical theory, a certain amount of theoretical background may be presented for some topics.

HCPR 734. Economic Evaluation and Decision Analysis in Health. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: an introductory course in probability and statistics. Introductory economics is recommended but not required. Introduces doctoral students to the methods, theory and growing range of applications of decision analysis for healthcare technology assessment, health policy analysis, medical decision-making and health resource allocation.

HCPR 899. Directed Research. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 variable hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisites: completion of required course work and comprehensive examination. Students are required to conduct and prepare a written dissertation under the guidance of a faculty committee. The dissertation is written in traditional academic style, consists of three parts and must be orally defended. Students must be continually enrolled in this course until the dissertation is successfully completed and approved. A minimum of nine dissertation credits must be taken. Graded S/U/F.

Human and Molecular Genetics (HGEN)

HGEN 501. Human Cytogenetics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to qualified seniors and graduate students. Basic knowledge of genetics is recommended. Provides a comprehensive examination of the fundamentals of human genetics. Explores topics including Mendelian and non-Mendelian inheritance, pedigree analysis, cytogenetics, aneuploid syndromes, cancer, gene structure and function, epigenetics, gene expression, biochemical genetics, and inborn errors of metabolism. Crosslisted as: BIOL 530.

HGEN 502. Advanced Human Genetics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HGEN 501 or equivalent. Enrollment restricted to graduate students. A comprehensive study of the principles of specific areas in human genetics. Explores topics including quantitative genetics, genetic epidemiology, gene mapping, animal models, the characterization of complex disease, diagnostic testing and genetic counseling.

HGEN 510. Classic Papers in Human Genetics. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Enrollment restricted to graduate students in the School of Medicine. This course surveys the seminal discoveries in the discipline of human genetics and introduces students to reading, understanding, discussing, critiquing and presenting original journal articles.

HGEN 511. Human Cytogenetics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: HGEN 501. A discussion of recent advances in human cytogenetics. Topics covered will include chromosome banding techniques and ultrastructure, meiosis, numerical and structural abnormalities, fragile sites, cancer cytogenetics, methodology for linkage studies, and population cytogenetics. Clinical cases are used to illustrate the application of special diagnostic methodologies.

HGEN 516. Population Genetics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: STAT/BIOS 543. Theoretical and empirical analyses of how demographic and evolutionary processes influence neutral and adaptive genetic variation within populations. Crosslisted as: BIOL 516.
HGEN 517. Introduction to R Programming for Statistical Genetics. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Open only to graduate students or by permission of course director. This course is to provide and introduction to statistical programming in R. Lectures will provide the fundamentals for efficient handling and exploration of common data set structures in genetic and biomedical sciences.

HGEN 525. Practice of Genetic Counseling. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 3 lecture hours. 3-3 credits. Enrollment restricted to genetic counseling master’s students. Provides context for practice of genetic counseling through literature review and practical techniques. Places specific emphasis on pregnancy and childhood evaluation, interviewing techniques, social and ethical issues, including fieldwork in prenatal, general genetics and specialty clinics.

HGEN 526. Practice of Genetic Counseling. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 3 lecture hours. 3-3 credits. Enrollment restricted to genetic counseling master’s students. Provides context for practice of genetic counseling through literature review and practical techniques. Places specific emphasis on pregnancy and childhood evaluation, interviewing techniques, social and ethical issues, including fieldwork in prenatal, general genetics and specialty clinics.

HGEN 527. Medical Genetics. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 3 lecture hours. 3-3 credits. Prerequisite: HGEN 525-526 or permission of instructor. Enrollment restricted to genetic counseling master’s students. Provides medical information and principles of human genetic disease with specific emphasis on the molecular basis of Mendelian disorders, disorders of sexual development, assessment of dysmorphic features, and the genetics of common diseases. Emphasizes the use of all available resource materials in genetics.

HGEN 528. Medical Genetics. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; 3 lecture hours. 3-3 credits. Prerequisite: HGEN 525-526 or permission of instructor. Enrollment restricted to genetic counseling master’s students. Provides medical information and principles of human genetic disease with specific emphasis on the molecular basis of Mendelian disorders, disorders of sexual development, assessment of dysmorphic features, and the genetics of common diseases. Emphasizes the use of all available resource materials in genetics.

HGEN 600. Clinical Genetics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to genetic counseling master’s students. Practical experience in the genetic counseling clinic and on ward rounds. Includes collection and analysis of family histories, genetic counseling, and introduction to genetic nosology.

HGEN 601. Research in Genetic Counseling. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1.5 lecture and .5 thesis hours. 2 credits. Enrollment restricted to genetic counseling graduate students only. Students must have chosen their research project adviser, with whom they will meet throughout the semester, prior to enrolling. Provides a comprehensive examination of the fundamentals of research relevant for the scientific advancement of the genetic counseling field. Explores topics including developing a research question; conducting literature reviews; designing a research project; working with the institutional review board; and collecting, analyzing and interpreting data. Students will develop and deliver a research proposal orally and in writing.

HGEN 602. Genetic Models of Disease. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Understanding the molecular basis of human disease states is a major focus for biomedical research. This course will train students to investigate molecular-genetic mechanisms of disease using four genetic model organisms: the nematode C. elegans, the fruit fly Drosophila melanogaster, the teleost zebrafish Danio rerio and the mouse Mus musculus, which serve as important laboratory models for human diseases and facilitate the elucidation of the underlying molecular mechanisms.

HGEN 603. Mathematical and Statistical Genetics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOS 543 and BIOS 544; CCTR 702 and 703; or equivalents or permission from the course director. Provides an introduction to the rudiments of theoretical and applied mathematical population genetics including the segregation of genes in families, genetic linkage and quantitative inheritance. Emphasizes the methods used in the analysis of genetic data.

HGEN 605. Experimental Methods in Human Genetics. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 2-6 laboratory hours. 1-3 credits. Restricted to students in the M.S. or Ph.D. programs in human genetics. Provides hands-on experience with the experimental methods that are used to carry out research in specific areas of human genetics prior to beginning thesis/dissertation research. Graded S/U/F.

HGEN 606. Introduction to Clinical Genetics. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: open only to graduate students in human genetics programs or by permission of instructor. Provides an overview of medical genetics and counseling practice for non-genetic counseling students, including orientation to the translational side of research genetics and contemporary practice of clinical genetics. Graded S/U/F.

HGEN 610. Current Literature in Human Molecular Genetics. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: open only to graduate students. Provides directed experience in critiquing, understanding and presenting current literature on a focused topic in molecular genetics. Graded as S/U/F.

HGEN 614. Pathogenesis of Human Genetic Disease. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOC 503 or BIOC 530-533 and BIOC 504, equivalent, or permission of instructor. Surveys the mechanisms and varieties of human gene mutations resulting in human genetic disease and emphasizes different investigational disorders using current scientific literature.

HGEN 615. Techniques in Genetic Counseling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment restricted to students in the M.S. in Genetic Counseling program or by permission of the instructor. Provides theory and context for interviewing as well as non-verbal skills required for effective genetic counseling practice. Literature and practical techniques utilized to acquire skills. There is significant reliance on live in-class role play scenarios to exercise and demonstrate emerging skills. Additional deconstruction of taped master genetic counselor role plays aids in the understanding and evaluation of theory and skill to be acquired. Emphasis is on understanding and developing the verbal and non-verbal skills required for effective genetic counseling practice.

HGEN 617. Genetic Analysis of Complex Traits. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: introductory biostatistics or permission of instructor. Introduces the theory and practice of analysis of complex human traits. Provides a solid grounding in the fundamental concepts, study designs and analytical strategies for this evolving and important area.
IBMS 635. Cellular Signalling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOC 503/504 with minimum grade of B, or permission of instructor. An interdisciplinary introduction to molecular mechanisms important in eukaryotic inter- and intracellular signaling. Topics covered: common signaling mechanisms (heterotrimeric G proteins and G-protein-coupled receptors, small G proteins, tyrosine kinases and MAP kinases, and ion channels), membranes, lipids and ions (calcium signaling, phosphoinositols and lipid signaling through GPCRs), immune and metabolic kinase cascades (AMP-activated kinase, NFκB and Jak/Stat pathways), and programmed cell death.

IBMS 680. Proposal Preparation. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 credit. Preparation of an NIH-style grant proposal to serve as the oral component of the Ph.D. qualifying examination. Graded S/U/F.

IBMS 690. Basic Health Sciences Research Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Faculty and/or visiting lecturers present current research in basic health sciences. Students attend 12 seminars per semester in any of the basic health science or clinical departments in the School of Medicine and submit a one-paragraph (approximately 100-word) summary description of the seminar. Graded S/U/F.

IBMS 691. Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences. 0.5-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 0.5-4 credits. Lectures, seminars, tutorial sessions, Web-based courses and/or library research assignments in selected areas not available in other graduate-level courses or as a concentrated emphasis on a particular topic. Graded as S/U/F.

IBMS 692. Special Topics in Interdisciplinary Biomedical Sciences. 0.5-4 Hours.
Semester course; 0.5-4 variable hours. 0.5-4 credits. Lectures, seminars, tutorial sessions, Web-based courses and/or library assignments in selected areas not available in other graduate-level courses or as a concentrated emphasis on a particular topic.

**International Program in Addiction Studies (IPAS)**

**IPAS 600. The Biological Basis of Addiction. 4 Hours.**
11-week online course; 4 credits. Open only to students in the International Program in Addiction Studies (Master of Science in Addiction Studies), graduate certificate program in addiction studies or with permission of the IPAS program director. Designed to provide an overview of the neuropharmacology of drugs of abuse and dependence, including basic principles of drug action as well as comprehensive coverage of the major classes of drugs (opioids, stimulants, nicotine, alcohol, sedatives, cannabis, hallucinogens). Students will study mechanisms of action, effects, pharmacokinetics as well as tolerance and dependence for each of these drugs/drug classes. The reasons for addiction including biological, genetic, cultural and other determinants will be discussed. Laboratory-based methods used in addiction research will be covered.
IPAS 601. Treatment of Addiction: Psychosocial Interventions. 4 Hours.
11-week online course; 4 credits. Open only to students in the International Program in Addiction Studies (Master of Science in Addiction Studies), graduate certificate program in addiction studies or with permission of the IPAS program director. Designed to explore the scientific basis and treatment of substance misuse from a psychological perspective germane to the management of drug, alcohol and nicotine dependence. Students will have the opportunity to evaluate the principles of different theoretical approaches underlying psychological assessment and evidence-based practice. Students will develop a critical awareness of the current literature related to psychological theories of addiction. Students will examine the use and comparative efficacy of different psychological therapies in clinical practice including brief interventions, cognitive behavioral therapy and motivational interviewing/MET. Other interventions (case management, group work, self-help, integrated treatment for co-occurring disorders, etc.) will also be examined along with the evidence base for relapse prevention, contingency management and therapeutic communities. Students will also have the opportunity to explore psychological approaches used with specialist populations such as young people and adolescents.

IPAS 602. Public Health Issues and Approaches to Addictions. 4 Hours.
11-week online course; 4 credits. Open only to students in the International Program in Addiction Studies (Master of Science in Addiction Studies), graduate certificate program in addiction studies or with permission of the IPAS program director. Provides an introduction to basic concepts and research methods in public health and epidemiology as they relate to the study of addictions, as well as an in-depth consideration of the personal, social, economic and cultural burdens/costs associated with drug and alcohol abuse and dependence. Individual and community-based risk and protective factors related to addictions, as well as primary and secondary prevention efforts aimed at reducing the addictions-related public health burden, also are a focus. An online lecture format featuring presentations by leading researchers and policy-makers in the field of addictions will be used, along with readings, online discussions and writing assignments, to (1) gain a greater understanding of the enormous costs of addictions at every level of society and (2) introduce students to some of the current thinking and programs related to the primary and secondary prevention of addictions.

IPAS 603. Addiction Policy. 4 Hours.
11-week online course; 4 credits. Open only to students in the International Program in Addiction Studies (Master of Science in Addiction Studies), graduate certificate program in addiction studies or with permission of the IPAS program director. Designed to provide students of differing backgrounds an understanding of the process by which international addiction health policy is formed and reformed around the use and misuse of both licit and illicit drugs. The course will look at the epidemiology of addiction around the world and the relationship between the burden of addiction and the corresponding effects of national and international drug policies.

IPAS 604. Treatment of Addiction: Pharmacotherapies. 4 Hours.
11-week online course; 4 credits. Open only to students in the International Program in Addiction Studies (Master of Science in Addiction Studies), graduate certificate program in addiction studies or with permission of the IPAS program director. Designed to provide an overview of the pharmacological management of alcohol and drug addiction. Covers the management of withdrawal from alcohol, sedatives, opioids, cannabis and stimulants, as well as long-term management of dependence on opioids, tobacco and alcohol. Additional topics include international perspectives on management of dependence, management of dependence during pregnancy and the process of medication development.

IPAS 605. Treatment of Addiction: Critical Issues. 4 Hours.
11-week online course; 4 credits. Open only to students in the International Program in Addiction Studies (Master of Science in Addiction Studies), graduate certificate program in addiction studies or with permission of the IPAS program director. Designed to enable students to gain advanced understanding of the critical issues involved in the identification, recruitment, assessment, diagnosis and classification of individuals who misuse substances. Local, national and international barriers to treatment (stigma, culture, religion, politics, legal issues, civil commitment, cost, attitudes and beliefs) will be considered. Students will explore and critically examine treatment options in special settings (for instance, prisons, criminal justice and employment) and in special populations (for instance, addicted health care professionals, co-morbid patients, pregnancy).

IPAS 606. Research Methodology in Addictions. 6 Hours.
11-week online course; 6 credits. Open only to students in the International Program in Addiction Studies (Master of Science in Addiction Studies). Designed to enable students to develop knowledge and understanding of the different methodological processes underpinning research in the addictions. The research principles involved in hypothesis testing and estimation procedures will be covered as well as the generic skills necessary to analyze data and interpret statistical findings. Basic epidemiological study designs, policy analysis and inferential statistical methods pertinent to the addictions field will be explored.

IPAS 692. Research Project in Addictions. 6 Hours.
12-week intensive online course; 6 lecture hours. 6 credits. Open only to students in the International Program in Addiction Studies (Master of Science in Addiction Studies). Students will be required to complete a research project under the supervision of IPAS faculty. The submitted written text will be a minimum of 10,000 words in length and must demonstrate a critical knowledge of the chosen topic area. The ability to apply scientific scrutiny to a topic related to aspects of drug and alcohol etiology, treatment, prevention, public health or policy as identified by the program team will be required. The research project may involve original data collection, secondary analysis of previously collected data sets or other quantitative or qualitative research methods. The necessary defining feature is that the research project should demonstrate an appropriate level of academic rigor and understanding of the scientific implications of the findings of the project. Students will need to demonstrate competence in the integration and analysis of data to further the translation of this knowledge into more effective policies and practices, in keeping with the stated aims of the program. Graded S/U/F.
Medical Physics (MEDP)

MEDP 520. Introduction to Radiation Therapy Physics Laboratory. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 2 laboratory hours. 1 credit. Provides practical exercises in the radiation measurement devices and quality assurance procedures commonly employed in radiation therapy physics. Measurements of beam characteristics for treatment machines, including electron linear accelerators, and radioactive sources, including high dose rate brachytherapy are investigated.

MEDP 561. Topographical Anatomy and Physiology. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Restricted to medical physics graduate students. This course will cover fundamental gross anatomy, pathology and physiology as necessary for medical physicists. It will include basic medical terminology and have a focus on cross-sectional CT imaging and MRI, as well as 2-D X-ray imaging. Basic information on pathophysiology of cancer diseases and cancer treatment strategies will be provided.

MEDP 563. Radiological Physics and Radiation Dosimetry. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 1 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: Equivalent of PHYS 376 and PHYS 380 or permission of instructor. Covers the fundamental conceptual, mathematical and physical aspects of radiation interactions with matter and energy deposition, including a thorough understanding of basic quantities and units. Application to the principles and methods of radiation detection and dosimetry will be emphasized.

MEDP 567. Introduction to Radiation Therapy Physics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Covers the fundamental conceptual and technical aspects of the use of ionizing radiation to evoke a therapeutic response/benefit to patients. Treatment planning and dose calculations for external beam radiation therapy and brachytherapy are emphasized.

MEDP 591. Special Topics in Medical Physics. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Open to graduate students and to undergraduate students with advanced standing. An in-depth study of a selected topic in medical physics. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester and prerequisites. Applicable toward physics major requirements.

MEDP 592. Special Topics. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 variable hours. 1-4 credits. Lectures, tutorial studies, library assignments in selected areas of advanced study or specialized laboratory procedures not available in other courses or as part of the research training.

MEDP 601. Health Physics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Theoretical foundation and practical application of health physics as applied to diagnostic radiology, nuclear medicine and radiation therapy. Regulatory and scientific aspects of the subject are covered. Mathematical models and physical principles of radioactive decay and radiation interactions are used to assess the relative values of different radiation safety practices.

MEDP 630. Radiobiology for the Medical Physicist. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Covers the fundamental aspects of radiobiology with specific emphasis on relative biological effectiveness and linear energy transfer, the oxygen effect, radiation carcinogenesis, DNA repair, hereditary effects of radiation, radiation-induced cell killing, cellular responses to radiation including cell cycle effects and activation of cell signal transduction pathways, early and late effects of radiation, and time, dose and fractionation in radiotherapy.

MEDP 633. Advanced Radiation Therapy Physics. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: PHYS 563 and PHYS 567 or instructor’s permission. The course presents a survey of modern developments and methodological tools used in the following areas of radiation oncology physics: experimental dosimetry, computational dosimetry, quality assurance and commissioning, and advanced treatment planning and delivery modalities. By means of hands-on projects and literature reviews, students will become acquainted with the medical physics literature and acquire practical skills in selected areas. The course consists of a coordinated set of didactic lectures and laboratory projects.

MEDP 635. Physics of Diagnostic Imaging. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture and 1 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Covers the physics of X-ray production, radiography, fluoroscopy and computed tomography. Covers the basics of ultrasound physics, equipment, image quality, safety and quality assurance. Emphasis will be placed on the physical foundations of currently used diagnostic imaging techniques using X-rays and ultrasound and their relevance to the clinical setting.

MEDP 636. Physics of MRI. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Covers the physics of magnetic resonance imaging. Emphasis will be placed on the physical foundations of currently used diagnostic techniques and their relevance to the clinical setting. The classroom lectures will be enhanced through a series of integrated laboratory exercises.

MEDP 637. Physics of Nuclear Medicine. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 1 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Covers the physics of nuclear medicine imaging (including PET). Emphasis will be placed on the physical foundations of currently used diagnostic techniques and their relevance to the clinical setting.

MEDP 682. Clinical Rotations in Medical Physics. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: at least one graduate medical physics course and permission of instructor. Clinical rotations in various medical physics sub-specialties.

Microbiology and Immunology (MICR)

MICR 501. Infection and Immunity (Pharmacy). 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Offered to pharmacy students in the first professional year. Others admitted with permission of instructor. A course on the fundamentals of microbiology and immunology with aspects on disease and treatment of interest to dentistry and pharmacy.

MICR 505. Immunobiology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Background in cellular and molecular biology, and biochemistry is recommended. Nondegree-seeking students admitted with permission of instructor. A survey of immunobiology as a total host response to foreign agents, covering the nature of antigens and antibodies, antigen-antibody reactions, immunocompetent cells, allergic reactions, tumor immunology, transplantation immunology, immunological diseases and immunogenetics.
MICR 513. Infection and Immunity (Dentistry). 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Offered to dental students in the first professional year. Others admitted with permission of instructor. A course on the fundamentals of microbiology and immunology with aspects on disease and treatment of interest to dentistry and pharmacy.

MICR 515. Principles of Molecular Microbiology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A comprehensive course designed to provide the student with a thorough understanding of microbial physiology, genetics and diversity. Also covered are some basic concepts in microbial pathogenesis and in applied microbiology. The course focuses on structural and functional characteristics of micro-organisms; ecological and physiological diversity of microbes; growth and control of micro-organisms; genetics of bacteria and viruses; bacteria as agents of disease; and applications of microbiology.

MICR 605. Prokaryotic Molecular Genetics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 530, BIOL 531, BIOL 532 and BIOL 533; or BIOL 503 and BIOL 504; or permission of instructor; MICR 515 or equivalent recommended. A comprehensive introductory course examining the organization of the genetic material in bacteria and their viruses and the molecular mechanisms involved in its maintenance, replication, exchange and expression. Emphasis will be on experimental approaches integrating classical and modern methods of genetic analysis with biochemical studies of genetic regulatory mechanisms.

MICR 607. Techniques in Molecular Biology and Genetics. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 530, BIOL 531, BIOL 532 and BIOL 533; or BIOL 503 and BIOL 504; or permission of instructor. Designed to give an overview of the techniques utilized in modern molecular biology. The principles underlying techniques such as plasmid and phage cloning, RNA and DNA analysis, PCR, DNA sequencing, mutagenesis, genomic mapping, heterologous gene expression, and production and analysis of recombinant protein and transgenic mouse technology will be discussed in detail by experts in the field.

MICR 608. Introduction to Microbiology and Immunology Research. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; lectures and 4 laboratory hours. 3-3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Required of all first-year graduate students. Introduction to all active research programs in microbiology and immunology. Presentations of research programs by investigators and rotation of students through faculty laboratories to gain direct exposure to individual research projects.

MICR 609. Introduction to Microbiology and Immunology Research. 3 Hours.
Continuous courses; lectures and 4 laboratory hours. 3-3 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor. Required of all first-year graduate students. Introduction to all active research programs in microbiology and immunology. Presentations of research programs by investigators and rotation of students through faculty laboratories to gain direct exposure to individual research projects.

MICR 616. Mechanisms of Viral and Parasite Pathogenesis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A comprehensive introduction to the basic principles of virology and human parasitology. Interactions of the infecting agents and hosts will be stressed at the molecular and cellular level.

MICR 618. Molecular Mechanisms of Bacterial Pathogenesis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: undergraduate-level courses in microbiology or microbial physiology, immunology and molecular genetics. The goals of this comprehensive course are to explore in detail the virulence mechanisms of microbes and the response of the infected host. The focus will be on important bacterial pathogens.

MICR 653. Advanced Molecular Genetics: Bioinformatics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: Cell/molecular biology or permission of instructor. An advanced course on contemporary bioinformatics. Topics covered include the principles and practice of DNA, RNA and protein sequence analysis, computational chemistry and molecular modeling, expression array analysis and pharmacogenomics. The course includes lectures, reading, computer lab, homework problem sets and projects. Crosslisted as: BNFO 653.

MICR 684. Molecular Biology of Cancer. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 530, BIOL 531, BIOL 532 and BIOL 533; or BIOL 503; or permission of instructor. Advanced graduate-level course to provide theoretical background to graduate students interested in cancer research. Emphasis will be placed on experimental approach integrating classical and modern methods of genetic analysis with biochemical studies in genetic regulatory mechanisms. The course includes presentations by students and interactive discussion of the scientific literature in the area of oncogenesis.

MICR 686. Advanced Immunobiology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Open primarily to residents, medical students and graduate students with an immunology background such as MICR 505. Lectures, seminars, conferences on basic and clinical immunobiology and literature review on the topic, with more emphasis on methods in immunology research and exercising the ability to communicate the topic verbally. Topics have included tumor immunology, cell interactions in the immune response, genetics of the immune response, mechanisms of host-defense and membrane receptors in immunology and neoplasia.

MICR 690. Microbiology Research Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Presentation and discussion of research reports and topics of current interest to the departmental seminar or special group seminars.

MICR 691. Special Topics in Microbiology. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 credits. Lectures, tutorial studies, and/or library assignments in selected areas of advanced study not available in other courses or as part of the research training.

MICR 692. Current Topics in Molecular Pathogenesis. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Open to all graduate and certificate students. Presents a forum for the discussion of recent advances in the study of the molecular mechanisms of microbial pathogenesis. Consists of presentations by students, postdoctoral fellows and faculty followed by interactive discussions of the implications of presented work to the study of molecular pathogenesis.

MICR 693. Topics in Molecular Biology and Genetics. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Open to all graduate students. Presents a forum for discussion of the scientific literature in the area of molecular biology and genetics, focusing on molecular mechanisms involved in regulation of gene expression and cell growth with examples from all three kingdoms of life. Consists of presentations by students and interactive discussions of the implications of presented work to the study of molecular biology.
MICR 694. Current Topics in Immunology. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Open to all graduate students. Presents a forum for discussion of the scientific literature in the area of cellular and molecular immunology, focusing on mechanisms involved in the operation and regulation of the vertebrate immune system. Consists of presentations by students and interactive discussions of the implications of presented work to the study of immunology.

MICR 695. Special Topics in Microbiology. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 variable hours. 1-4 credits. Lectures, tutorial studies, library assignments in selected areas of advanced study or specialized laboratory procedures not available in other courses or as part of the research training. Graded as S/U/F.

MICR 697. Directed Research in Microbiology. 1-15 Hours.
Semester course; 1-15 credits. Research leading to the M.S. or Ph.D. degree and elective research projects for other students.

Neurosciences (NEUS)

NEUS 609. Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Recommended preparation: BI 503-504 or equivalent. Designed as an interdisciplinary introduction to the cellular and molecular aspects of central nervous system function. The basic principles of neuroscience including neuronal structure, electrical properties of single neurons, cell biology of neurotransmitter release and postsynaptic function will be discussed, followed by intracellular signaling in neurons, gene regulation, transgenic model systems, glia, neuronal development, basic neurochemistry, and molecular and cellular aspects of motor, sensory and integrative function. The course will conclude with lectures on various aspects of neural injury and disease, including traumatic brain injury, Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s diseases.

NEUS 619. Synaptic Organization of the Brain. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture and laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ANAT 610 or equivalent and permission of instructor. Designed to provide an in-depth integrative examination of the neural circuitry underlying the functions of selected regions of the brain and spinal cord. During each class meeting, faculty present lectures followed by an oral presentation by a student. Lecturers will highlight principles that are common to all regions of the central nervous system as well as adaptations that are unique to each. Student also complete weekly take-home essay assignments.

NEUS 640. Neurobiology of CNS Diseases. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Background in cellular and systems neuroscience similar to NEUS 609 and ANAT 610 or consent of course director. The course explores the cellular and molecular basis of major diseases and conditions affecting the central nervous system as well as current and developing treatment strategies and translational approaches. Topics include stroke and cerebrovascular disease, neurotrauma and regeneration, epilepsy, neurodevelopmental disorders, neurodegenerative disease and dementia, demyelinating diseases, neuropsychiatric disorders and autism, neurooncology, and neuroAIDS.

NEUS 690. Neuroscience Research Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Consists of faculty and visiting lecturers presenting current research in neuroscience. Students attend one seminar per week and submit a one-page summary description of the seminar. Graded as S/U/F.

NEUS 697. Directed Research. 1-15 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-15 credits. Research leading to the Ph.D. degree and elective research for other students. Graded as S/U/F.

Pathology (PATH)

PATH 521. Laboratory Techniques in Diagnostic Pathology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This team taught course includes principles of automated and non-automated testing, diagnostic testing, and an active laboratory demonstration of each method.

PATH 540. Pathology for Allied Health Sciences. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1.5 lecture and 1 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Explores morbid tissue changes involved in selected disease states, with emphasis on musculoskeletal and nervous systems. Provides the foundation to understanding clinical problems that physical therapists and other paramedical personnel will encounter and treat in their patients.

PATH 590. Experimental Pathology Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit.

PATH 601. General Pathology (Dentistry). 6 Hours.
Semester course; 6 lecture hours. 6 credits. Instruction in the basic principles regarding alteration of structure and function in disease and in the pathogenesis and effect of disease in the various organ systems.

PATH 620. Special Topics in Modern Instrumental Methods. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 2 credits. A study of some of the modern research methods of molecular biology. The student gains experience with the technique concomitant with discussions with faculty. The student writes a comprehensive review of the technique studies.

PATH 670. Experimental Approaches to Tumor Biology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/discussion hours. 3 credits. Introduces central problems in tumor biology and the methods available for their study. Develops through lectures and presentations skills in critical review and interpretation of research reports.

PATH 690. Clinical Chemistry Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Graduate students, residents, and staff present topics of current interest in clinical chemistry.

PATH 691. Special Topics in Modern Instrumental Methods. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 2 credits. By special arrangement with instructor. A study of some of the modern research methods of molecular biology. The student gains experience with the technique concomitant with discussions with faculty. The student writes a comprehensive review of the technique studied.

PATH 697. Research in Pathology. 1-15 Hours.
Semester course; 1-15 credits. Research leading to Ph.D. degree and elective research projects for other students.

Pharmacology and Toxicology (PHTX)

PHTX 515. Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthetists I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The basic principles of pharmacology including mechanisms of absorption, distribution, biotransformation, elimination, dose-response relationships, drug and receptor interactions are presented followed by a detailed discussion of autonomic, cardiovascular, and renal pharmacology as it relates to nurse anesthesia. Detailed presentation of the pharmacology of classes of drugs used by nurse anesthetists will be made, with emphasis on general anesthetics.
PHTX 516. Pharmacology for Nurse Anesthetists II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHTX 515.
Detailed presentation of the pharmacology of classes of drugs used or encountered by nurse anesthetists will be made with emphasis upon local anesthetics, cardiovascular, chemotherapeutic, and anti-inflammatory agents. Continuation of PHTX 515.

PHTX 535. Introduction to Toxicology. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. The basic principles of toxicology and toxicological evaluations; correlations of toxicological responses with biochemical, functional and morphological changes; environmental (including occupational and public health), forensic and regulatory concerns; and risk assessment and management are presented for graduate students in the biomedical sciences.

PHTX 536. Principles of Pharmacology and Toxicology. 5 Hours.
Semester course; 5 lecture hours. 5 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. A comprehensive course in pharmacology for graduate students. The mechanisms of action of major classes of pharmacologically active agents and basic principles of pharmacology are discussed. Topics include drug absorption, distribution, and metabolism; chemotherapy; endocrine pharmacology and principles of toxicology/immunotoxicology.

PHTX 537. Principles of Pharmacology and Toxicology. 5 Hours.
Semester course; 5 lecture hours. 5 credits. Prerequisite: PHTX 536 or with permission of instructor. Topics include receptor theory, autonomic, cardiovascular, and central nervous system pharmacology and toxicology. Continuation of PHTX 536.

PHTX 548. Drug Dependence. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: graduate or post-baccalaureate standing. A broad survey course in problems of drug and alcohol use and abuse. It will focus on the pharmacology of abused drugs as well as a study of the psychological and sociological factors in drug-taking behavior, rehabilitation methods, and prevention. This course may not be taken in lieu of any pharmacology offerings in the professional schools on the MCV Campus.

PHTX 597. Introduction to Pharmacological Research. 1-12 Hours.
Semester course; 1-12 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Rotation research in pharmacology and toxicology laboratories for beginning graduate students.

PHTX 606. Introduction to Pharmacology of Therapeutic Agents. 1 Hour.
Module course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. The basic principles of pharmacology and an in-depth consideration of the biodisposition and mechanisms of action of these agents. Drugs acting on the autonomic system are covered.

PHTX 609. General Pharmacology and Pain Control. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours per week for 2 semesters. One grade for 4 credits at end of second semester. A two-semester course that covers the study of the effects of chemical agents on the structure and function of living tissues, which may be normal or pathological. Provides a basic understanding of pharmacological principles and the basic concepts of currently accepted theories of pain mechanisms and provides a scientific basis for the use of therapeutic agents in order that the future dentist will be able to safely administer drugs to control pain by parenteral, oral or inhalation routes.

PHTX 611. Dental Pharmacology and Pain Control. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours per week. 2 credits. Offered for the D-3 students who have successfully completed PHTX 609. A continuation of PHTX 609. The study of the effects of chemical agents on the structure and/or function of living tissues, which may be normal or pathological. Provides a basic understanding of pharmacological principles and the basic concepts of currently accepted theories of pain mechanisms and provides a scientific basis for the use of therapeutic agents in order that the future dentist will be able to safely administer drugs to control pain by parenteral, oral or inhalation routes. PHTX 611 differs from PHTX 609 in that the material presented is more clinical in content and more classes involve clinical correlates of the didactic material presented.

PHTX 614. Foundation in Psychoneuroimmunology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: at least one graduate-level course in immunocompetence, pharmacology, physiology, immunology, biochemistry or psychology, or permission of instructor. This course will provide an in-depth overview of how brain and immune systems interact to maintain physiological and biochemical steady-states essential to wellness. Theory and research drawn from neuroscience, immunology and psychology will be examined as a foundation for understanding mind-body relationships. Beginning at the cellular level, fundamental information underlying mutually interact neuroendocrine-immune system functions will be synthesized to inform an understanding of wellness as well as a variety of pathophysiological states related to the stress process.

PHTX 620. Ion Channels in Membranes. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Previous course work including basic concepts in electrophysiology, such as those covered in PHIS 501 or PHTX/PHIS/ANAT 509, is highly recommended. Detailed presentation of the fundamental biophysical properties of ionic channels in membranes including the elementary properties of pores, molecular mechanisms of ionic selectivity, mechanisms of drug block, structure-function relationships, and basis for channel gating. Discussion will encompass modern techniques for studying ion channel function. Crosslisted as: PHIS 620.

PHTX 625. Cell Signaling and Growth Control. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHTX 536 or consent of instructor. Covers biochemical and molecular biology approaches to pharmacological problems. Emphasizes signal transduction, oncogenes, protein kinases, stress responses and the control of cellular proliferation.

PHTX 630. Basic Concepts in Pharmacology for Graduate Students. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOC 503 or permission of instructor. This course provides basis for drug-receptor theory, quantitative understanding of drug-receptor interaction, drug-receptor-based signaling, in-vivo application of drug-receptor theory, pharmacokinetics and statistical treatment of drug-receptor interaction in pharmacology and toxicology.

PHTX 632. Neurochemical Pharmacology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHTX 536 or permission of instructor. Investigates the mechanisms of drugs acting on the central nervous system in relation to their effects on endogenous neurochemical systems. Examines the milieu in which drugs act upon the central nervous system, experimental techniques frequently used in neuropharmacology, specific neurotransmitter systems, as well as the mechanisms of action of specific drugs.
PHTX 633. Behavioral Pharmacology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This is a survey course covering research on the effects of drugs on behavior. The major emphasis will be on schedule-controlled learned behavior. Additional topics will include drug self-administration, drug discrimination, and conditioned drug effects and behavioral toxicology. The course focuses primarily on laboratory research in animals although human research will also be covered. The relevance of this research literature to drug treatment of behavioral disorders and substance abuse will be discussed.

PHTX 636. Principles of Pharmacology. 5 Hours.
Semester course; 5 lecture hours. 5 credits. Prerequisite: PHTX 630 or permission of instructor and graduate program director.
Corequisite: PHTX 639. A comprehensive course in pharmacology for graduate students. The mechanisms of action of major classes of pharmacologically active agents and basic principles of pharmacology are discussed. Topics include autonomic and cardiovascular pharmacology; CNS pharmacology; pharmacology of antimicrobials and cancer; gastrointestinal and endocrine pharmacology.

PHTX 638. Cellular Mechanisms of Toxicology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHTX 536 or permission of instructor. A holistic approach is taken to describe and analyze toxicological information. Intact animal, organ, cellular, and biochemical responses to toxic agents are presented. Immunologic, genetic, endocrine, and central nervous system paradigms and their relationship to the mechanism of action of toxic agents as well as the predictive value of tests of these systems are presented. Kinetics and metabolism of toxic agents as well as statistical and analytical procedures are integrated into the discussions.

PHTX 639. Principles of Pharmacology Journal Club. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: PHTX 630 or permission of instructor. Corequisite: PHTX 639. This course will be in journal club format run in parallel with PHTX 636. Journal club articles pertaining to drug classes and their mechanism of action will be presented by students. Topics include autonomic, CNS, endocrine, cardiovascular and cancer pharmacology.

PHTX 644. Forensic Toxicology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Lecture and demonstrations in which common poisons and groups of poisons are discussed as to detection, diagnosis and treatment of poisoning. Demonstrations include basic principles of analytical toxicology, forensic science and courtroom testimony. Crosslisted as: FRSC 644.

PHTX 690. Pharmacology Research Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Members of the departmental staff, students, and visiting lecturers participate in discussions on topics of current and historical interest.

PHTX 691. Special Topics in Pharmacology. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Special topics in pharmacology or toxicology covered in less detail in other courses will be studied in depth in this course.

PHTX 692. Special Topics. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 variable hours. 1-4 credits. Lectures, tutorial studies, library assignments in selected areas of advanced study or specialized laboratory procedures not available in other courses or as part of the research training. Graded as S/U/F.

PHTX 697. Directed Research in Pharmacology. 1-15 Hours.
Semester course; 1-15 credits. Research leading to the M.S. or Ph.D. degree and elective projects for other students.

**Physiology and Biophysics (PHIS)**

PHIS 501. Mammalian Physiology. 5 Hours.
Semester course; 5 lecture hours. 5 credits. A comprehensive study of the function of mammalian organ systems at the organ, cell and molecular level, designed for graduate and professional students. Successful students typically have high achievement in intermediate-level undergraduate biology, chemistry and physics.

PHIS 502. Physiology and Pathophysiology (Dentistry). 5 Hours.
Semester course; 5 lecture hours. 5 credits. Prerequisites: biology, chemistry and physics. A comprehensive study of the function of mammalian organ systems, designed primarily for dental students.

PHIS 512. Cardiac Function in Health and Disease. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHIS 501 or permission of instructor. A comprehensive study of cell and system cardiovascular physiology with pathophysiological implications, primarily designed for professional students.

PHIS 514. Cardiovascular Hemodynamics. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 30 lecture/lab hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: PHIS 501. Emphasizes the pathophysiological implications of cardiovascular hemodynamics. The rationale and principles of a variety of clinical and paraclinical examination methods used in cardiology will be studied and demonstrated. The pathophysiology of some of the major cardiovascular diseases will be explained by specialists.

PHIS 604. Cell Physiology: Cardiovascular and Respiratory. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHIS 501. Enrollment restricted to Ph.D. and M.S. students. This research-oriented course covers topics such as the cellular, molecular and structural bases for cardiovascular and pulmonary function, including detailed analyses of the behavior and regulation of diverse types of transmembrane ion channels at the molecular and cellular level; detailed studies of oxygen delivery by microcirculation; mechanisms of ischemia-reperfusion injury, novel cardio-protection strategies and heart failures; cholesterol homeostasis by macrophages in coronary artery disease; and airway inflammation and mucus secretion as a model for drug development.

PHIS 606. Molecular Basis for Disease. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Topics covered include an introduction to structure of macromolecules and biophysical methods of protein determination. The second part of the course includes research topics such as gene regulation, protein folding and ribosome biogenesis. The third section includes ion channel structure and function. Each section includes problem sets that students are required to complete, three exams and a written mini-grant chosen from the topics discussed in class.

PHIS 607. Cell Physiology: GI and Endocrine. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHIS 501. This course focuses on physiology at the levels of individual molecules, cells, organs and entire organisms. Molecular mechanisms, regulatory processes and diseases processes are considered. The course is designed for research-oriented students and focuses on taste, gut, intestines, endocrine and reproductive systems and is structured around the ongoing research activity of the participating faculty.

PHIS 612. Cardiovascular Physiology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHIS 501. An in-depth study of the original literature in selected areas of cardiovascular physiology.
PHIS 615. Signal Detection in Sensory Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PHIS 501 or permission of instructor. An in-depth study of cells and cell systems that serve as either internal or external environmental sensors. Topics will emphasize the physiology, anatomy and the biochemistry of mature sensing systems, the systems in normal development and their plasticity toward stresses during development or in maturity.

PHIS 619. Mitochondrial Pathophysiology and Human Diseases. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Mitochondria are essential for eukaryotic life energy production in an oxygen environment, extensively modulate intracellular calcium signaling, are the major source of damaging oxygen free radicals, control activation of cell death pathways and are now known to be impaired in many human diseases of aging. For all these reasons, understanding mitochondrial physiology is essential for graduates of biomedical research programs in medical schools.

PHIS 620. Ion Channels in Membranes. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Previous course work including basic concepts in electrophysiology, such as those covered in PHIS 501 or PHTX/PHIS/ANAT 509, is highly recommended. Detailed presentation of the fundamental biophysical properties of ionic channels in membranes including the elementary properties of pores, molecular mechanisms of ionic selectivity, mechanisms of drug block, structure-function relationships, and basis for channel gating. Discussion will encompass modern techniques for studying ion channel function. Crosslisted as: PHTX 620.

PHIS 630. Methods in Molecular Biophysics: A Practical Approach. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. The course will cover the theoretical and practical aspects of several techniques that are used to study the structure and function of biological macromolecules. In each section the theoretical background and practical application will be covered. The design of the course is to provide a basic familiarity of biophysical techniques used in structural biology and biochemistry laboratories to understand biological phenomena. Graded S/U/F.

PHIS 631. Electrophysiology and Photonic Methods. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. This course elaborates on the fundamentals of bioelectrical activity (resting and action potentials, electrical propagation and synaptic transmission) guiding the student to the use of equivalent circuits to model the electrical properties of cells design and the use of basic operational amplifiers for electrophysiological studies. The course develops a similar approach to understand the basis for fluorescence and phosphorescence techniques and how they can be applied to biophysical research.

PHIS 650. Critical Thinking in Physiology. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Journal club format. Pre- or corequisite: PHIS 501. Enrollment restricted to students with graduate standing or by permission of instructor. This course introduces classical research papers and incorporates problem sets in areas that lend themselves to an analytical approach. Students read and present papers, contributing answers to questions about them.

PHIS 651. MD/PhD Journal Club. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. May be repeated for credit. Enrollment restricted to students in the MD/PhD program. This course is intended for first-year MD/PhD students as a complement to the ongoing medical curriculum and is designed to expose MD/PhD students to research literature related to their ongoing course work. The objectives are to introduce students to original research papers from the current and classical literature and to provide practice and training in effectively identifying and discussing key hypotheses, methods, results and conclusions, as well as in evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of papers. Graded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.

PHIS 652. MD/PhD Science and Disease. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Enrollment restricted to students in the MD/PhD program. This course is intended for second-year MD/PhD students as a complement to the ongoing medical curriculum. Clinical faculty or physician-scientists present a patient and then either the physician-scientist or a basic science faculty member discusses the basic science underpinnings of the disease in question. The sessions are coordinated with the MS2B curriculum. Active student participation in the discussion of the case and scientific basis is expected and required. Faculty members are encouraged to present informal sessions designed to encourage student participation and engaged learning. Graded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory.

PHIS 689. Physiology Preseminar Highlights. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. May be repeated for credit. Designed to review research to be presented in the department’s upcoming weekly seminar. Students present and discuss papers by that week’s seminar speaker. Graded as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory/Fail.

PHIS 690. Physiology Research Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Presentation and discussion of research reports and topics of current interest to the departmental seminar or special group seminar.

PHIS 691. Special Topics in Physiology. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 credits. Prerequisite: PHIS 501 (or taken concurrently). <br>Special Topics in Physiology (Section 1)/<br>1-4 credits. Lectures, tutorial studies and/or library assignments in selected areas of advanced study not available in other courses or as part of the research training.<br>Special Topics: Student Seminar (Section 3)<br>Semester course; 1 credit. Pre- or corequisite: PHIS 501. Designed to develop skills in preparing and delivering lectures and other oral presentations. Students present talks on topics in which they are particularly interested, and provide mutual constructive criticism.<br>Special Topics: Nutrition Research (Section 5)<br>Semester course; 3 credits. Weekly discussion of selected topics in nutrition. Topics change yearly. Topics range from biochemical aspects of nutrition to International Nutrition, with selections from various levels of nutritional interest presented each year. Past topics have included nutrition and exercise, diet and cancer, total parenteral nutrition, alcohol nutrition, food safety, drug-nutrient interactions, nutrition and immunological response, cholesterol and nutrition, salt taste mechanisms, vitamin A, vitamin D, and intestinal calcium absorption.

PHIS 692. Special Topics. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 variable hours. 1-4 credits. Lectures, tutorial studies, library assignments in selected areas of advanced study or specialized laboratory procedures not available in other courses or as part of the research training. Graded S/U/F.
PHIS 693. Methods in Molecular Biophysics: A Practical Approach. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Covers the theoretical and practical aspects of several techniques that are used to study the structure and function of biological macromolecules. In each section, theoretical background and practical applications will be covered. The course will provide a basic familiarity of biophysical techniques used in structural biology and biochemistry laboratories to understand biological phenomena. Graded S/U/F.

PHIS 695. Research in Progress. 0.5 Hours.
Semester course; .5 lecture hour .5 credit. Restricted to Ph.D. students or, with permission of instructor, master’s students. Student presentations and discussion of research results and contemplated research projects base on research rotations, thesis proposals and ongoing thesis research. Graded S/U/F.

PHIS 697. Directed Research in Physiology. 1-15 Hours.
Semester course; 1-15 credits. Research Leading to the M.S. or Ph.D. degree and elective research projects for other students.

Social and Behavioral Health (SBHD)

SBHD 605. Introduction to Social and Behavioral Health. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course addresses the influence of social and behavioral factors impacting public health, covering both historical perspectives and current issues. Topics covered include the theoretical foundations of social and behavioral health; the sociocultural context of health, health promotion and disease prevention interventions; and special populations and topics.

SBHD 608. Health Communication. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Basic course for students in public health with limited experience conducting public health research. Focuses on the history and theories of health communication, social marketing and media advocacy, audience research and segmentation, entertainment education, e-health, provider/patient communication, technology transfer to service providers, media relations and media monitoring, emergency risk communication, and evaluating communication campaigns. Students plan an entire social marketing campaign.

SBHD 609. Research Methods in Social and Behavioral Health. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Recommended preparation: SBHD 605. A didactic and experiential course that provides an introduction to applying social and behavioral qualitative, quantitative and evaluation research methods to public health issues.

SBHD 610. Behavioral Measurement. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Recommended preparation: SBHD 605. Introduces students to theories and applications of measuring constructs in social and behavioral sciences. Examines test theories, processes involved in developing tests and the standards against which tests are compared.

SBHD 611. Health Literacy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to provide doctoral students an overview of health literacy and its relationship to health outcomes and health disparities. Class material will cover the research and theories in contemporary literature in health literacy.

SBHD 630. Theoretical Foundations of Social and Behavioral Health. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course addresses the theoretical foundations of social and behavioral health, discussing both classic and emergent theories. The course begins with an overview of theoretical concepts, constructs and variables; how to construct theoretical statements; and how to evaluate social science theories. The majority of the course is spent describing theories and models at the individual, interpersonal and community level and evaluating their utility in changing health behavior. The course concludes with a discussion of the state of the discipline and future directions in health behavior change theory and research.

SBHD 631. Disseminating, Adopting and Adapting Evidence-based Prevention Programs. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Preventive interventions that have been evaluated and found to be effective should serve as the standard for community-based public health practice. This advanced seminar will examine theories relevant to the diffusion of these evidence-based interventions (EBI), EBI dissemination procedures and policy, and evaluation of EBI adoption, fidelity monitoring and adaptation.

SBHD 632. Health Disparities and Social Justice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This seminar is designed to provide students with an understanding of the concept of health disparities, reasons for disparities and how social factors contribute to disparities in health care and outcomes. The material will cover the research and theories in contemporary medical, epidemiologic and social justice literature.

SBHD 633. Structural Equation Modeling. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Introduces students to principles and applications of structural equation modeling for testing theories in social and behavioral sciences. Examines latent variables with continuous and discrete distributions, multimethod measurement modeling under the latent variable framework, latent variable modeling of longitudinal measurement designs and testing mediation and moderation using structural equation modeling.

SBHD 634. Patient-Provider Interaction. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: doctoral student or M.P.H. student in social and behavioral health or permission of instructor. Provides students with an advanced introduction to the current theoretical and practical approaches to researching patient-provider interaction. Through exploration of current theory and case studies in practical research, the course develops a comprehensive approach to conducting high-quality, theory-driven research exploring both physician- and patient-focused observational and interventional research. Students are provided with instruction on qualitative, quantitative and mixed-method approaches to such research.

SBHD 635. Anthropology and Public Health. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: doctoral student or M.P.H. student or permission of instructor. Provides students with an advanced introduction to anthropology as a means for exploring public health. Through ethnographic case studies (articles, books and films), the course examines cultural dimensions of illness experience and diverse models of healing and treatment, paying particular attention to political, economic, spiritual and other cultural factors that influence health inequalities, treatment and health behaviors. Approximately 80 percent of the course material focuses on international health. The course is a readings seminar rather than a methodological course; however, students will be asked to think critically about the ways that anthropological methods can contribute to public health practice.
SBHD 636. Community-based Participatory Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: doctoral student in social and behavioral health or permission of instructor. This seminar provides students with an understanding of the theories, principles and strategies of conducting CBPR. This class will meet once a week for approximately three hours. Although some lectures will be presented, the main format for the class will reflect the participatory as well as critical reflectiveness required to conduct CBPR. Co-learning will be emphasized against a backdrop of health research. The second major component of this class will be an interactive and hands-on field experience where students will experience the context and learn the methods to use when conducting participatory research for health. Students will work closely with a community partner and will use participatory research methods to address a community partner need.

SBHD 637. Program Evaluation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: doctoral student in social and behavioral health or permission of instructor. This course examines the methods frequently used to determine whether -- and how -- health-related programs are achieving their objectives. Several types of evaluations will be covered, with a focus on process and outcome evaluations. Skills and knowledge relevant to evaluation strategies will be addressed, including the fundamentals of framing evaluation questions, selecting a study design and result dissemination strategies. Students will learn how to judge the quality of evaluation designs, distinguish appropriate from inappropriate evaluations and be given the opportunity to apply the principles and techniques of evaluation science to the creation of a detailed evaluation plan. Materials will be presented in several ways, including lectures, guest lectures, in-class exercises, student presentations, classroom discussions and written assignments.

SBHD 638. Applications in Qualitative Research Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: doctoral student in social and behavioral health or permission of instructor. This course will cover theories, principles and applications to enable high quality research using qualitative research methods. This course will educate students on theories of qualitative research, different methodologies used to gather qualitative data and practical applications of these theories and methods to guide research development in this area. Students will be given the opportunity to analyze published research, conduct qualitative analyses using previously collected data, code and quantify qualitative data, and develop their own plans for a research project.

SBHD 639. Intervention Development and Implementation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: doctoral-level course work in research methods and health behavior theory; permission of instructor. The goal of this course is to provide students with knowledge and applied skills in the development and implementation of behavioral interventions to promote health and prevent disease. Students will receive training in evidence-based behavioral medicine approaches and best practice methods for effectively promoting behavior change in individuals and families. The course takes a sequential and hands-on approach in which students will learn about each step of the intervention development and implementation process and will gain experience applying what they learn to the development of their own intervention. Relevant methodological issues will be covered, with an emphasis on design and methods for randomized controlled trials testing individual-level behavioral interventions across settings. Students will learn to think critically about how to balance theory, empirically supported strategies and pragmatic considerations in the development and execution of intervention trials, with an emphasis on achieving maximum impact in their work. Course objectives will be achieved through lectures, experiential in-class activities, informal Q&A with PIs about their experiences developing and implementing intervention trials, student presentations, classroom discussion and written assignments that map on to key sections of a grant proposal.

SBHD 640. Seminar in Mixed Methods Research. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisites: SBHD 638; and HCPR 732 or SBHD 609. This course provides an overview of best practices in mixed methods research in the social and behavioral sciences and serves as a methods capstone course for SBS doctoral students who have completed the foundational research methods and applications in qualitative research methods courses.

SBHD 690. Departmental Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Students will attend seminars presented by faculty and invited guests on topics and trends within health policy and health services research. Students and faculty will meet weekly to discuss the theoretical concepts and papers presented and other related topics. Graded as S/U/F. Crosslisted as: HCPR 699.

SBHD 691. Special Topics. 0.5-4 Hours.
Semester course; 0.5-4 lecture hours. 0.5-4 credits. Lectures, tutorial, workshops and/or library assignments in selected areas of advanced study which are not available in other courses or as part of the research training. Graded as S/U/F.

SBHD 692. Special Topics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This letter-graded course will include lectures and other activities in areas of advanced study which are not available in other courses or as part of research training.

SBHD 693. SBHD Internship. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course. variable hours (60 hours per credit). 1-3 credits. Students will spend 60 to 180 hours in a planned, supervised experience with a community agency. Such agencies might include a local free clinic or other nonprofit organization, such as the American Cancer Society, or a local, state or federal public health agency. Graded as S/U/F.
SBHD 694. MPH Project. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-6 credits. Each student will complete a research project that demonstrates the application of the knowledge acquired in the M.P.H. program. The student will answer one or more relevant research questions. The final product is a scholarly written report of publishable quality. A proposal must be submitted for approval and credits are assigned commensurate with the complexity of the project. Arrangements are made directly with the faculty adviser. Graded as S/U/F.

SBHD 695. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Provides the opportunity for students to explore a special topic of interest under the direction of a faculty member. A proposal for a course of study must be submitted to and approved by the chair of the Department of Social and Behavioral Health; credits will be assigned commensurate with the complexity of the project. Arrangements are made directly with the appropriate faculty member and department chair. Graded as S/U/F.

Semester course; variable hours. 1-15 credits. Requires students to conduct and prepare a written dissertation under the guidance of a faculty committee. The dissertation is written in traditional academic style and must be orally defended. Students must be continually enrolled in this course until successfully completed and approved. A minimum of 9 credits of this course must be taken to complete the degree. Graded as Pass/Fail.

School of Nursing
Nursing (NURS)

NURS 501. Advanced Professionalization I. 1 Hour.
Semester course delivered online; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: admission to the graduate program in nursing. Focuses on socialization to the roles and responsibilities related to advanced nursing preparation. Introduces the history, competencies and roles of advanced practice nursing with an emphasis on role acquisition. Addresses trends and issues which shape advanced practice nursing.

NURS 502. Advanced Nursing Practice: Pharmacotherapeutics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the graduate program in nursing. Develops the requisite knowledge of pharmacotherapeutics necessary for the safe pharmacological management of common patient problems by the advanced practice nurse.

NURS 503. Ethics, Advanced Nursing Practice and the Health Care Environment. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: NURS 501. Grounded in the disciplinary perspective and heritage of nursing, emphasizes analysis of ethical concepts foundational to advanced nursing practice while considering diverse perspectives of the patient, family, health care team and organizational system. Focuses on applying ethical decision-making frameworks to analyze ethical dilemmas and negotiating individual and team-based values. Addresses development of effective communication and leadership strategies for promoting ethical health care delivery and managing ethical conflicts.

NURS 504. Advanced Nursing Practice: The Biological Basis of Health and Illness Across the Lifespan. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the nursing program. Focuses on the biological and pathophysiological foundations of health problems across the life span. Uses biologic changes underlying selected health risks and health problems as a framework for critically appraising health assessment data and for understanding advanced nursing therapeutic strategies.

NURS 505. Advanced Nursing Practice: Foundations in Health Care Finance. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the graduate program in nursing. Provides students with knowledge and skills necessary to develop and manage operating and capital budgets in a health care environment. Introduces health care economics and accounting principles appropriate for health care financial management. Provides instruction for the development of financial spreadsheets and analyses using selected computer software programs.

NURS 506. Leadership in Health Care and Nursing (Nurse Leadership Institute). 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. The mission of the Nurse Leadership Institute is to inspire, teach and empower nurse managers seeking to grow as leaders and become catalysts for change. This course explores the role of nursing leaders and their impact on the social, ethical and political issues affecting current and future nursing and health care delivery systems.

NURS 507. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Across the Lifespan. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Pre- or corequisite: NURS 504. Focuses on advanced nursing assessment and the design and delivery of evidence-based, culturally relevant health promotion and disease prevention strategies for individuals across the lifespan. Applies theories, concepts and research findings related to health promotion, health protection and disease prevention as a basis for clinical decision-making with child, adolescent and adult patients and their families within a variety of care settings.

NURS 508. Policy, Processes and Systems for Advanced Nursing Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the nursing program. Explores various influences on the structure and financing of health care, advanced nursing practice and health outcomes from a macro and micro perspective of the current health care system. Addresses the policy-making process at various levels of government and within institutions, policies affecting current and future nursing care delivery systems and nursing’s role in policy advocacy to improve the quality of health care delivery. Using policy, processes and systems-level strategies, including quality improvement and high reliability organizational theory, students will be able to articulate the methods, performance measures, culture of safety principles and quality standards necessary for effective leadership as a change agent in the current health care system.
NURS 511. Health Assessment for Advanced Nursing Practice. 3 Hours. Semester course; 2 lecture and 45 clinical/laboratory hours. 3 credits (2 credits lecture and 1 credit clinical/laboratory). Prerequisite: admission to the nursing program. Provides the framework for holistic, culturally relevant assessment of individuals. Focuses on advancing students’ knowledge and assessment in health history, risk appraisal, health promotion, psychosocial, developmental and functional assessment and physical examination techniques. Emphasizes the application of diagnostic reasoning skills in assessing deviations from normal in selected content in specialty areas. Includes supervised experiences with advanced clinical assessment skills.

NURS 512. Evidence-Based Advanced Nursing Practice. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the graduate program in nursing or Honors College. Grounded in the disciplinary perspective of nursing, focuses on appraisal of research evidence to guide advanced nursing practice. Addresses the use of clinical and epidemiological data to identify clinical problems, health risks and organizational issues that impact health outcomes of individuals, families and communities. Reviews application of criteria for evaluating research studies using foundational knowledge of major research designs and basic statistics. Emphasizes appraisal and synthesis of scientific literature to design evidence-based practice strategies and outcome measures in the context of a selected clinical problem, population health risk or organizational issue. Reviews the process of research translation and ethical conduct of research.

NURS 513. Introduction to Biobehavioral Clinical Research. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: admission to the Graduate School or Honors College. NURS 365 and 371. Focuses on major theoretical frameworks and research design issues in biobehavioral clinical research. Includes common problems of measurement and interpretation, with emphasis on clinical interpretation and applicability.

NURS 514. International Perspectives on Community Health in Developing Countries. 3 Hours. Semester course; 1 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. This course may be taken for a maximum of 6 credits in two different world areas. Open to undergraduate (junior or senior level) and graduate students. Explores the impact of national and international policy decisions on the health and well-being of individuals and communities (country varies semester to semester). Examines the relationship of cultural beliefs and values on health-seeking behaviors. Allows students to become immersed in a culture different than their own. Emphasizes the impact of international conflict and economic development on the health status of the community. See the Schedule of Classes for location. Crosslisted as: INTL 514.

NURS 540. Spirituality in Health Care. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the graduate program in nursing. Explores the phenomenon of spirituality in health and illness across cultures and life spans from a framework of humility and respect for multiple world views. Integrates theory and research as well as individual and communal ways of knowing to provide spiritually sensitive care that nurtures wholeness and promotes healing.

NURS 591. Special Topics. 1-3 Hours. Semester course; 1-3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the graduate program in nursing. Explores specific topics in nursing theory and practice.

NURS 592. Directed Study in Nursing. 1-3 Hours. Semester course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the graduate program in nursing. Independent study in a specific area of nursing developed under the supervision of a member of the graduate faculty.

NURS 594. Directed Study: Nursing Clinical Practicum. 1-6 Hours. Semester course; 45-270 clinical/lab hours. 1-6 credits (1-6 clinical/lab credits). Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Independent study in specific practicum area of nursing developed under the supervision of a faculty member. Graded as pass/fail.

NURS 601. Advanced Professionalization II. 1 Hour. Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: NURS 501. Designed to prepare students to assume an advanced practice nursing role after graduation. Focuses on role development in advanced practice nursing, marketing oneself as an advanced practice nurse, and regulatory and economic policies that affect advanced practice nursing in today’s health care system. Presents strategies to evaluate outcomes attributable to APN practice.

NURS 605. Statistical Methods for Quality Improvement. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours (delivered online). 3 credits (3 credits lecture). Enrollment restricted to students admitted to a graduate program. This course focuses on common analytic approaches in practice change projects, including correlation, chi-square analysis, independent and paired t tests, analysis of variance, and logistic and multiple regression. Selection of the most relevant analytic strategy to determine clinical significance of a quality improvement initiative will be emphasized. The application of statistical process control methods to health care quality improvement projects will be emphasized. The student will apply principles of statistical analysis to a dataset using statistical software to identify characteristics of participants and outcomes.

NURS 606. Evaluating Evidence to Improve Health Outcomes. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits (3 credits lecture). Prerequisite: NURS 605. Provides essential skills for using research evidence to support and promote practice change. Collaboration between nursing and other disciplines in problem identification will be explored. Ethical dimensions of quality improvement research and research evidence will be reviewed. Students will formulate a clinical question, search for supporting evidence, apply appraisal principles to evaluate the evidence and derive practice-specific recommendations for implementation.

NURS 607. Epidemiology and Population Health. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits (3 credits lecture). Prerequisite: NURS 605. Integrates principles of epidemiology, evidence-based clinical prevention, health screening, behavioral modification, disease modification and disease management of populations and quality metrics. Students will assess population health models and frameworks to address a multilevel perspective of the health status of vulnerable populations and sources of health inequalities. Cultural perspectives will be emphasized at a regional, national and global level.
NURS 608. Quality Improvement in Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours (delivered online). 3 credits (3 credits lecture). Enrollment restricted to students admitted to a graduate program. This course prepares the student for proficiency in the development of quality improvement initiatives for sustainable practice change. The student will assess evidence as it relates to cost, quality and health outcomes (individual and aggregate) within the context of current regional and national health care trends and emerging issues. Emphasis will be on the methods and tools utilized in performance improvement and patient safety. The student will develop a quality or safety initiative using a systems approach.

NURS 609. Health Care Delivery and Reimbursement Systems for Nurse Leaders. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course summarizes contemporary issues in health care delivery, evolving models of health care delivery systems and reimbursement. The focus is on current policies and systemic factors that affect the delivery of health care to the U.S. population and their potential impact on future health care delivery. The course presents factors affecting the evolution of the U.S. health care system and health care provider roles with a focus on the nurse and advanced practice. Issues are presented in context of patient-centered care and population-level aims for quality outcomes.

NURS 610. Health Information and Data Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course focuses on the acquisition of essential leadership skills needed for the design, selection, utilization and evaluation of health information technologies used to influence health care decisions, patient safety and quality of care. Information systems and implementation will be explored. Emphasizes use of information technology for assessment of health quality outcomes over time leading to sustainable change.

NURS 611. Primary Care Advanced Practice Clinical Procedures. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 7.5 lecture and 22.5 laboratory (contact) hours. 1 credit. Prerequisites: NURS 504 and 511. Provides the foundation for acquiring a beginning level of competency in a variety of common primary care advanced clinical practice skills and procedures. Emphasizes correct technique and includes supervised experiences.

NURS 612. Acute Care Advanced Practice Clinical Procedures. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 7.5 lecture and 22.5 laboratory (contact) hours. 1 credit. Prerequisites: NURS 504 and 511. Provides the foundation for acquiring a beginning level of competency in a variety of common acute care advanced clinical practice skills and procedures. Emphasizes correct technique and includes supervised experiences.

NURS 613. Organizational Behavior and Leadership for Nurse Leaders. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Corequisite: NURS 668. This course introduces students to organizational behavior as it relates to leadership theory based on classic and contemporary readings in organizational behavior. Students will engage in self-evaluative processes to assess and enhance their leadership capabilities in relation to elements of sound leadership principles. The course will examine topics in organizational behavior that relate to the nurse leader role in health care delivery. Management principles are outlined, discussed and put in context to give a realistic focus to issues in leadership and organizational behavior. The course uses case method, simulation, discussion, self-assessment instruments, written exercises and audiovisual aids to illuminate leadership and managerial practices in relation to organizational behavior.

NURS 614. Organizational Systems and Leadership for Nurse Leaders. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: admission to graduate program in nursing, accounting course. This course introduces a systems approach to health care organizational operations leadership and management. Students will gain an understanding of how nurse leaders working with the health care team organize and use structures and analytical approaches to assess and report on the efficiency and effectiveness of work processes that affect patient care, satisfaction and health outcomes. Students will gain skills in operations management by analyzing work processes, patient flow, project management, and the supply chain and customer service.

NURS 615. Diagnosis and Management in Adult-Gerontology Primary Care I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisites: NURS 501, NURS 504, NURS 507, NURS 511. Provides content on the primary care management of health and illness changes throughout the adult lifespan. This course focuses on increasing the nurse practitioner student’s knowledge and clinical decision-making skills in order to provide health screening, identify health promotion needs, and accurately diagnose and manage common health conditions across the adult lifespan. Emphasis is placed on developmental, prevention, pathophysiological, pharmacological and critical-thinking skills in the management of common complex and multisystem disorders.

NURS 616. Diagnosis and Management in Adult-Gerontology Primary Care II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: NURS 615. This course is a continuation of NURS 615. The course includes prevention, pathophysiological, pharmacological and critical-thinking skills in maximizing health with common and complex health problems. Emphasis is placed on increasing the nurse practitioner student’s knowledge and clinical decision-making skills in order to provide health screening, identify health promotion needs, accurately diagnose and provide women’s- and adult-specific care and psychosocial care across the adult lifespan, particularly in the context of common complex and multisystem disorders.

NURS 617. Advanced Gerontology Primary Care Across the Care Continuum. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: NURS 616. Students will further examine and integrate physiological, psychological and sociocultural processes associated with normal aging. Relevant theories, concepts and research findings from the behavioral, social and biological sciences are analyzed as a basis for advanced nursing practice with older adults and their families. Emphasis is placed on enhancing the individual’s health within the context of their functional capabilities, social support networks and environment. Important geriatric care models for effective practice with older adults across the care continuum – coordinated care, transitions of care and complex care management – are reviewed.

NURS 618. Diagnosis and Management in Adult-Gerontology Acute Care I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisites: NURS 501, NURS 504, NURS 507, NURS 511. Provides content on the management of adult and geriatric patients and populations who are physiologically unstable, technologically dependent and/or highly vulnerable to complications. The focus of this course is on increasing students’ acute care knowledge and decision-making skills in order to accurately assess, diagnose and manage complex acute, critical, and chronically ill or injured adult and geriatric patients.
NURS 619. Diagnosis and Management in Adult-Gerontology Acute Care II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: NURS 618. This course is a continuation of NURS 618. The course provides content on the management of adult and geriatric patients who are physiologically unstable, technologically dependent and/or highly vulnerable to complications. The focus of this course is on increasing students’ acute care management knowledge and decision-making skills in order to stabilize the patient’s condition, prevent complications, restore maximum health and provide palliative care.

NURS 621. Leadership and Organizational Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits (3 credits lecture). Prerequisite: NURS 608. Examines system leadership and change within the context of organizational culture. Models and strategies related to leadership, effective organizational processes, organizational change, strategic planning and intraprofessional teamwork will be evaluated. Emphasizes development of skills in system assessment and system intervention design.

NURS 627. Foundational Perspectives of Family-centered Care. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the graduate program in nursing. This course is foundational to the family nurse practitioner curriculum and provides the theoretical foundation and context for the FNP’s role in the care of families. The course will emphasize analysis of theories and research concerning families. The effects of psychosocial, cultural, socioeconomic and spiritual variables on families at risk will be discussed. The effects of transitions and crises on the health/illness status of patients in the context of family will be explored. Culturally appropriate communication skills to facilitate family decision-making and foster positive behavioral change in the patient and caregiver will be analyzed. Students will examine their personal beliefs and family life experiences to inform their developing advanced practice role.

NURS 629. Diagnosis and Management in Family Primary Care I. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Enrollment restricted to students admitted to a graduate program in nursing. This course is designed to introduce the student to the role of the nurse practitioner as a provider of primary care across the lifespan. Concepts of advanced health assessment, pharmacology and pathophysiology are synthesized with a focus on diagnostic decision-making and interdisciplinary management of common acute and chronic health problems. Emphasis is placed on facilitating optimal health and function of patients from newborn through senescence. Strategies to enhance, maintain and restore health are emphasized, while promoting health-seeking behaviors and the impact on family-centered care.

NURS 630. Diagnosis And Management In Family Primary Care II. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: NURS 629. This course is a continuation of NURS 629. Concepts of health promotion and disease prevention, advanced health assessment, pharmacology, and pathophysiology are incorporated into the diagnosis and interdisciplinary management of common acute and chronic health problems. Emphasis is placed on the formation and evaluation of comprehensive evidence-based care with regard to the care of common complex and multisystem disorders. Strategies to enhance, maintain and restore health are emphasized. Health-seeking behaviors and the impact on family are stressed.

NURS 631. Primary Care of Select Populations. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 45 clinical/lab hours. 2 credits (1 credit lecture and 1 credit clinical/lab). Prerequisites: NURS 629 and NURS 630. This course addresses the diagnosis and management of select primary care topics in women’s health, pediatrics, gerontology and psychiatric-mental health. Laboratory experiences including simulation, standardized patients and objective structured clinical examinations will accompany didactic content delivery. Graded P/F.

NURS 635. Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Practicum I. 6 Hours.
Semester course; 270 clinical/lab hours. 6 credits (6 credits clinical/lab). Prerequisites: NURS 502, NURS 503, NURS 511 and NURS 657; corequisite: NURS 636. Focuses on the diagnosis and management of mental health problems and psychiatric disorders for individuals, families and groups across the lifespan through faculty supervised clinical experiences with a preceptor. Demonstrates ability to perform a comprehensive psychiatric evaluation while incorporating therapeutic communication skills. Provides opportunities to apply knowledge of standardized taxonomy systems and evidence-based screening guidelines to formulate a differential diagnosis. Requires students to develop plans of care incorporating evidence-based practice guidelines. Performance of clinical skills at a basic level is expected. Graded Pass/Fail.

NURS 636. Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits (3 lecture credits). Corequisite: NURS 635. Prepares for and builds on practicum experience. Focuses on the management of both acute and chronic psychiatric disorders for individuals, families and groups across the lifespan. Examines the unique characteristics of selected populations diagnosed with mental health problems or psychiatric disorders and ways to address complex management needs through a case study approach. Provides opportunities for students to plan and discuss treatment plans while integrating health promotion and education strategies. Students are expected to apply knowledge of both psychotherapeutic and psychopharmacologic interventions. Focuses on synthesis of evidence to analyze clinical decision-making and formulate a patient-centered plan of care across the treatment trajectory.

NURS 637. Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing Practicum II. 6 Hours.
Semester course; 270 clinical/lab hours. 6 credits (6 credits clinical/lab). Prerequisite: NURS 635. Builds on previous practicum experience. Focuses on the advanced management of mental health problems and psychiatric disorders for individuals, families and groups across the lifespan through faculty-supervised clinical experiences with a preceptor. Students will implement and evaluate the management of both common and complex mental health problems and psychiatric disorders. Provides opportunities for the synthesis, application and evaluation of knowledge needed to provide evidence-based psychiatric care. Focuses on strategies to lead the interprofessional health care team in quality improvement methods. Promotes the provision of high-quality, collaborative and ethical care. Performance of clinical skills at the advanced level is required. Graded as Pass/Fail.
NURS 638. Health Policy Leadership and Advocacy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits (3 credits lecture).
Prerequisite: NURS 606. Emphasizes critical analysis of the political, organizational, economic, ethical, and quality and safety dimensions of health policy issues. Contextual factors such as social justice, health disparities, vulnerable populations, access to care, health care financing and the globalization of health care will be explored. Leadership skills in health policy advocacy will be refined throughout the course.

NURS 639. Health Informatics for Nurse Leaders. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. The course gives students a broad overview of health informatics in the context of the health care organization; discusses principles of informatics and information flows in nursing and health care using systems analysis techniques; and emphasizes understanding of how nurse leaders implement, manage and evaluate health care information and informatics projects. Information and communication technology system integration, data security, as well as ethical and regulatory issues, will be reviewed. Current topics and issues related to the use, retrieval, evaluation and dissemination of health care information will be discussed, as well as the role of informatics in decision-making.

NURS 643. Family Primary Care Practicum I. 6 Hours.
Semester course; 270 clinical/lab hours. 6 credits (6 credits clinical/lab).
Prerequisites: NURS 629 and NURS 630; corequisite: NURS 644. This precepted practicum course is designed to provide opportunities for students to develop beginning competencies as a family nurse practitioner. Critical-thinking and diagnostic-reasoning skills will be developed. Skills of advanced health assessment and knowledge of the management of common health problems will be applied in the clinical setting. Students will order, conduct and interpret appropriate screening and diagnostic tests, generate differential diagnoses and, in conjunction with the preceptor, determine diagnosis and management plan. Students will demonstrate effective case presentations to preceptor and document appropriately. A minimum of 45 practicum hours (135 hours total) in women's health, geriatrics and pediatrics will be completed between the two practicum courses. Graded as pass/fail.

NURS 644. Family Primary Care Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 seminar hour (15 lecture hours). 1 credit. Corequisite: NURS 643. Seminars will emphasize skill development in the teaching-coaching function. A case-study approach will provide the basis for in-depth assessment and discussion of health and illness problems. Case analysis and discussion will enhance the student’s ability to manage the health and illness status of patients and families over time. Graded as pass/fail.

NURS 645. Family Primary Care Practicum II. 6 Hours.
Semester course; 270 clinical/lab hours. 6 credits (6 credits clinical/lab).
Prerequisites: NURS 643, NURS 644; corequisite: NURS 646. This practicum course serves as the culminating experience in the family nurse practitioner concentration focused on skill refinement with increasing responsibility in the delivery of primary care to families. Students will work with clinical preceptors to assimilate practice management skills pertaining to economics, reimbursement for services and time management. Primary care skills including prioritization, management and coordination of both routine and complex episodic and chronic illness problems and technology utilization are refined. Interdisciplinary collaborative practice skills are emphasized. Configuration of practicum hours will be based on results of individualized assessment and evaluation performed in NURS 644. A minimum of 45 practicum hours (135 hours total) in women’s health, geriatrics and pediatrics will be completed between the two practicum courses. Graded P/F.

NURS 646. Family Primary Care Final Synthesis Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 seminar hour (15 lecture hours). 1 credit.
Prerequisites: NURS 643, NURS 644; corequisite: NURS 645. This seminar is designed to facilitate the student’s ability to integrate theory, research and clinical practice. An in-depth analysis of the evaluative, consultative, systems leadership and advocacy functions of the nurse practitioner role within a professional, ethical and legal framework will be performed. Students will complete an evidence-based clinical project that demonstrates synthesis of knowledge, as well as written, oral and critical-thinking skills. Graded P/F.

NURS 651. Decision Analysis for Quality Outcomes Across Populations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: accounting course. This course focuses on managerial decision-making and planning. The main focus is to introduce widely used methods that aid in decision-making and planning, including intuitive approaches, quantitative methods (samples and probabilities, decision trees, tradeoff analysis) and applied approaches to evaluate problems as well as progress toward solutions (assessing risk, root cause analysis, gap analysis and benchmarking). Each method uses real-world illustrations. Students will have the opportunity to use applied approaches to pose solutions to problems faced by nurse managers and leaders.

NURS 652. Health Care Managerial Finance I: For Nurse Leaders. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: accounting course. This course provides introductory business financial management training. The course describes opportunities for improving a health system's fiscal efficiencies and delivery by providing practical approaches to budgeting, financial analysis and the management of financial resources. The course provides instruction on the development and analysis of financial spreadsheets. Financial accounting principles are reviewed. Conceptual and real-world issues will be addressed using tools to analyze nursing and health care organizational performance, costs, budgets and variance.

NURS 653. Health Care Managerial Finance II: Economic Evaluation and Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 651 and NURS 652. This course presents an overview of the macro and micro economy as an influencing factor on health care delivery presented in the context of ethical considerations and techniques that enhance efficiency. The course covers various cost-effectiveness analysis tools that enhance the ability of decision-makers to assess efficiencies and effectiveness. The main goal for students is to understand the parameters for using these techniques and how they are applied in nursing as well as in interdisciplinary approaches in health care settings.

NURS 655. Nurse as Leader. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 4 seminar hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the graduate program in nursing. Explores central theories and practice of leadership with emphasis on implications for the advanced practice nurse. Explores student’s capacity for leadership, including contemporary contexts and personal propensities, strengths and deterrents to effective leadership practice. Includes learning experiences designed to enhance student’s self-understanding as leader and provide culturally diverse urban arena for practicing emerging competencies. Requires an action plan designed, in consultation with faculty mentor, to systematically improve leadership skills.
NURS 665. Diagnosis and Management of Psychiatric Disorders Across the Lifespan. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: NURS 657. Students will develop advanced practice psychiatric-mental health nursing knowledge related to the psychodiagnostic, psychopharmacologic and psychotherapeutic evaluation/treatment of psychiatric disorders across the lifespan. This course focuses on the neurobiological basis of psychiatric disorders and associated evidence-based treatments. Addresses knowledge needed for comprehensive and collaborative management of culturally diverse clients with psychiatric disorders in both acute and primary health care settings.

NURS 667. Advanced Practice Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing: Theory and Practice Across the Lifespan. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: NURS 504. Focuses on advanced psychiatric mental health nursing practice by integrating theoretical, clinical and research knowledge related to psychotherapeutic management of acute and chronic mental health problems and psychiatric disorders. Examines knowledge of theories and psychotherapeutic techniques for individuals, families and groups across the lifespan. Analyzes interprofessional practice as applicable to the psychiatric mental health setting.

NURS 666. Diagnosis and Management of Psychiatric Disorders: Theory and Practice Across the Lifespan. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 618 and 619. Provides content on selected common health and illness changes encountered in adult-geriatric critical care settings. The focus of this course is on increasing students’ knowledge about common problems seen in the adult critical care environment.

NURS 664. DNP Residency: Mentored Practicum. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 45-270 clinical/lab hours (45-270 clinical hours). 1-6 credits. May be repeated for a maximum total of 18 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 605 and NURS 608; 500 clinical practice hours. Mentored study that facilitates student demonstration of DNP competencies through documented learning experiences and implementation of the DNP project. Practice setting and focus of residency hours are individualized to student’s specific area of interest. Residency activities will be mutually developed by the student and faculty adviser, culminating in a professional portfolio that demonstrates achievement of all course objectives by the completion of the 12 required residency credits. Graded as Pass/Fail.

NURS 665. DNP Project I: Proposal Development. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits (3 lecture/seminar credits). Provides the student with the support and direction needed to develop a comprehensive DNP project proposal. The DNP project is designed to improve quality and/or safety patient outcomes. Students use evidence-based practice to design the DNP project that is focused in a specialized clinical area. Students work in collaboration with their faculty adviser and DNP project team. Graded as pass/fail.

NURS 666. Strategic Change Management for Quality Outcomes for Nurse Leaders. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 613; accounting course. This course introduces strategic management principles, models and tools useful for implementing sustainable organizational change. Students will be able to align organizational and nursing-specific mission, vision and goals setting a strategic direction. Students gain applied practice in select strategic and change-management processes in real-world nursing contexts and discuss how these processes optimize or hinder quality patient care outcomes. Finally the course explores factors that facilitate sustaining a strategic direction and how sustainability builds markers of superior performance and quality.

NURS 667. DNP Project II: Project Implementation and Evaluation. 3 Hours.
Semester course: 3 lecture/seminar hours. 3 credits (3 lecture/seminar credits). May be repeated. Program culminates in the successful completion of a scholarly project designed by the student in collaboration with the faculty adviser and DNP project team. The DNP student will analyze and summarize findings and defend the DNP project. The final DNP product (criteria outlined in the DNP handbook) is a scholarly manuscript that provides evidence of the student’s critical thinking and ability to translate research through problem identification, proposal development, implementation, and evaluation. Graded as pass/fail.

NURS 668. Human Resource and Customer Relationship Management for Nurse Leaders. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 508, NURS 609 and accounting course; corequisite: NURS 613. This course examines the role of human resource management in health care and nursing organizations in meeting the challenge of continually improving patient care services. Students will gain an understanding about strategies useful to empower, motivate, hire and retain nursing talent. The course discusses topics in HR management appropriate for nurse leaders and frontline managers such as nursing workforce training, competencies, performance appraisals, recruitment and retention, and progressive disciplinary approaches. HR concepts about workforce capabilities and employee satisfaction will be discussed in relation to their association with patient satisfaction and health care delivery outcomes.

NURS 669. Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Practicum II. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 180 clinical hours. 4 credits (4 credits clinical practicum). Prerequisite: NURS 678. Focuses on providing acute care management of adults-older adults with complex acute, critical and chronic health conditions. Particular emphasis will be placed on integrating health promotion, protection and disease-prevention interventions; safety principles; and risk-reduction strategies through faculty-supervised clinical experiences with a preceptor. Building on previous practicum experience, students guide and evaluate resuscitation, stabilization and rehabilitation interventions while integrating preventive strategies to reduce complications. Provides opportunities to develop and carry out the plan of care and incorporate evidence-based practice guidelines to improve patient outcomes. Performance at the intermediate level is expected. Graded pass/fail.
NURS 675. Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Practicum II. 4 Hours. Semester course; 180 clinical hours. 4 credits (4 credits clinical practicum). Prerequisite: NURS 670. Focuses on primary care management of adults-older adults throughout the wellness-illness spectrum with particular attention on integrating health maintenance and risk-reduction interventions for patients with comorbidities through faculty-supervised clinical experiences with a preceptor. Building on previous practicum experience, students implement health screening, health promotion, health protection and risk-reduction strategies for adolescent-older adults within the context of their current health issues and comorbidities. Provides opportunities to develop and carry out the plan of care incorporating evidence-based practice guidelines to improve patient outcomes. Performance at an intermediate level is expected. Graded pass/fail.

NURS 676. Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Practicum I. 1-3 Hours. Semester course; 45-135 clinical hours. 1-3 credits (1-3 credits clinical practicum). Prerequisite: NURS 511. Focuses on providing primary care management of adolescent-older adults across the wellness-illness continuum through faculty-supervised clinical experiences with a preceptor. Provides opportunities to focus on the differing and unique developmental, life stage needs that impact a patient's care across the adult age spectrum and application of evidence-based strategies in directing health promotion, health protection, disease prevention and primary care management of injuries and disease. Students must demonstrate ability to synthesize theoretical, scientific and contemporary clinical knowledge for the assessment and management of both health and illness states and apply knowledge within the framework of different practice models and populations. Performance at a basic level is expected. Graded as pass/fail.

NURS 677. Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Practicum III. 5 Hours. Semester course; 255 clinical hours. 5 credits (5 credits clinical practicum). Prerequisite: NURS 675. Focuses on advanced primary care management of adolescent-older adults with complex health issues and comorbidities through faculty-supervised clinical experiences with a preceptor. Building on previous practicum experience, students implement and evaluate health screening, health promotion, health protection, disease prevention, risk-reduction strategies and systems-based coordination in the management of adults-older adults with complex health conditions. Provides opportunities for leadership within the interprofessional health care team to direct quality improvement methods, implementation of evidence-based practice guidelines to address a clinical problem and evaluation of patient and systems-based outcomes. As the final practica course, performance at the advanced level is expected. Graded as pass/fail.

NURS 678. Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Practicum I. 1-3 Hours. Semester course; 45-135 clinical hours. 1-3 credits (1-3 credits clinical practicum). Prerequisite: NURS 511. Focuses on providing acute care management of adolescent-older adults who are physiologically unstable, technologically dependent and highly vulnerable to complications through faculty-supervised clinical experiences with a preceptor. Provides opportunities to focus on the provision of a spectrum of care ranging from disease prevention to acute and critical care management. Students must synthesize theoretical, scientific and contemporary clinical knowledge for the assessment and management of both health and illness states and apply knowledge within the framework of different practice models and differing populations. Performance at a basic level is expected. Graded as pass/fail.

NURS 679. Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Practicum III. 5 Hours. Semester course; 225 clinical hours. 5 credits (5 credits clinical practicum). Prerequisite: NURS 669. Focuses on advanced acute, critical and chronic management of adolescent-older adults who are physiologically unstable, technologically dependent and highly vulnerable to complications through faculty-supervised clinical experiences with a preceptor. Building on previous practicum experience, students integrate health screening, promotion, protection and disease-prevention interventions; safety principles; risk-reduction strategies; and systems-based coordination in the management of adults-older adults with complex acute, critical and chronic injuries and illnesses throughout the trajectory of resuscitation, stabilization and rehabilitation. Provides opportunities for leadership within the interprofessional health care team to direct quality improvement methods, implementation of evidence-based practice guidelines to address a clinical problem and evaluation of patient and systems-based outcomes. As the final practica course, performance at the advanced level is expected. Graded as pass/fail.

NURS 680. Leading People. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the graduate program in nursing. Examines the effective leadership and application of management theory and skills in the development of a high performing group of both professional and support staff within health care. Examines issues related to cultural diversity and empowerment for optimal performance within the complex urban health care setting.

NURS 681. Nurses as Organizational Leaders. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the graduate program in nursing. Explores organizational and individual factors that influence nursing leadership and administrative roles. Analyzes the relationships among major organizational variables and stakeholders and their impact on the design and management of a nursing department.

NURS 687. Management Systems and Health Care Outcomes. 4 Hours. Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the graduate program in nursing. Focuses on the effective management of human, material and fiscal resources in a competitive institutional environment. Evaluates selected approaches to assessing the quality of patient outcomes using information technology. Examines issues related to obtaining and organizing clinical and administrative data to support decision making. Takes a comprehensive approach to program and business planning.

NURS 690. Application of Financial Concepts. 4 Hours. Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Prerequisite: NURS 505. Provides an understanding of financial concepts for nurse leaders and includes the application of financial principles to health care organizations and the impact of these applications on patient outcomes.

NURS 691. Nursing Research Practicum. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: NURS 512. Participates in ongoing research. Implements research with faculty direction and supervision.
NURS 692. Integrative Administrative Systems Practicum I. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 90 clinical hours. 2 credits (2 credits clinical practicum). Prerequisite: admission to the graduate program in nursing. Focuses on the application of nursing knowledge in a variety of settings within the integrative systems specialty of nursing administration and leadership. Practicum experiences focus on the negotiation of learning objectives and the definition of a project for an organizational change to be implemented in subsequent practica courses under the supervision of faculty and the preceptor. The student is required to complete an organizational assessment including plans for further data collection and analysis and delineation of personal leadership roles that the student assumes in implementing the change. Provides opportunities for achievement of competencies in advanced nursing practice through faculty-supervised administration and leadership experiences with a preceptor. Allows for the practicum to be planned in relation to the student's area of interest and role preparation. Focuses on the evaluation of specific outcomes determined by the faculty and student. Graded as P/F.

NURS 693. Integrative Administrative Systems Practicum II. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 90 clinical hours. 2 credits (2 credits clinical practicum). Prerequisite: NURS 692. Focuses on the application of nursing knowledge in a variety of settings within the integrative systems specialty of nursing administration and leadership. Practicum experiences focus on the analysis of primary and secondary data related to the project negotiated in Practicum I and development of a plan to implement the selected organizational project. The student will identify the necessary skills and competencies appropriate to implementing the plan. Provides opportunities for achievement of competencies in advanced nursing practice through faculty-supervised administration and leadership experiences with a preceptor. Allows for the practicum to be planned in relation to the student's area of interest and role preparation. Focuses on the evaluation of specific outcomes determined by the faculty and student. Graded as P/F.

NURS 694. Integrative Administrative Systems Practicum III. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 90 clinical hours. 2 credits (2 credits clinical practicum). Prerequisite: NURS 693. Focuses on the application of nursing knowledge in a variety of settings within the integrative systems specialty of nursing administration and leadership. Practicum experiences focus on the execution of the plan for the organizational project using established evaluation measures. Provides opportunities for achievement of competencies in advanced nursing practice through faculty-supervised administration and leadership experiences with a preceptor. Student will demonstrate the synthesis of knowledge gained from previous courses and practica experiences. Graded as P/F.

NURS 695. Managing for Performance and Health Care Outcomes. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 508 and NURS 512. This course synthesizes organizational systems approaches to design, identify, analyze and benchmark quality and safety initiatives in health care settings across the continuum. Students will gain an overview of how evidence drives decisions about and implementation of processes in organization performance improvement. Students will also apply principles in quality and safety project design to address a specific issue affecting patient care outcomes.

NURS 696. Practicum I: Comparative Health Care Delivery Systems for Nurse Leaders. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 90 clinical/lab hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 609, NURS 613 and NURS 614. This practicum experience is designed to integrate theory with the reality of various organizational contexts impacting health care delivery systems, nursing systems and leadership. The overall purpose is to provide students with opportunities to compare how different systems influence nursing practice and nursing leadership. The practicum is designed with three separate units to give students opportunities to compare different health care settings, which may include local, regional, national and international contexts. Graded Pass/Fail.

NURS 697. Practicum II: Comparative Interdisciplinary Health Care Leadership Roles. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 45 clinical/lab hours. 1 credit. Prerequisite: NURS 696. In this course the student applies principles of professional inquiry and discovery to engage in dialogue with nurse leaders as well as interdisciplinary professional managers and leaders in ambulatory care settings. Students will also gain applied experience in ancillary department settings central to health care delivery that are important in maintaining organizational system efficiency and effectiveness but generally are outside the domain of nursing-directed patient care. Ancillary department experiences may take place in ambulatory or inpatient settings. Graded Pass/Fail.

NURS 698. Practicum III: Applied Integrative Health Care Delivery Leadership. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 135 clinical/lab hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: NURS 697. In this course the student applies a broad range of managerial knowledge, skills and multidisciplinary theoretical constructs, e.g., nursing, business, organizational systems, organizational behavior, strategy and change management. Students will complete a formal organizational-level gap analysis and communicate formally and informally to others in the organization about a strategic and change-management plan to address the nursing issue(s) examined in the gap analysis. Students will gain guided experience from a nurse leader about management roles, the organizational perspective on strategic and change initiatives and implementation techniques. Graded Pass/Fail.

NURS 700. Scientific Integrity: Responsible Conduct of Research. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Enrollment restricted to students admitted to a doctoral program. This course is intended for students to develop and refine their understanding of and skills in applying ethics and law of research, with a focus on the National Institute of Health's Office for Human Research Protections' responsible conduct of research topics.

NURS 701. Statistical Methods for Nursing Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Provides knowledge about data management, basic statistical tests, graphics and tables, and necessary software. Presents statistical tests: contingency table analysis, one- and two-sample t-tests, one- and two-factor analysis of variance, simple linear regression, multiple linear regression, and analysis of covariance. Defines selected statistical terminology and concepts. Uses data from relevant studies to illustrate various statistical tests and corresponding assumptions.
NURS 702. Advanced Statistical Concepts for Nursing Research. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 701. Presents advanced statistical methods and necessary statistical assumptions. Explains optimal modeling approaches for different data types and study designs. Data types: binary data, ordinal data, multinomial data, time-to-event data, longitudinal data, hierarchical data and multivariate data. Analytic methods discussed will include nominal, ordinal and multinomial logistic regression, Kaplan-Meier estimation, Cox proportional hazards model, mixed effects models, factor analysis, principal components, canonical correlation, classification and clustering.

NURS 703. Philosophy of Human Sciences. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the doctoral program in nursing. Critically analyzes philosophic perspectives and their relationship to human sciences; emphasizes analysis of the underlying epistemology and ontological assumptions of various philosophies. Explores philosophies of science and their influence on the emergence of knowledge in the human sciences, using nursing science as an example.

NURS 704. Analysis and Construction of Theory for Nursing Research. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the doctoral program in nursing. Critically analyzes philosophic perspectives and their relationship to human sciences; emphasizes analysis of the underlying epistemology and ontological assumptions of various philosophies. Explores philosophies of science and their influence on the emergence of knowledge in the human sciences, using nursing science as an example.

NURS 720. Foundations of Biobehavioral Research. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: NURS 704 or permission of instructor. This course provides a foundation for critically examining and developing research frameworks and models used to conduct biobehavioral research. The course explores assumptions about the dimensions, interactions and outcomes of biology and behavior from basic science through interventional approaches. This course discusses current applications of biobehavioral research including translational research to improve nursing practice and clinical outcomes.

NURS 721. Advanced Concepts in Biobehavioral Research. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: NURS 720 or permission of instructor. This course focuses on applying concepts and measures used in biobehavioral research. It also discusses biobehavioral research priority areas, current methods and data sources. In addition, students will evaluate the types of measures used in biobehavioral research and relate these to their own focus areas. Students will apply their knowledge from the prerequisite course to develop a research proposal incorporating a research framework, concepts and measures, and methods used in biobehavioral research.

NURS 725. Synthesis and Emerging Trends in Scientific Inquiry. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: NURS 720 and NURS 721, or NURS 731 and NURS 732, or permission of instructor. This course explores emerging trends in different areas of scientific inquiry to help students develop their understanding of the current and evolving research environment. Designed to synthesize the current state of the science and apply it to the student’s area of research. In addition, the student will apply approaches to incorporating emerging trends into an individualized research program and strategic career development.

NURS 731. Foundations in Health Care Quality Research. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: NURS 704 or permission of instructor. This course focuses on applying concepts and measures used in quality health services research. It also discusses health care quality research priority areas, current quality and safety measures, and data sources. In addition, students will evaluate the types of quality and safety measures used in health care quality research and relate these to their focus areas. Students will apply their knowledge from the prerequisite course to develop a research proposal incorporating a research framework, concepts and measures, and methods used in health care quality research.

NURS 732. Advanced Concepts in Health Care Quality Research. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: NURS 731 or permission of instructor. This course focuses on applying concepts and measures used in quality health services research. It also discusses health care quality research priority areas, current quality and safety measures, and data sources. In addition, students will evaluate the types of quality and safety measures used in health care quality research and relate these to their focus areas. Students will apply their knowledge from the prerequisite course to develop a research proposal incorporating a research framework, concepts and measures, and methods used in health care quality research.

NURS 733. Perspectives on Research Design. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 703 and NURS 704. Analyzes philosophical foundations of a variety of research designs. Explores assumptions underlying the selection and evaluation of quantitative, qualitative and mixed-methods designs. Focuses on the epistemological, ontological and methodological foundations of research design and implications for knowledge development.

NURS 770. Quantitative Research. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: NURS 701 or permission of instructor; corequisite: NURS 702. This course provides knowledge and skills for identifying and selecting appropriate designs for quantitative health care research. The course analyzes major groups of research designs for fit with various types of research questions. This course examines strengths and weaknesses of the groups of research designs. Focuses on elements of research design that enhance rigor.

NURS 771. Qualitative Research. 3 Hours. Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: NURS 701 or permission of instructor. This course provides knowledge and skills for the design and implementation of qualitative health research and the management and analysis of qualitative data. The course analyzes various research designs for ability to generate scientifically rigorous findings related to nursing or health care. This course explores current challenges, debates and controversies in qualitative research.

NURS 772. Research Program Development Seminar I. 2 Hours. Seminar course; 1 lecture and 2 seminar hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the doctoral program in nursing. Explores the multiple roles in establishing a program of research and the various career-development stages of a scholar. Defines an area of inquiry for knowledge development within a focus area.

NURS 773. Research Program Development Seminar II. 2 Hours. Seminar course; 1 lecture and 2 seminar hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the doctoral program in nursing. Analyzes and integrates the state of knowledge development in a selected area of inquiry. Develops an individualized trajectory of scholarly career development.
NURS 778. Research Program Development Seminar III. 2 Hours.
Seminar course; 1 lecture and 2 seminar hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the doctoral program in nursing. Focuses on collaboration within the research team and in the larger research community, leadership in the research team, the peer-review process and knowledge dissemination for the advancement of a program of research.

NURS 791. Special Topics. 3-6 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 3-6 credits. May be repeated. Prerequisite: admission to the doctoral program in nursing. Explores specific topics in nursing.

NURS 792. Directed Research Inquiry. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-6 credits. Course may be repeated. A minimum of 3 credits is required as a substitute for a required focus of inquiry course. A maximum of 6 credits is allowed per semester. Prerequisite: admission to doctoral program in nursing and permission of the instructor. Provides a mentored independent study in a selected theoretical or conceptual area of inquiry within the context of a student’s research focus. The purpose of this course is to increase the student’s knowledge in a selected theoretical or conceptual area. This directed study will be developed under the supervision of a member of the graduate faculty. Graded as P/F.

NURS 796. Directed Research Experience. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-9 credits. A minimum of 2 credits is required by the completion of course work. Prerequisite: admission to the doctoral program in nursing and permission of the instructor. Provides a mentored research experience in areas of faculty research expertise. The purpose of this course is to increase the student’s exposure to and involvement in research under the direction of a graduate faculty member who is actively engaged in a research project. This mentored research experience will be developed under the supervision of a member of the graduate faculty. May be taken in the semester(s) the student is preparing for the comprehensive exam and for dissertation preparation prior to admission to candidacy. Graded as P/F.

NURS 797. Practicum in Nursing Research. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 practicum hours (45-135 clinical/lab hours). 1-3 credits (1-3 clinical lab credits). May be repeated. Prerequisite: NURS 700 or permission of instructor. Enrollment restricted to students admitted to a doctoral program and by permission of instructor. This course focuses on the development of skills and techniques for the conduct of research through active participation in either an ongoing faculty research project or an element of the student’s research area. The practicum is structured individually through discussion with the supervising faculty member. Emphasis is on the practical application of research skills and growth in knowledge related to the conduct of research. Graded as Pass/Fail.

NURS 898. Dissertation. 1-12 Hours.
Variable hours. 1-12 credits. A minimum of 12 credits is required. Prerequisite: admission to candidacy. Original research conducted under the supervision of an adviser and in conjunction with a dissertation committee.

School of Pharmacy
Medicinal Chemistry (MEDC)

MEDC 526. Research Techniques in Medicinal Chemistry. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 0-2 lecture and 2-8 laboratory hours. 1-4 credits. The theory and application of classical, instrumental, and computer techniques used in medicinal chemistry research are presented.

MEDC 527. Basic Pharmaceutical Principles for the Practicing Pharmacist. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines basic science principles in organic chemistry and biological chemistry as specifically related to the pharmaceutical treatment of disease.

MEDC 530. Bioinformatics and Genomics in Drug Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Covers the basic elements of cellular pathways and drug interactions, and how modern genomics comes into play. Presents bioinformatics principles being used every day in data-intensive fields of research. Introductory and concept-oriented, the course will prepare students for grasping how bioinformatics is being used in many areas of biomedical sciences. Geared toward students coming from a variety of backgrounds in biology, biochemistry and chemistry. While many of the analytical approaches are statistical in nature, there is no requirement for a background in statistics or mathematics. Each student will have the opportunity to design a small project applying bioinformatics concepts. Crosslisted as: BNFO 530.

MEDC 532. Medicinal Chemistry for Nurse Anesthetists. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A review of the principles of organic chemistry and bio-organic chemistry presented as a series of lectures covering the structure-activity relationships, metabolism, and mechanism of action of selected agents.

MEDC 533. Pharmacognosy. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Designed to introduce the basic concepts of pharmacognosy that apply to crude drugs and semipurified and purified natural products that are typically available in pharmacies. The regulation of herbal products and evaluation of the purity and bioavailability of alternative and complementary medicines will be discussed.

MEDC 541. Survey of Molecular Modeling Methods. 1 Hour.
Semester course; lecture and laboratory hour. 1 credit. Introduces computational chemistry and molecular graphics with the current software used for drug design and small molecule/large molecule interactions. Computational chemistry problems will be emphasized in the laboratory.

MEDC 542. Biotechnology-derived Therapeutic Agents. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Provides the fundamentals of biotechnology-derived biological agents including structure, manufacture, stability, analysis, formulation and usage. Selected examples of biological agents in current and future therapy may also be covered.

MEDC 543. Clinical Chemistry for the Pharmacist. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. A study of the underlying principles and practical limitations of analytical procedures with emphasis on evaluation of over-the-counter analytical products currently sold or used in pharmacies and assays of organ pathophysiology used in hospitals.

MEDC 553. Clinical Therapeutics Module: Introduction to Medicinal Chemistry. 1 Hour.
Module course; variable lecture hours. 1 credit. Introduces topics in medicinal chemistry common to all drug classes, including structure activity relationships, principles of drug action, drug design and drug metabolism. Drugs acting on the autonomic nervous system are presented as a case study illustrating applications of the general principles.
MEDC 555. Fundamentals of Drug Discovery I. 3.5 Hours.
Semester course; 3.5 lecture hours. 3.5 credits. Students will work individually or in groups to learn the fundamentals of medicinal chemistry and drug discovery. The course utilizes formal lectures, informal group discussions, literature research and formal oral and/or written assignments to impart knowledge and practice of drug discovery. The course focus will be on molecular biology and pharmacological aspects of medicinal chemistry.

MEDC 556. Fundamentals of Drug Discovery II. 3.5 Hours.
Semester course; 3.5 lecture hours. 3.5 credits. Students will work individually or in groups to learn the fundamentals of medicinal chemistry and drug discovery. The course utilizes formal lectures, informal group discussions, literature research and formal oral and/or written assignment to impart knowledge and practice of drug discovery. The course focus will be on methodologies and techniques of medicinal chemistry.

MEDC 591. Special Topics in Medicinal Chemistry. 3.5 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3.5 credits. An elective course in which students may choose to participate in individual or group study in one or more areas of medicinal chemistry. The course can take the form of formal lectures, informal group discussions, literature research, and/or laboratory research. Students must have the permission of the individual instructor before registering for this course.

MEDC 601. Advanced Medicinal Chemistry I. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. This course is designed to expose graduate students to the history and practice of medicinal chemistry with an emphasis on drug development, design, structure-activity relationship studies and their association with diseases to prepare students for future work in academia or industry.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. A study of chemical transformations in organic chemistry, their mechanisms and their application to the synthesis of complex target molecules.

MEDC 610. Advanced Medicinal Chemistry II. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: MEDC 601 or permission of instructor. Introduces concepts for understanding the medicinal chemistry of the central nervous system.

MEDC 614. Research Techniques. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. Variable credit. Credit will be given on the basis of 1 credit per 45 hours of laboratory time. Prerequisite: approval of research adviser. Provides new graduate student with the laboratory skills necessary to perform research in the chosen discipline. The training time required will depend upon the discipline. Graded as pass/fail. Crosslisted as: PCEU 614/PHAR 614.

MEDC 620. Advanced Medicinal Chemistry III. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: MEDC 601 or the permission of the instructor. Reviews the concepts necessary for enzyme inhibitor design. Emphasizes the design of new agents to treat disease states by enzyme inhibition.

MEDC 630. Theoretical Methods in Drug Design. 2 Hours.
Semester course; lecture and laboratory hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: MEDC 601, MEDC 610 or MEDC 620, or permission of instructor. A study of the theoretical methods of drug structure-activity analysis, including molecular orbital theory, topological indexes and physical property correlations. Computational chemistry problems will be emphasized in the laboratory.

MEDC 641 or permission of instructor. Examines the principles and application of computational chemistry and molecular graphics to current problems in drug design. Lectures focus on the application of specific computational methods and techniques to solve problems in drug/molecular design. Workshop sessions provide hands-on experience using state-of-the-art hardware and software for molecular modeling.

MEDC 642. Nucleoside, Nucleotide, Carbohydrate and Peptide Chemistry. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Surveys nucleoside, nucleotide, carbohydrate and peptide chemistry with emphasis on their synthesis.

MEDC 643. Regioselective Drug Metabolism. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Surveys drug biotransformation reactions. Emphasizes the molecular aspects of Phase I and Phase II drug metabolism.

MEDC 644. Asymmetric Synthesis. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Reviews the major asymmetric chemical transformations, including mechanisms, scope and synthetic utility.

MEDC 645. Introduction to Heterocyclic Chemistry. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Introduces the chemistry of heterocyclic compounds. Emphasizes heterocyclic nomenclature and the reactions/reactivity of heterocyclic systems.

MEDC 670. Advanced Molecular Modeling Theory and Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture/laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: MEDC 641 or permission of instructor. Examines the principles and application of computational chemistry and molecular graphics to current problems in drug design. Lectures focus on the application of specific computational methods and techniques to solve problems in drug/molecular design. Workshop sessions provide hands-on experience using state-of-the-art hardware and software for molecular modeling.

MEDC 669. Departmental Research Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Reports presented by students, staff and visiting lecturers, current problems and developments in pharmaceutical and medicinal chemistry are discussed. Graded as PR in first semester of enrollment, with a letter grade assigned in the following semester.

MEDC 690. Special Topics in Medicinal Chemistry. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; 1-4 lecture hours. 1-4 credits. Lectures, tutorial studies, and/or library assignments in selected areas of advanced study not available in other courses or as a part of the research training.

MEDC 697. Directed Research in Medicinal Chemistry. 1-15 Hours.
Semester course; 1-15 credits. Research leading to the M.S. or Ph.D. degree.

Pharmaceutical Sciences (PSCI)

PSCI 607. Introduction to Pharmaceutical Sciences From Bench to Shelf. 1 Hour.
Continuous courses; 2 credits offered: 1 credit hour each in fall and spring. These two courses will be run as if they were a single 2-credit course spanning two semesters. Students will be introduced to the drug discovery process, both conventional and contemporary, and learn about all the aspects of drug development from drug design to drug approval, production and marketing. Each topic will be introduced by either a faculty member or an expert from the pharmaceutical industry. Active discussion will be encouraged during each session. PSCI 607 graded as PR; PSCI 608 graded S/U/F upon completion.
PSCI 608. Introduction to Pharmaceutical Sciences From Bench to Shelf. 1 Hour.
Continuous courses; 2 credits offered: 1 credit hour each in fall and spring. These two courses will be run as if they were a single 2-credit course spanning two semesters. Students will be introduced to the drug discovery process, both conventional and contemporary, and learn about all the aspects of drug development from drug design to drug approval, production and marketing. Each topic will be introduced by either a faculty member or an expert from the pharmaceutical industry. Active discussion will be encouraged during each session. PSCI 607 graded as PR; PSCI 608 graded S/U/F upon completion.

PSCI 691. Special Topics in Pharmaceutical Sciences I. 0.5-5 Hours.
Semester course. 0.5-5 lecture hours. 0.5-5 credits. Subject matter is presented by lecture, tutorial studies and/or library assignments in selected areas of advanced study not available in other courses or as part of the research training. Graded S/U/F.

PSCI 692. Special Topics in Pharmaceutical Sciences II. 0.5-5 Hours.
Semester course; 0.5-5 lecture hours. 0.5-5 credits. Subject matter is presented by lecture, tutorial studies and/or library assignments in selected areas of advanced study not available in other courses or as part of the research training.

Pharmaceutics (PCEU)

PCEU 501. Pharmaceutical Calculations. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. This course is designed in a student-centered learning format that supports self-directed learning. The course will help students develop the skill set needed to screen out the distractors from the determinant variables in a statement problem and guide their thought processes in sequential use of information to solve calculation problems seen in pharmacy practice.

PCEU 507. Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Designed to describe the physico-chemical and biopharmaceutical principles fundamental to the development of pharmaceutical dosage forms. Topics will include pharmaceutical calculations, solid-state properties, solubility, partitioning, solution properties, disperse systems, micromeritics, diffusion, dissolution and release rates, drug and dosage form stability and degradation, pharmaceutical manufacture, and compounding.

PCEU 508. Pharmacokinetics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PCEU 507. Corequisite: PCEU 509. Major topics include the mathematical and physiological principles of pharmacokinetics related to the development and use of pharmaceutical dosage forms. Discussions will include compartmental modeling, physiological concepts of pharmacokinetics, and clearance and absorption concepts. Also includes material related to statistics.

PCEU 509. Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: PCEU 507. Designed to describe the biopharmaceutical principles fundamental to the development of pharmaceutical dosage forms, including parenteral products, solutions, disperse systems, semisolids, solids and novel drug delivery systems. The formulation, manufacture, control, biopharmaceutics and relevant patient-pharmacist interactions of the major dosage forms will be addressed and presented by route of administration.

PCEU 604. Molecular Pharmaceutics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of course coordinator. The student’s basic biochemistry and pharmacy education will be expanded with emerging molecular concepts in enzyme and transporter structure and function, roles in drug disposition, pharmacogenomics, biochemistry, molecular biology, and experimental techniques.

PCEU 612. Advanced Physical Pharmacy and Biopharmaceutics. 3-5 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Phase equilibria and phase transfer kinetics related to biopharmaceutics will be covered. The relationship between physiochemical properties of a drug dosage form and drug absorption, along with the correlation between in vitro tests used to evaluate dosage forms and in vivo measures of drug absorption will be covered. The course assumes that the student has a basic understanding of pharmacokinetics, physical chemistry and statistics.

PCEU 614. Research Techniques. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. Variable credit. Credit will be given on the basis of 1 credit per 45 hours of laboratory time. Prerequisite: approval of research adviser. Provides new graduate student with the laboratory skills necessary to perform research in the chosen discipline. The training time required will depend upon the discipline. Graded as pass/fail. Crosslisted as: MEDC 614/PHAR 614.

PCEU 615. Applied Pharmacokinetics. 2.5 Hours.
Semester course; 2.5 lecture hours. 2.5 credits. Extends the concepts of pharmacokinetics as applied to dosage regimen design, pharmacokinetic variability, drug interactions and statistical strategies for individualization of drug therapy. Lectures and conferences take place throughout the semester.

PCEU 621. Advanced Pharmaceutics and Drug Disposition. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Study at the advanced level of the relationships between the physiochemical properties of a drug and dosage form and the absorption, distribution, elimination and pharmacological effects of the drug. Current theory and methodology involved in solving problems at the research level are emphasized.

PCEU 622. Clinical Pharmacokinetics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. The application of current pharmacokinetic theory to clinical problems involved in optimizing and monitoring drug use in patients. Particular attention is given to adjustment of drug dosage in individual patients with impaired drug elimination due to renal and hepatic dysfunction. (Nontraditional program).

PCEU 624. Advanced Pharmacokinetics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An advanced treatment of the kinetics of drug absorption, distribution, and elimination utilizing mathematical models, and digital computers for analysis of linear and nonlinear biologic systems.

PCEU 625. Pharmaceutical Analysis. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 1 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Theory and practice of selected analytical techniques for the quantitative analysis of drugs in body fluids and other matrices. Emphasis is on method validation, and immunoassay methodologies. Laboratory sessions will provide “hands on” experience with modern methods of drug analysis.

PCEU 626. Pharmaceutical Analysis Laboratory. 1 Hour.
1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: PHAR 625. A continuation of PHAR 625 with emphasis on providing advanced topics for analysis of drugs and metabolites.
PCEU 690. Pharmaceutics Research Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Required of all graduate students in pharmaceutics. Research Seminar.

PCEU 691. Special Topics in Pharmaceutics. 1-5 Hours.
Semester course; 1-5 lecture hours. 1-5 credits. Presentation of subject matter is by lectures, tutorial studies, and/or library assignments in selected areas of advanced study not available in other courses or as part of the training in research.

PCEU 697. Directed Research in Pharmaceutics. 1-15 Hours.
Semester course; 1-15 credits. Research leading to the M.S., Pharm.D., or Ph.D. degree.

Pharmacy (PHAR)

PHAR 509. Evidence-Based Pharmacy I: Introduction to Pharmacy Information Skills. 1.5 Hour.
Semester course; 1.5 lecture hours. 1.5 credits. This is the first of a three-course series introducing students to information skills necessary for the practice of evidence-based pharmacy. Lecture topics include drug information resources, efficient information retrieval, assessment of drug information sources, relationship of pharmaceutical industry to drug literature, and basic laws and regulations associated with prescription processing. Class exercises will be used to promote the appropriate use of drug information resources in pharmacy practice.

PHAR 512. Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Introduction to the role of the pharmacist in health promotion and disease prevention. Skills for pharmacist involvement in implementing aspects of Healthy People 2010, educating patients and addressing health care disparities will be emphasized.

PHAR 513. Contemporary Pharmacy Practice. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Introduction to foundational concepts of pharmacy practice, professionalism, evolving roles of pharmacists in U.S. health care and forces that influence the profession through discussions, debates and panel presentations. An introduction to state laws that affect pharmacy practice and the provision of pharmacy care are provided. Students will be introduced to the management of secure, innovative pharmacy services, including the medication use system, and integrated patient care.

PHAR 523. Foundations I. 1.5 Hour.
Semester course; 4.5 laboratory hours. 1.5 credits. This competency-based course is intended to give the first-year pharmacy student an introduction to the pharmacy profession, emphasizing the skills and values that are necessary to be a competent, caring pharmacist. It is the first in a six-semester practice-based course sequence that introduces the language and tools of contemporary pharmacy practice with an emphasis on calculations, communication, medical terminology, drug information, prescription processing, health promotion, patient assessment and problem solving.

PHAR 524. Foundations II. 1.5 Hour.
Semester course; 4.5 laboratory hours. 1.5 credits. This competency-based course is the second in a six-semester practice-based course sequence with an emphasis on the preparation and dispensing of selected extemporaneous compounds including liquid, solid and semisolid preparations and the appropriate use of selected OTC point-of-care devices.

PHAR 525. Communications in Pharmacy Practice. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1.5 lecture hours and an average of 1 conference hour per week. 2 credits. A study of the theory and techniques of communication and counseling techniques related to pharmacy practice. Supervised practice in developing basic communication skills.

PHAR 526. Community Pharmacy Practice. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Helps students develop the necessary foundation for the management of activities in community pharmacy practice settings with many of the skills developed in this course being equally applicable to other practice settings. Focuses on financial management and managed care as it affects community practice.

PHAR 529. Clinical Therapeutics Module: Introduction to Special Populations. 2 Hours.
Module course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Introduction to issues affecting the pharmacotherapy of special populations such as pediatric and geriatric patients.

PHAR 530. Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience: Community Practice. 4 Hours.
Semester course; daily for 4 weeks. 4 credits. Students will meet with an assigned community pharmacist 5 days per week for 8 hours for 4 consecutive weeks at the end of the P-1 year. Students will practice pharmacy under supervision while learning about the medication use system in community pharmacy practice. Students will demonstrate core practice skills: communication, pharmacy calculations, ethics, medication safety, wellness and health promotion, informatics and critical thinking. Graded as honors, high pass, pass, fail.

PHAR 532. Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience: Hospital Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 40 hours per week for three weeks. 3 credits. Students will meet with an assigned hospital pharmacist for a three-week (120 hours) experience at the end of the P-2 year to practice pharmacy in a hospital environment and learn about hospital pharmacy management and medication distribution systems. Students will demonstrate core practice skills: communication, calculations, ethics, medication safety, technology, informatics and critical thinking. Graded as honors, high pass, pass, fail.

PHAR 533. Introductory Pharmacy Practice Experience: Patient Care. 0.5 Hours.
Semester course; 0.5 laboratory hours. 0.5 credits. Students will complete 20 hours of approved experiences under supervision. An orientation, reading assignments, mandatory class time and assessments will be conducted. Students will also prepare a reflection describing the benefits to the community when pharmacists engage in the health and education needs of the community. Students will develop a sense of personal responsibility for addressing the problems and needs of society. Graded as Pass/Fail.

PHAR 534. Foundations III. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 3 laboratory hours. 1 credit. This competency-based course is the third in a six-semester practice-based course sequence with an emphasis on the clinical application of medications in the management of various disease states. The second-year pharmacy student will develop skills in the assessment and therapeutic monitoring of selected disease states and drug therapies. Topics include cardiovascular, endocrine and neurology therapeutics.
PHAR 535. Foundations IV. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 3 laboratory hours. 1 credit. This competency-based course is the fourth in a six-semester practice-based course sequence. Introduces students to the skills required to practice in institutional settings such as hospitals and long-term care facilities and in home health care.

PHAR 540. Self-Care and Alternative and Complementary Treatments. 2.5 Hours.
Module course; variable lecture and conference hours. 2.5 credits. Introduction to the concepts of self-care and alternative and complementary treatments. Students will learn to distinguish treatable signs and symptoms of common diseases and exclusions for care that require referral to appropriate health care practitioners. Non-medication methods to alleviate and prevent self-care problems are reviewed. Patient cases, self-care consultations, lectures and conferences will be used to facilitate learning.

PHAR 541. Patient Assessment in Pharmacy Practice. 2 Hours.
Semester course; variable lecture and laboratory hours. 2 credits. Provides students with an introduction to patient assessment skills necessary in patient-centered pharmacy practice. Course topics include basic physical assessment techniques, interpretation of findings from laboratory tests or physical examinations and documenting findings from patient assessments. Laboratory time will be used to practice various assessment skills. The course will also build on communication and information skills presented in previous courses.

PHAR 544. Clinical Therapeutics Module: Cardiovascular. 4.5 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 4.5 credits. The principles of medicinal chemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceutics, pathophysiology and pharmacotherapy to the application of drug therapy in patients with cardiovascular diseases are integrated in this course. The clinical presentation, course of illness, prevention and treatment of diseases using prescription, non-prescription and complementary treatments will be reviewed.

PHAR 545. The U.S. Health Care System. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Open to professional students only. Designed to introduce the student to the components of the U.S. health care system and the interrelationships among health care consumers and providers. It also presents the organizational framework and regulatory and reimbursement mechanisms which are the foundations of the U.S. health care delivery system. A unique feature of this course is the interdisciplinary teaching team.

PHAR 547. Managing Professional Patient-centered Practice. 1.5 Hour.
Semester course; 1.5 lecture hours. 1.5 credits. Introduces pharmacy students to the basic principles of managing a professional pharmacy practice. Students will learn patient-centered practices associated with effective medication use and positive patient outcomes. Instruction will be through lectures, case discussions and portfolio assignments.

PHAR 549. Personalized Medicine. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Provides an introduction to personalized medicine as related to pharmacy practice. The course will be taught using lectures, individual work, small-group discussions and total classroom discussion using homework, in-class assignments and patient case scenarios.

PHAR 550. Pharmacy Practice Research. 3 Hours.
Yearlong course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on the development of skills necessary for identifying issues and questions related to pharmacy practice, evaluating the literature to identify possible solutions, designing a feasible research project, developing a data analysis plan and a formal written proposal for the project. Students will ultimately present their research proposals to faculty and students. The course is graded as CO with no credit for fall semester with a letter grade and credit assigned for spring semester.

PHAR 555. Clinical Therapeutics Module: Endocrinology. 2.5 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 2.5 credits. The principles of medicinal chemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceutics, pathophysiology and pharmacotherapy to the application of drug therapy in patients with endocrine diseases are integrated in this course. The clinical presentation, course of illness, prevention and treatment of diseases using prescription, non-prescription and complementary treatments will be reviewed.

PHAR 556. Clinical Therapeutics Module: Neurology. 4 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 4 credits. The principles of medicinal chemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceutics, pathophysiology and pharmacotherapy to the application of drug therapy in patients with neurological diseases are integrated in this course. The clinical presentation, course of illness, prevention and treatment of diseases using prescription, non-prescription and complementary treatments will be reviewed.

PHAR 559. Evidence-based Pharmacy I: Introduction to Evidence-based Pharmacy. 1.5 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 1.5 credits. Introduces the process of evidence-based pharmacy. A survey of research design and statistical methods will be presented. Basic information skills presented in previous courses.

PHAR 560. Evidence-based Pharmacy II: Research Methods and Statistics. 2.5 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 2.5 credits. This is the second of a three-course series introducing students to the principles and practice of evidence-based pharmacy. Lecture topics include research methods, concepts and principles of study design, and appropriate use of statistics. Class exercises promote a working understanding of statistical principles and a general understanding of research methods.

PHAR 550. Pharmacy Practice Research. 3 Hours.
Yearlong course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on the development of skills necessary for identifying issues and questions related to pharmacy practice, evaluating the literature to identify possible solutions, designing a feasible research project, developing a data analysis plan and a formal written proposal for the project. Students will ultimately present their research proposals to faculty and students. The course is graded as CO with no credit for fall semester with a letter grade and credit assigned for spring semester.

PHAR 555. Clinical Therapeutics Module: Endocrinology. 2.5 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 2.5 credits. The principles of medicinal chemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceutics, pathophysiology and pharmacotherapy to the application of drug therapy in patients with endocrine diseases are integrated in this course. The clinical presentation, course of illness, prevention and treatment of diseases using prescription, non-prescription and complementary treatments will be reviewed.

PHAR 556. Clinical Therapeutics Module: Neurology. 4 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 4 credits. The principles of medicinal chemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceutics, pathophysiology and pharmacotherapy to the application of drug therapy in patients with neurological diseases are integrated in this course. The clinical presentation, course of illness, prevention and treatment of diseases using prescription, non-prescription and complementary treatments will be reviewed.

PHAR 559. Evidence-based Pharmacy I: Introduction to Evidence-based Pharmacy. 1.5 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 1.5 credits. Introduces the process of evidence-based pharmacy. A survey of research design and statistical methods will be presented. Basic information skills presented in previous courses.

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PHAR 555. Clinical Therapeutics Module: Neurology. 4 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 4 credits. The principles of medicinal chemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceutics, pathophysiology and pharmacotherapy to the application of drug therapy in patients with neurological diseases are integrated in this course. The clinical presentation, course of illness, prevention and treatment of diseases using prescription, non-prescription and complementary treatments will be reviewed.

PHAR 559. Evidence-based Pharmacy I: Introduction to Evidence-based Pharmacy. 1.5 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 1.5 credits. Introduces the process of evidence-based pharmacy. A survey of research design and statistical methods will be presented. Basic information skills presented in previous courses.

PHAR 560. Evidence-based Pharmacy II: Research Methods and Statistics. 2.5 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 2.5 credits. This is the second of a three-course series introducing students to the principles and practice of evidence-based pharmacy. Lecture topics include research methods, concepts and principles of study design, and appropriate use of statistics. Class exercises promote a working understanding of statistical principles and a general understanding of research methods.

PHAR 550. Pharmacy Practice Research. 3 Hours.
Yearlong course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Focuses on the development of skills necessary for identifying issues and questions related to pharmacy practice, evaluating the literature to identify possible solutions, designing a feasible research project, developing a data analysis plan and a formal written proposal for the project. Students will ultimately present their research proposals to faculty and students. The course is graded as CO with no credit for fall semester with a letter grade and credit assigned for spring semester.
PHAR 604. Clinical Therapeutics Module: Infectious Diseases. 4.5 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 4.5 credits. The principles of medicinal chemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceutics, pathophysiology and pharmacotherapy to the application of drug therapy in patients with infectious diseases are integrated in this course. The clinical presentation, course of illness, prevention and treatment of diseases using prescription, non-prescription and complementary treatments will be reviewed.

PHAR 605. Clinical Therapeutics Module: Hematology/Oncology. 2.5 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 2.5 credits. The principles of medicinal chemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceutics, pathophysiology and pharmacotherapy to the application of drug therapy in patients with hematologic diseases and cancer are integrated in this course. The clinical presentation, course of illness, prevention and treatment of diseases using prescription, non-prescription and complementary treatments will be reviewed.

PHAR 606. Clinical Therapeutics Module: Nephrology/Urology. 2 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 2 credits. The principles of medicinal chemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceutics, pathophysiology and pharmacotherapy to the application of drug therapy in patients with kidney and urologic diseases are integrated in this course. The clinical presentation, course of illness, prevention and treatment of diseases using prescription, non-prescription and complementary treatments will be reviewed.

PHAR 607. Clinical Therapeutics Module: Dermatology/EENT and Joint. 2 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 2 credits. The principles of medicinal chemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceutics, pathophysiology and pharmacotherapy to the application of drug therapy in patients with diseases of the bone, skin, ears, eyes, nose and throat are integrated in this course. The clinical presentation, course of illness, prevention and treatment of diseases using prescription, non-prescription and complementary treatments will be reviewed.

PHAR 614. Research Techniques. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. Variable credit. Credit will be given on the basis of 1 credit per 45 hours of laboratory time. Prerequisite: approval of research adviser. Provides new graduate student with the laboratory skills necessary to perform research in the chosen discipline. The training time required will depend upon the discipline. Graded as pass/fail. Crosslisted as: PCEU 614/MEDC 614.

PHAR 618. Clinical Therapeutics Module: Gastrointestinal/Nutrition. 2.5 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 2.5 credits. The principles of medicinal chemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceutics, pathophysiology and pharmacotherapy to the application of drug therapy in patients with gastrointestinal diseases are integrated in this course. Nutrition will be covered. The clinical presentation, course of illness, prevention and treatment of diseases using prescription, non-prescription and complementary treatments will be reviewed.

PHAR 619. Clinical Therapeutics Module: Women's Health/Bone. 2 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 2 credits. The principles of medicinal chemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceutics, pathophysiology and pharmacotherapy to the application of drug therapy in women's health issues and patients with bone diseases are integrated in this course. The clinical presentation, course of illness, prevention and treatment of diseases using prescription, non-prescription and complementary treatments will be reviewed.

PHAR 620. Clinical Therapeutics Module: Critical Care/Toxicology and Complex Patients. 2.5 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 2.5 credits. The principles of medicinal chemistry, pharmacology, pharmaceutics, pathophysiology and pharmacotherapy to the application of drug therapy in patients in critical care units and in toxicology, including bioterrorism, are presented. Drug therapy use in the geriatric population will be used as a framework for complex patient care.

PHAR 621. Pharmacoeconomics. 2 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 2 credits. Introduces the terms and processes of pharmaceutical economics and pharmacoconomics. Students learn to assess the impact of economics on pharmaceutical use, evaluate pharmaco-economic studies and make decisions on the cost effectiveness of therapeutic alternatives. Lectures, discussion and class assignments.

PHAR 622. Epidemiology and Pharmacy Practice. 2 Hours.
Module course; variable hours. 2 credits. Introduction to the principles of epidemiology and the relation to pharmacy practice. Emphasis on applications of epidemiologic principles in pharmacy. Lectures, outside readings, class discussions and exercises.

PHAR 623. Patient Medication Safety. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Provides the fundamental background necessary to understand patient medication safety, including multidisciplinary responsibilities for medication safety and approaches to the management and prevention of medication errors. Current issues in medication safety and actual medication error cases will be used in the class.

PHAR 626. Advanced Pharmacotherapy Research Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of the instructor. This course focuses on research techniques used to assess the clinical response to drug therapy, including advantages and disadvantages of different techniques. Published clinical trials are evaluated to illustrate these concepts including statistical assessment. Recent FDA New Drug Applications are reviewed when appropriate to illustrate regulatory aspects of the evaluation of clinical trials.

PHAR 631. Advanced Pharmacy Practice Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Classical, social, and systems views of management are introduced with emphasis on the uses of implicit control. The sociology of professions and the nature of professional work are explored; the management of the professional's work is discussed in detail. Design and operation of integrated drug information, drug distribution, and drug use control systems is explored. (Nontraditional program).

PHAR 637. Introduction to Research Methods in Pharmaceutical Sciences. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Assists practicing pharmacist managers and researchers in the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programs for the delivery of pharmaceutical care and the practice of pharmacy. Introduces students to the empirical method and to provide them with a fundamental knowledge base for developing salient research questions that could lead to the articulation of testable research hypotheses, accomplished by addressing those research techniques and designs most commonly used in pharmacy and health services research.
PHAR 638. Pharmaceutical Benefit Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Addresses the need for pharmacy benefit management, the types of organizations that use pharmacy benefit management and the primary tools, techniques and practices used to manage the pharmacy benefit. Presents through lectures, readings, class discussions and a research paper.

PHAR 640. Foundations V. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 3 laboratory hours. 1 credit. This competency-based course is the fifth in a six-semester practice-based course sequence with an emphasis on the clinical application of medications in the management of various disease states. The third-year pharmacy student will develop skills in the assessment and therapeutic monitoring of selected disease states and drug therapies. Topics include infectious disease, oncology, nephrology and urology therapeutics.

PHAR 645. Foundations VI. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 3 laboratory hours. 1 credit. This competency-based course is the final installment in a six-semester, practice-based course sequence. It is intended to give the third-year pharmacy student opportunities to improve acquired skills and gain additional skills necessary to provide the highest level of patient-centered care by optimizing drug therapy outcomes.

PHAR 651. Medical Access and Care for Underserved Populations. 3 Hours.
Semester course; lecture and experiential hours. 3 credits. Provides an overview of the issues affecting medical access for underserved populations, with an emphasis on homeless patients. Topics covered include resources, unique barriers, health literacy, interdisciplinary models in safety net organizations and medication reconciliation. Students attend lectures and complete experiential exercises to reinforce these topics, as well as creating patient education materials.

PHAR 652. Health Promotion and Communication in Pharmacy Practice. 2.5 Hours.
Semester course; 2.5 lecture hours. 2.5 credits. An introduction to the role of the pharmacist in health promotion and disease prevention and building communication skills to help prepare students for practice. Supervised practice in developing basic communication skills. Skills for pharmacist involvement in implementing aspects of Healthy People 2020, educating patients and addressing health care disparities will be emphasized.

PHAR 660. Community Pharmacy Practice Management II. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Helps students develop the necessary foundation for the management of activities in community pharmacy practice settings with many of the skills developed in the course being equally applicable to other practice settings. This course focuses on developing and marketing community pharmacy services.

PHAR 661. Institutional Pharmacy Management. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Introduces students to the practice and management of pharmacy in institutional settings – hospitals, long-term care facilities, managed care settings and home health care. Students will learn issues unique to institutional practice and best practices for improving medication therapy in institutions. Faculty presentations, guest lectures, class exercises and outside assignments.

PHAR 662. Leadership and Advocacy. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 credits. Provides leadership and political advocacy development for students, including the officers of student organizations and those who wish to become leaders in the profession. Students will examine leadership as they explore current health care issues and gain direct experience in community action and the political advocacy process. From a broad perspective, all health care professions need effective leadership, and in turn effective political advocacy, to deal with the numerous issues facing the health care system. Many students are seeking new ways to understand and solve local and national problems, to demystify politics and to make concrete changes by having direct contact with public individuals. To meet these needs, the goals of this course are to strengthen the leadership ability of students and to enhance their potential for future leadership and advocacy roles within their profession and their communities. Graded H/P/F.

PHAR 663. Advanced Diabetes Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. An in-depth study of the care of patients with metabolic syndrome and diabetes. The etiology, pathophysiology, clinical course, clinical manifestations, prevention and management of diabetes will be reviewed through the use of online didactic presentations, patient cases, self-directed learning and active participation in classroom discussion. Emphasis is placed on the use of data to optimize pharmacotherapy for patient scenarios.

PHAR 666. Advanced Topics in Pharmacy. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Presentation of pharmacy subject matter by lectures, conferences or clinical site visits in selected areas of advanced study providing a discussion of topics beyond that provided in the required curriculum.

PHAR 670. Geriatric Pharmacy Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Students learn therapeutic aspects of providing health care to elderly people. Sociobehavioral aspects of aging related to pharmacotherapy outcomes also will be learned. Problems associated with drug use in the elderly and the importance of providing quality pharmaceutical care to ambulatory and institutionalized geriatric individuals will be emphasized.

PHAR 671. Applied Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Presents theoretical and practical topics relating to pharmacoeconomics and health outcomes research. Students will learn to critically appraise and discuss pharmaceutical outcomes research through lectures, readings, class participation and projects. Requires students to plan, initiate and present an outcomes research project that considers both clinical and economic issues of product or service selection.

PHAR 672. Advances in Mental Health Pharmacy Practice. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Students choose the topics for discussion in this elective course. They actively learn through small group discussions of the pharmacotherapy of psychiatric disorders. Students gain experience in patient rounds, practice-based projects, interpretation of clinical practice guidelines, use of the Internet and computer presentations.

PHAR 673. Advanced Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: PHAR 544. Students will gain a broader knowledge and deeper understanding of the etiology, pathophysiology, clinical course, clinical manifestations, prevention and management of cardiovascular disorders through the use of online didactic presentations, videos, patient cases, self-directed learning and active participation in classroom discussion.
PHAR 674. Advances in Community Pharmacy Practice and Therapeutics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 1 conference hours. 3 credits. This course will enable students to enhance their community practice and patient care skills. It will address strategies for marketing and documentation of clinical services including disease management, wellness and screening programs pertinent to community pharmacy practice. Students will visit community pharmacies for the practice component of this course.

PHAR 677. Infectious Diseases Pharmacotherapy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is designed to familiarize the student with principles of the rational treatment of human infectious diseases. Emphasis will be placed on learning the pharmacology, toxicology and pharmacokinetics/pharmacodynamics of antimicrobial agents; problems of antimicrobial resistance and the role of the pharmacist in combating resistance; the methods of obtaining and evaluating culture and susceptibility reports; and familiarity with infectious diseases literature. Students will attend daily consultation rounds with the infectious diseases service and will meet with the preceptor to discuss patients and plan for contributions to patient care.

PHAR 678. Women's Health: Pharmacotherapeutic Issues and Controversies. 2.5 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2.5 credits. This course addresses the prevention and management of disease in women. It is designed to expand upon the women's health topics presented in the pharmacotherapy course series. Problem-based learning, student presentations and clinical projects serve as the primary teaching methods.

PHAR 679. Critical Care Pharmacotherapy. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. This course consists of online recorded discussions and case presentations to familiarize the student with critical care pharmacotherapy. In addition to a discussion of various disease states, information will be provided about the critically ill patient, the environment of the intensive care unit and the role of the critical care pharmacist. The course is presented in a self-study, online format. Graded as H/P/F.

PHAR 685. Contemporary Topics in Pharmacy. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Explores how pharmacists prepare for and respond to the issues that affect the practice of pharmacy. Contemporary issues that relate to major health care needs, government health care activities, views by health professionals, health policies, health care economics, pharmacist attitudes and behaviors, pharmacy laws and regulations, pharmacy traditional views and opinions will be examined. Discussion and debate on these issues will help to prepare students for their future in pharmacy practice.

PHAR 686. Entrepreneurial Pharmacy and Independent Pharmacy Practice. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours/10 weeks. 2 credits. Provides a practical review of independent pharmacy practice from starting to running a pharmacy. Topics include financing, marketing, niche markets, store design and merchandising, technology, business relations, and contracts. The course will be taught through presentations/discussions by guest lecturers and a project.

PHAR 687. Introduction to Research in Pharmacy. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. A broad overview of the types of research conducted in the profession of pharmacy with a focus on clinical research. Students will achieve a broad appreciation of the research opportunities available in pharmacy and guidance in pursuit of a career in research. Format will consist of lectures, interactive discussions and demonstrations. Graded P/R.

PHAR 688. Applied Pharmacoepidemiology Research Methods. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: EPID 571 and BIOS 544 or permission of instructor. Provides an overview of the field of pharmacoepidemiology and its relationship to health care and research. Topics include selecting data sources, study design, data manipulation and analytical issues relevant to the conduct of pharmacoepidemiology research are covered. Students complete exercises to reinforce these topics, as well as prepare a formal project proposal. Research studies are also reviewed to help students develop skills in the critical evaluation of the pharmacoepidemiology literature.

PHAR 689. Pharmaceutical Policy Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ECON 500 or ECON/HADM 624 or permission of instructor. Examines a breadth of pharmaceutical policy issues pertaining to stakeholders in health care including the federal government, state governments, the pharmaceutical industry, pharmacies and pharmacists, and consumers. Using an economic approach to policy analysis, various competing thoughts and challenges to health care will be presented. Special attention will be paid to theoretical foundations and scientific rigor in approaching policy analysis.

PHAR 690. Pharmacy Research Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Required of all graduate students in pharmacy. Research seminar.

PHAR 691. Special Topics in Pharmacy. 1-5 Hours.
Semester course; 1-5 lecture hours. 1-5 credits. Presentation of subject matter is by lectures, tutorial studies and/or library assignments in selected areas of advanced study not available in other courses or as part of the research training. Graded as honors, high pass, pass, fail.

PHAR 697. Directed Research in Pharmacy. 1-15 Hours.
Semester course; 1-15 credits. Research leading to the M.S., Pharm.D., or Ph.D. degree.

PHAR 724. Pharmacy Law. 2.5 Hours.
Semester course; 2.5 lecture hours. 2.5 credits. A study of federal and state laws, including statutes, regulations and cases, affecting the practice of pharmacy and the distribution of drugs. This course includes material on ethics.

PHAR 760. Acute Care Pharmacy Practice I. 5 Hours.
Semester course; daily for 5 weeks. 5 credits. This course consists of 200 hours of advanced pharmacy practice experience in an acute care hospital setting. Students will actively participate in the delivery of patient care on a general medicine service. Students may participate in the following types of activities: rounding with a health care team, obtaining patient histories, identifying problems requiring therapeutic interventions, solving problems, consulting with physicians, monitoring patient outcomes and providing educational sessions for the professional staff. These services are expected to be integrated with the hospital pharmacy services. Graded as H/HP/P/F.

PHAR 761. Advanced Hospital Pharmacy Practice. 5 Hours.
Semester course; daily for 5 weeks. 5 credits. This course consists of 200 hours of advanced pharmacy practice experience in a hospital pharmacy department. Students will actively participate in pharmacy operations and services relating to systems for drug distribution and drug control, scope of clinical services provided by the department, management of the department, and department relationships within the institution and health system. Graded as H/HP/P/F.
PHAR 762. Geriatrics Pharmacy Practice. 5 Hours.
Semester course; daily for 5 weeks. 5 credits. This course consists of 200 hours of advanced pharmacy practice experience in a variety of settings with a predominately geriatric focus. These sites may include community pharmacies, specialty clinics, rehabilitation hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, home-based consult services and assisted living facilities. Students will focus on the unique medication-related needs of seniors and actively apply that special knowledge to provide quality pharmacy care to older adults. Graded as H/HP/P/F.

PHAR 763. Ambulatory Care Pharmacy Practice. 5 Hours.
Semester course; daily for 5 weeks. 5 credits. This course consists of 200 hours of advanced pharmacy practice experience in an ambulatory care, multidisciplinary practice setting. These sites may include hospital-based clinics, physician group practices, safety net clinics and managed care facilities that provide health care directly to patients. Students will actively participate in obtaining patient medical and medication histories, evaluating drug therapies, developing pharmacy care plans, monitoring patients’ therapeutic outcomes, consulting with physicians and non-physician providers and providing education to patients and health care professionals. Graded as H/HP/P/F.

PHAR 764. Community Pharmacy Practice. 5 Hours.
Semester course; daily for 5 weeks. 5 credits. In this course, students will participate in all facets of pharmacy practice in the community pharmacy setting. Students will be involved in dispensing, compounding, telephone consultation, patient counseling and nonprescription drug recommendations. Students also will be involved in patient assessment, monitoring intervention and follow-up care designed to improve the outcomes of drug therapy. Graded as H/HP/P/F.

PHAR 765. Elective I. 5 Hours.
Semester course; daily for 5 weeks. 5 credits. In this course, students will be able to participate in a variety of pharmacy practice settings. Graded as H/HP/P/F.

PHAR 766. Elective II. 5 Hours.
Semester course; daily for 5 weeks. 5 credits. In this course students participate in a variety of pharmacy practice settings. Graded as H/HP/P/F.

PHAR 767. Clinical Selective I. 5 Hours.
Semester course; daily for 5 weeks. 5 credits. Restricted to Pharm.D. dual-degree candidates. In this course students participate in a clinical rotation and may choose one of these pharmacy practice settings: ambulatory care, acute care, advanced community, institutional or geriatric. Graded as H/HP/P/F.

PHAR 768. Advanced Community Pharmacy Practice. 5 Hours.
Semester course; daily for 5 weeks. 5 credits. This course consists of 200 hours of advanced pharmacy practice experience in a community pharmacy setting. Students will focus primarily on patient care services and secondarily on patient-focused dispensing functions in these pharmacies. These services will focus on the identification, resolution and prevention of medication-related problems dealing with general medicine issues and medication therapy management. Students will actively participate in the following types of activities: interacting with patients, caregivers and prescribers; counseling, self-care consults and recommendations; administration of immunizations; and health and wellness screenings and information. Graded as H/HP/P/F.

PHAR 769. Clinical Selective II. 5 Hours.
Semester course; daily for 5 weeks (200 clinical hours). 5 credits. Restricted to Pharm.D. dual-degree candidates. In this course students participate in a clinical rotation and may choose one of these pharmacy practice settings: ambulatory care, acute care, advanced community, institutional or geriatric. Graded as H/HP/P/F.

PHAR 771. Student Pharmacist Professionalism. 1 Hour.
Continuing course; variable hours. 1 credit at end of four-year curriculum. Selected presentations and activities related to the development and enhancement of professional behavior in student pharmacists. Graded as CO until final semester, with pass/fail awarded on completion.

PHAR 773. Acute Care Pharmacy Practice II. 5 Hours.
Semester course; daily for 5 weeks. 5 credits. This course consists of 200 hours of advanced pharmacy practice experience in an acute care hospital setting. Students participate in the delivery of patient care in a general medicine or a medical specialty service. Students may participate in the following types of activities: rounding with a health care team, obtaining patient histories, identifying problems requiring therapeutic interventions, solving problems, consulting with physicians, monitoring patient outcomes and providing educational sessions for the professional staff. These services are expected to be integrated with the hospital pharmacy services. Graded as H/HP/P/F.

School of Social Work

Social Work (SLWK)

SLWK 601. Human Behavior in the Social Environment I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Provides a multidimensional theoretical and evidence-based approach to understanding the complex interactions of biological, psychological, spiritual, economic, political and sociocultural forces on the lives individuals, families and groups in a multicultural society. Required core curriculum course.

SLWK 602. Policy, Community and Organizational Practice I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Corequisite: SLWK 601. First of two foundation courses on social policy, policy practice and practice in communities and organizations. Surveys historical evolution of social welfare policy and contemporary provision of social welfare services, including the role of values in policy formulation and principles of social and economic justice. Introduces the social work role as change agent in legislative, community and organizational arenas. Uses social/behavioral knowledge and social work intervention models and applies analytical frameworks for assessing program, organizational and policy effectiveness. Develops skills in identification of need, designing strategies for change and policy analysis.

SLWK 603. Social Work and Social Justice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Enhances understanding of and appreciation for diversity in self and others. Addresses issues of power, inequality, privilege and resulting oppression. Analyzes oppression resulting from persistent social, educational, political, religious, economic and legal inequalities. Focuses on the experiences of oppressed groups in the U.S. in order to understand their strengths, needs and responses. Uses a social justice perspective for the study of and practice with oppressed groups. Required direct practice core curriculum course.
SLWK 604. Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 601, 602, 603. Introduces basic knowledge, skills and values necessary to provide a range of restorative, rehabilitative, maintenance and enhancement services in social work practice with individuals, families and groups. Introduces selected practice theories and models to guide intervention. Emphasizes the multidimensional and diverse contexts in which problems and needs are assessed and in which intervention occurs. Required direct practice core curriculum course.

SLWK 605. Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 604. Pre- or corequisites: SLWK 606 and SLWK 610. Extends application of beginning knowledge and skills to the phases of intervention with groups and families. Presents knowledge and skills of environmental intervention and termination. Introduces additional selected theories and models for social work practice with individuals, families and groups with attention to special populations and practice evaluation. Required direct practice core curriculum course.

SLWK 606. Policy, Community and Organizational Practice II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 602. The second of two foundation courses on social policy, policy practice and practice in communities and organizations. Examines values and ethical dilemmas facing professional social workers in organizations, communities and policy-making arenas. Explores legislative/political processes. Develops skills in legislative lobbying, advocacy, design of change strategies and tactics, policy analysis and task group leadership. Emphasizes reciprocal effects of policy on social work practice and implications for social and economic justice.

SLWK 607. Social Work Practice with Individuals, Families and Groups for Advanced-standing Students. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the advanced standing program. Corequisites: SLWK 608, 611 and 612. Students review approaches, principles, techniques and theories of micro social work practice and human behavior. Emphasis is on commonalities and differences among practice modalities, including differential assessment, intervention and evaluation of outcomes. Course includes weekly field instruction integrating seminar. This course is offered during the summer only. Required advanced standing program core curriculum course.

SLWK 608. Social Work Practice in Organizations and Communities for Advanced-standing Students. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the Advanced Standing Program. Corequisites: SLWK 607, 608 and 611. Reviews foundation-level knowledge, attitudes and skills acquired through social work education at the undergraduate level. Requires application, refinement and the active use of content from the advanced standing curriculum in supervised social work practice in a social agency. Graded P/F. Grade of P required to continue in the program.

SLWK 609. Foundations of Research in Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Introduces the methods of social work research, including problem formulation, research designs, measurement, data collection and sampling. Focuses on the application of critical-thinking skills, diversity and research methods of clinical social work practice effectiveness. Covers evaluation of social work programs and services. Required direct practice core curriculum course.

SLWK 610. Human Behavior in the Social Environment II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 601. Covers the life course from conception through late adulthood and/or death. Focuses on the influences of biological, psychological, spiritual, economic, political and sociocultural forces on individual and family coping and adaptation. Provides a multidimensional, multicultural perspective on the behavior of individuals and families based on theory and research with identification of the risk and protective mechanisms that influence development. Required core curriculum course.

SLWK 611. Social Work Research for Advanced-standing Students. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the advanced standing program. Corequisites: SLWK 607, 608 and 612. Reviews approaches to scientific inquiry in the development of knowledge for social work practice; problem formulation; concepts and operational definitions; measurement validity and reliability; selected social work research designs; planned data collection strategies and procedures. Required advanced standing program core curriculum course.

SLWK 612. Advanced-standing Field Instruction. 3 Hours.
Summer course; four eight-hour days in field instruction, followed by two days per week for nine weeks and completed with a full five-day week at the field instruction agency. 3 credits. Prerequisites: admission to the Advanced Standing Program. Corequisites: SLWK 607, 608 and 611. Reviews foundation-level knowledge, attitudes and skills acquired through social work education at the undergraduate level. Requires application, refinement and the active use of content from the advanced standing curriculum in supervised social work practice in a social agency. Graded P/F. Grade of P required to continue in the program.

SLWK 692. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 credits. Maybe be repeated for credit. Prerequisites: M.S.W. foundation standing and permission of instructor and M.S.W. program director. The student will be required to submit a proposal for study in an identified practice area or for exploration of a specific problem in social work not ordinarily included in the Master of Social Work curriculum. The results of the student’s study will be presented in a format determined by the instructor and student to be most effective for assessing study educational objectives/competencies and outcomes. A maximum of four independent study courses may be included in a student’s educational program.

SLWK 693. Foundation Field Instruction I. 3 Hours.
Continuous course; two days/14 hours per week. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisite: SLWK 604. Provides opportunities to master essential social work knowledge, values and skills through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor, monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes integration of content from all areas of the foundation curriculum. Grade of PR required for continuation from SLWK 693 to SLWK 694; converts to P upon completion of SLWK 694.

SLWK 694. Foundation Field Instruction II. 3 Hours.
Continuous course; two days/14 hours per week. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 693. Provides opportunities to master essential social work knowledge, values and skills through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor, monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes integration of content from all areas of the foundation curriculum. Graded P/F. Final grade of P required to continue in the program.
SLWK 695. Block Foundation Field Instruction. 6 Hours.
Semester course; five days a week for one semester. 6 credits.
Prerequisites: SLWK 605. Option for part-time students only. Provides opportunities to master essential social work knowledge, values and skills through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor, monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes the integration of content from all areas of the foundation curriculum. Graded P/F. Grade of P required to continue in the program.

SLWK 703. Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Disorders. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. This course reviews the epidemiology, etiology, classification (using the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders V) and course of a range of mental, emotional and behavioral disorders and conditions across the life span and the relevance of this knowledge to social work across practice settings. It emphasizes a biopsychosocial/spiritual assessment, a risk and protective factors framework, a critical analysis of existing and emerging theory, the impact of difference and diversity, an appreciation of the lived experience of these challenges for clients and their families, and the practical implications of this knowledge for relationship-building and treatment planning as well as interdisciplinary collaboration. Introduces knowledge of psychopharmacology. Required advanced clinical core curriculum course.

SLWK 704. Clinical Social Work Practice I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or corequisites: SLWK 703 and 706. Provides a multitheoretical orientation to intervention across fields of practice with individuals, families, couples and groups. Emphasizes contemporary psychodynamic and cognitive behavioral approaches and their empirical support. Focuses on multidimensional assessment and the differential application of therapeutic, supportive, educational and resource-management strategies to complex problems of children, youth and adults. Required advanced clinical core curriculum course.

SLWK 705. Clinical Social Work Practice II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 704; pre- or co-requisites: SLWK 707 and 710. Continues a multitheoretical orientation to intervention across fields of practice with emphasis on integrated family systems theory and multidimensional family assessment. Focuses on differential application of psychodynamic, cognitive-behavioral and family systems theories to a range of complex client problems and concerns with attention to diverse populations. Introduces basic knowledge of pharmacology related to social work intervention. Required advanced clinical core curriculum course.

SLWK 706. Research for Clinical Social Work Practice I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Review of statistical inference and decision-making using univariate and bivariate techniques. Introduction to computer applications for quantitative data and methods of analysis of qualitative data. Application of ethical standards for research involving human participants. Further development of critical-thinking skills in using empirical literature. Required advanced clinical core curriculum course.

SLWK 707. Research for Clinical Social Work Practice II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 706. Further development of critical-thinking skills for translating research findings into practice principles and measuring outcomes of clinical practice. Focus on data collection, data analysis, presentation of visual and statistical techniques for qualitative and quantitative research methods, and utilization of findings for improving clinical social work practice. Continued application of statistical inference, integration of empirical research findings and decision-making. Required advanced clinical core curriculum course.

SLWK 710. Concentration Social Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Focuses on advanced policy analysis through an in-depth, focused examination of a particular social policy area or population. Extends basic knowledge and skills of policy formulation, development and impact analysis/evaluation, as these affect practice on behalf of clients. Examines diversity of policy sources; value, political and economic determinants; policy formulation processes; the policy basis for current services; a broad range of potential need domains; and current programs and laws. Integrates knowledge of human behavior and the social environment relevant to the focal policy areas and pays special attention to issues of social and economic justice. Examines current policy issues, advocacy efforts related to these issues and practice strategies for effecting change.

SLWK 711. Strategies for Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Develops leadership and planning skills that guide the implementation of policy and practice in community and organizational settings. Present problem-solving strategies for planning, administration and management of community and organizational resources. Emphasizes planning context for diverse settings. Provides knowledge and skill for human and fiscal resource responsibilities, including fund raising. Examines ethical and justice implications of planning and administrative practice.

SLWK 712. Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Pre- or co-requisites: SLWK 711 and SLWK 714. Presents knowledge and skills for social work leadership in administering, developing and advocating social service policies and programs that are socially and economically just. Examines underlying assumptions, political, value and ethical considerations in social service planning. Presents knowledge of organizational theories and analyzes the political context of problem solving in the internal and external environments of organizations and programs. Focuses on community and organizational planning theories and models of intervention in assessing needs, analyzing problems, determining feasibility and identifying emergent dilemmas. Emphasizes development of critical thinking and self-awareness about role responsibilities and ethical positions for organizational and community leadership at local, state, national and international levels.
SLWK 713. Social Work Planning and Administrative Practice II. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 712.  
Continues development of knowledge and skills begun in SLWK 712.  
Examines traditional and alternative strategies in formulating proposals  
to address human needs. Emphasizes multiple program designs (e.g.,  
direct service, advocacy, staff development and training, and community  
empowerment programs). Incorporates understandings of policies,  
community, and organizational behavior and change, and leadership  
styles and skills. Analyzes feasibility of interorganizational partnerships  
and community relationships. Focuses on financial and human resource  
acquisition and mobilization, monitoring, accountability and evaluation.

SLWK 714. Research for Social Work Administration, Planning and Policy  
Practice I. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693  
and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Focuses on social work program  
and service evaluation including needs assessment, social indicators  
analysis, evidence-based practices, formative and summative evaluation  
designs using multiple method data collection and participatory  
approaches. Review of statistical inference and decision-making,  
introduction to computer applications for quantitative data and methods  
for analysis of qualitative data. Application of ethical standards for  
evaluation involving human participants.

SLWK 715. Research for Social Work Administration, Planning and Policy  
Practice II. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 714.  
Focuses on evaluation of social work programs and services including  
data collection, data analysis, presentation of visual and statistical  
techniques for qualitative and quantitative evaluation methods, and  
dissemination of evaluation findings. Continues review of statistical  
inference and decision-making. Emphasizes integrating evaluation  
findings into a knowledge base for social work administration, planning  
and policy practice using participatory approaches with stakeholders.

SLWK 716. Concentration Social Policy for Social Work Administration,  
Planning and Policy Practice. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693  
and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Extends SLWK 602 through 606  
content on policy practice, organizations, communities and advocacy.  
Criticizes analyzes traditional and alternative theories and models of  
the policy-making process. Demonstrates how the policy process is the  
core principle for decision-making in agencies, communities and legislatures.  
Develops advanced skills in policy analysis, policy formulation and place  
practice including advocacy. Emphasizes the relationship and impact  
of economic policies on clients, communities and agencies in light of  
principles of social and economic justice. Analyzes current regulatory  
and agency policies and their implications for policy practice/advocacy  
for effecting change.

SLWK 717. Social Work Practice in the School Setting. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693  
and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Emphasizes knowledge and skills  
of school social work practice with diverse populations in urban and rural  
school settings. Uses an ecological explanatory theoretical perspective  
to conceptualize the interdependence of school, family and community  
as complex interdependent systems that guide evidence-based practice  
interventions. Integrates a strengths-based social justice perspective  
for school-based concerns related to violence, racism, sexism, poverty  
and their impact on children and youth in educational settings. Advanced  
clinical elective and core curriculum course for school social work  
practice certification.

SLWK 718. Social Work Practice in Child Welfare. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisite: foundation curriculum or  
permission of the instructor and M.S.W. program director. Identifies  
the major social, demographic and economic changes in child welfare  
services that impact children – a vulnerable population – and their  
families. Builds on explanatory theories and related skill sets required  
for effective service delivery. Primary service areas are intervention,  
family preservation, child protection and permanency planning. Advanced  
clinical elective course.

SLWK 719. Gender and Substance Abuse: Social Work Practice Issues. 3  
Hours.  
Semester course; content delivered online. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s):  
SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Based on the social  
work person-in-environment explanatory multitheoretical perspective  
and current research to provide a multidimensional understanding of the  
influence of gender roles and biological sex in vulnerability to substance  
abuse and related problems. Evidence-based theory approaches are  
utilized to identify and address the effects of substance abuse and  
related problems for men, women and children. Advanced clinical elective  
course.

SLWK 720. Social Work Practice in Mental Health. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693  
and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Focuses on social work practice  
in a variety of health care settings with a range of explanatory theories  
conceptualizing health care issues and identifies related interventions  
from prevention and health promotion to end-of-life care. Explores ethical  
and legal issues and introduces frameworks for addressing ethical  
dilemmas. Examines the role of the social worker on an interdisciplinary  
team. Examines the influence of economics, political decisions,  
technology, changing demographics and cultural, social and spiritual/  
religious experiences on individual health care decisions, access to  
health care and definitions of health and illness. Advanced clinical  
elective course.

SLWK 726. Social Work Practice and Health Care. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693  
and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Focuses on social work practice  
in a variety of health care settings with a range of explanatory theories  
conceptualizing health care issues and identifies related interventions  
from prevention and health promotion to end-of-life care. Explores ethical  
and legal issues and introduces frameworks for addressing ethical  
dilemmas. Examines the role of the social worker on an interdisciplinary  
team. Examines the influence of economics, political decisions,  
technology, changing demographics and cultural, social and spiritual/  
religious experiences on individual health care decisions, access to  
health care and definitions of health and illness. Advanced clinical  
elective course.

SLWK 727. Trauma and Social Work Practice: Theory, Assessment and  
Intervention. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693  
and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Provides advanced explanatory  
theoretical knowledge and skills to explain, identify, assess and provide  
effective and competent evidence-based trauma intervention services to  
survivors of complex traumatic experiences. Focuses on the evidence- 
based biopsychosocial consequences of childhood sexual and physical  
abuse and military/war trauma experiences in daily functioning on  
individuals, families and groups. Advanced clinical elective course.

SLWK 728. The Interdisciplinary Team in Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.  
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693  
and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Explores definitions and analyzes  
interdisciplinary team approaches. Studies the roles and functions of  
participants on interdisciplinary teams. Emphasizes similarities and  
differences between social work and other disciplines as members of  
teams. Explores opportunities for, and obstacles to, effective service  
delivery by teams.
SLWK 739. Social Work and the Law. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Overview of fundamental principles of Anglo-American law; structure and function of the legal system and its professional membership; lawyers and their working relationship with social workers. Emphasizes client-centered problems encountered in the legal community and the role social workers can play in helping clients deal with those encounters. Explores issues relative to client needs such as welfare rights, consumer protection, mental health treatment, family-related law and discrimination relative to education, housing, employment, health care. Discusses legal issues confronting social work, such as confidentiality, licensing, advocacy and witnessing.

SLWK 740. Social Work Crisis Intervention and Planned Short-term Treatment. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Examines explanatory conceptual and theoretical aspects of the differential use of crisis intervention and planned short-term social work intervention. Explores evidence-based crisis models that guide direct interventions, consultation, collaboration and service-delivery issues. Advanced clinical elective course.

SLWK 741. Social Work Practice and the Neurosciences. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. The course introduces the social work student to the increasingly important field of neuroscience and the numerous explanatory theories which underlie this science (e.g. neuroplasticity, epigenetics, neurodevelopmental view of trauma, pharmacogenomics, neurobiology of addiction). Focus is placed on why neuroscience research is important for the discipline of social work and how specific neuroscience findings can be utilized by the social work practitioner to enhance practice interventions. Though the field of neuroscience is extensive, this course will focus on several areas that are of particular relevance to social work practice.

SLWK 742. Core Concepts of Child and Adolescent Trauma. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 693 and SLWK 694; or SLWK 695. This course will introduce students to the core concepts (explanatory theory and foundational knowledge) that inform evidence-based assessment and intervention with traumatized children and adolescents. Strength-based practice will be highlighted along with a focus on the identification of protective and promotive factors that foster resiliency and post-traumatic growth. Trauma is broadly defined, and subjects include children and adolescents exposed to traumatic events including, but not limited to natural disasters, war, abuse and neglect, medical trauma, and witnessing interpersonal crime (e.g. domestic violence) and other traumatic events. The course will highlight the role of development, culture and empirical evidence in trauma-specific interventions with children, adolescents and their families. It will address the level of functioning of primary caregiving environments and assess the capacity of the community to facilitate restorative processes.

SLWK 743. Spirituality and Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694, SLWK 695; or SLWK 612.. Designed to educate students for advanced social work practice with persons of diverse religious and nonreligious perspectives of spirituality. It provides a comprehensive introduction to spiritually sensitive social work and is intended to expand the explanatory theories that inform professional social work practice. The concepts of person-in-environment and strengths become vivid as the student in practicum assesses how individuals may use spirituality to establish meaning and purpose in relation to their goals of daily living.

SLWK 745. Social Work Practice in Community Mental Health. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Provides the specialized knowledge, values and skills requisite in community mental health settings. Builds on the explanatory biopsychosocial model of mental health/illness. Focuses on current evidence-based psychotherapeutic, psychoeducational, and skill-training models and approaches used with individuals, families and groups experiencing or affected by a range of mental health problems. Examines interdisciplinary teamwork, case management, advocacy and medication management roles. Advanced clinical elective course.

SLWK 746. Social Work Practice and Psychopharmacology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612.. Reviews the historical, political and ethical context of psychotropic medications in social work practice. Provides an explanatory theoretical overview of psychopharmacology and social work roles and skill sets in medication management for effective collaboration with clients, families and other mental health practitioners on medication-related issues. Advanced clinical elective course.

SLWK 747. Social Work Intervention with Children and Adolescents. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. . Provides students with the opportunity for concentrated study and application of a range of specific explanatory theoretical models and evidence-based intervention strategies with children, adolescents and their families. Special attention is given to multicultural theoretical approaches that guide approaches to providing services to children and adolescents from diverse racial, ethnic, social and sexual orientation backgrounds and diverse settings. Advanced clinical elective course.

SLWK 748. Group Methods in Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. . Presents several conceptual models of therapeutic groups that explain group dynamics and processes, including evidence-based treatment, educational and mutual aid/self-help. Covers agency conditions affecting practice with groups, the planning of new groups, the multiple phases of group process, and related theory-based interventions and techniques of work with groups and group practice evaluation. Advanced clinical elective course.

SLWK 749. Social Work Intervention in Substance Abuse. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. . Provides students with the physiological, emotional and behavioral manifestations of substance abuse, DSM-IV-TR-based assessment, a range of relevant evidence-based intervention strategies and the role of social workers in evaluation and intervention. Covers explanatory theory models that guide substance abuse intervention and presents screening, assessment and interventional techniques. Current research and controversies in the field are also emphasized. Advanced clinical elective course.

SLWK 750. Ethics and Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Examines the history and development of the values base and ethical principles of the social work profession. Investigates codes of ethics for professional practice, with special attention to the principles of human relationships, integrity, social justice and competence. Analyzes ethical dilemmas in social work practice. Considers mechanisms for the enforcement of ethical codes.
SLWK 751. Social Work Practice and AIDS. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612 . Focuses on information, knowledge and skills needed to provide social work services to persons with ARC and AIDS and their families. Emphasizes epidemiological material, psychological and psychosocial aspects of AIDS and ARC for understanding the context of social policies and social work intervention. Addresses differential application of social work roles and functions.

SLWK 753. Social Work Practice with Oppressed Racial and Ethnic Groups. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Focuses on enhancing the student’s micro and macro social work interventions with oppressed racial and ethnic groups. Addresses the social and economic context in which social work practice occurs. Examines history, ethics, values, attitudes and behaviors of the student and the profession as they relate to assessment and intervention with oppressed racial and ethnic groups. Assesses intervention frameworks and techniques for their appropriateness and effectiveness with these groups.

SLWK 755. Social Work Practice in Organizing for Social Change. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. An advanced practice course that recognizes the central role of social action in social work practice, no matter the context, and the value of social justice, no matter what client population. Built on the idea of multiple perspectives and using the Rothman model of organizing, it assumes students already possess basic policy practice and direct practice skills in order to focus on the dimensions of social action and locality development.

SLWK 757. Special Topics in Clinical Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: SLWK 703 and 704. Provides knowledge and skills for intervention across fields of practice with the use of up to three clinical practice theories or intervention modalities that are not emphasized in required clinical practice courses. Focuses on the differential application of intervention strategies to problems of children, youth and adults. Examines the impact of diversity in clinical practice.

SLWK 759. Art Therapy in Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Focuses on explanatory theory supporting art therapy as an evidence-based approach to clinical social work intervention. Explores the models, principles and techniques of art therapy in social work practice. Examines assessment, intervention, termination and evaluation strategies that supplement traditional social work treatment, including research and specific evidence-based practice strategies for individuals, families, groups and diverse populations.

SLWK 761. Interpersonal Violence. 3 Hours.
Semester course (hybrid course with both in-class and online sessions); 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Increases understanding of interpersonal violence explanatory theory and practice knowledge for a wide range of client systems throughout the lifespan. Included are prenatal exposure to interpersonal violence, child abuse and neglect, teen dating violence, intimate partner violence, children’s experience with intimate partner violence, and elder abuse. Victim and perpetrator experiences related to interpersonal violence will be highlighted. Resiliency and experiences of diverse populations from an evidence-based person-in-environment theoretical perspective are emphasized. Prevention theory strategies and relevant interpersonal violence policy issues are also addressed.

SLWK 765. Supervision. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. . Explores task components and responsibilities in supervision of the social worker. Emphasizes a conceptual framework for supervision, including knowledge base, methods and skill in supervision. Attention to affirmative action programs in social service delivery systems.

SLWK 769. Women's Issues and Social Work Practice. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Explores new perspectives on women and their changing roles as these affect social work practice; direct and indirect ways sexist attitudes are acquired and conveyed; effects of changing female roles of human behavior theory and its application, development of new life styles; social work theories and their relevance to today’s world; current women’s issues; and the social worker’s role as counselor and advocate.

SLWK 770. International Social Work Study Abroad. 3 Hours.
Semester course (international study); 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. Examines social work clinical and policy practice, social pedagogy and the social welfare system of another country that includes a field trip to the country. Examines a range of issues pertaining to the country, including: society, culture and history; social work education; the social welfare system; selected social programs; social work clinical and policy practice; and comparisons of these topics between the country and the U.S. Requires completion of several course units before the study abroad program.

SLWK 773. Program Evaluation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 or 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. . Presents methods, problems and research findings related to the evaluation of social welfare programs. Examines research design options and methodologies available for program evaluation. Explores organizational and administrative contexts in which evaluation activities are initiated, supported, disseminated and utilized. Presents data processing and the roles of data analysis and the computer in the evaluation of social welfare programs.

SLWK 791. Topical Seminar. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course. 1-3 lecture hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. . Presents and analyzes current social work practice theories and/or issues in specialized areas of interest to social work. Advanced clinical curriculum elective course.

SLWK 792. Independent Study. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; 1-6 lecture hours. 1-6 credits. Prerequisite(s): SLWK 693 and 694; or SLWK 695; or SLWK 612. The student is required to submit a proposal, guided by theory, for investigation in an identified practice area or problem in social work not ordinarily included in the regular M.S.W. curriculum. The topic is proposed by the student; the number of credit hours is determined by the instructor and approved by the M.S.W. program director. The results of the study are presented in a format determined by the instructor and student and approved by the M.S.W. program director. Concentration year elective course.
SLWK 793. Concentration Field Instruction I. 3 Hours.
Continuous course; 21 hours per week. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 704. First of a two-semester sequence that provides opportunities to master advanced social work application of theory knowledge, values and skills through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor, monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes integration of content from all areas of the concentration curriculum. Completion of two-semester sequence requires 630 structured field hours. Practicum supervisor has LCSW credentials or clinical course of study M.S.W. with three years post-M.S.W. clinical experience. Advanced clinical field instruction.

SLWK 794. Concentration Field Instruction II. 3 Hours.
Continuous course; 21 hours per week. 3 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 793. Second of a two-course sequence provides opportunities to master advanced social work application of theory knowledge, values and skills through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor, monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes integration of content from all areas of the concentration curriculum. Completion of two-semester sequence requires 630 structured field hours. Practicum supervisor has LCSW credentials or clinical course of study M.S.W. with three years post-M.S.W. clinical experience. Advanced clinical field instruction.

SLWK 795. Concentration Block Field Instruction. 6 Hours.
Semester fieldwork; five days a week for one semester. 6 credits. Prerequisite: SLWK 795. Advanced clinical block field instruction (option for part-time students). Provides opportunities to master advanced social work knowledge, values and skills through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor, monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes integration of content from all areas of the concentration curriculum. Completion of course requires 600 structured field hours. Practicum supervisor has LCSW credentials or clinical course of study M.S.W. with three years post-M.S.W. clinical experience. Advanced clinical field instruction.

SLWK 796. Concentration Field Instruction DE I. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 15 hours per week. 2 credits. Prerequisites: M.S.W. concentration standing; enrollment in the distance education program. Pre- or corequisites: SLWK 703, 704-705, 706-707, 710 and electives; or SLWK 710, 711, 712-713, 714 -715 and electives; or foundation curriculum; or permission of the instructor and M.S.W. program director. Course provides opportunities to master advanced social work application of theory knowledge, values and skills through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor and monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes integration of content from all areas of the concentration curriculum. Completion of course requires 210 structured field hours. Practicum supervisor has LCSW credentials or clinical course of study M.S.W. with three years post-M.S.W. clinical experience. Advanced clinical field instruction.

SLWK 797. Concentration Field Instruction DE II. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 15 hours per week. 2 credits. Prerequisites: M.S.W. concentration standing; enrollment in the distance education program; SLWK 796. Pre- or corequisites: SLWK 703, 704-705, 706-707, 710 and electives; or SLWK 710, 711, 712-713, 714 -715 and electives; or foundation curriculum; or permission of the instructor and M.S.W. program director. Course provides opportunities to master advanced social work application of theory knowledge, values and skills through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor and monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes integration of content from all areas of the concentration curriculum. Completion of course requires 210 structured field hours. Practicum supervisor has LCSW credentials or clinical course of study M.S.W. with three years post-M.S.W. clinical experience. Advanced clinical field instruction.

SLWK 798. Concentration Field Instruction DE III. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 15 hours per week. 2 credits. Prerequisites: M.S.W. concentration standing; enrollment in the distance education program; SLWK 796, SLWK 797. Pre- or corequisites: SLWK 703, 704-705, 706-707, 710 and electives; or SLWK 710, 711, 712-713, 714 -715 and electives; or foundation curriculum; or permission of the instructor and M.S.W. program director. Course provides opportunities to master advanced social work application of theory knowledge, values and skills through practice under the direction of an agency-based field instructor and monitored by a faculty field liaison. Emphasizes integration of content from all areas of the concentration curriculum. Completion of course requires 210 structured field hours. Practicum supervisor has LCSW credentials or clinical course of study M.S.W. with three years post-M.S.W. clinical experience. Advanced clinical field instruction.

Social Work – Doctorate (SWKD)

SWKD 701. Quantitative Research Methods and Analysis I. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: master’s-level course work in research methods and introduction to statistics; graduate standing in social work or permission of program director. First of a three-semester course sequence focused on concentrated study of principles of the quantitative, scientific method for knowledge building, and practice- and policy-related research. Special emphasis on the different stages of research methods, including problem formulation, sampling, measurement, design and data collection within the context of professional values, ethics and commitment to social justice.

SWKD 702. Quantitative Research Methods and Analysis II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: master’s-level course work in research methods and introduction to statistics, graduate standing in social work or permission of program director; SWKD 701. Second of a three-semester course sequence focused on concentrated study of principles of quantitative, scientific method for knowledge building, and practice- and policy-related research. Special emphasis on the application of descriptive and inferential statistical techniques within the context of applied social work research.

SWKD 703. Philosophical Issues in Social Work Knowledge Building. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to Ph.D. program in social work or permission of program director. This seminar focuses on assisting seminar participants to develop and refine their understanding of the logical foundations and the underlying meta-framework for modes of inquiry in science. Of particular focus will be the social sciences including social work. Using a paradigm perspective, the seminar will investigate the epistemological, ontological and methodological implications for knowledge building for social work.

SWKD 704. Multiparadigmatic Qualitative Methods and Analysis. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 4 lecture hours. 4 credits. Focuses on assisting participants to develop and refine their understanding of and skills in qualitative research from multiple paradigmatic perspectives. The course will investigate a variety of qualitative strategies that allow for examination, exploration and/or description of phenomena by theory building, theory testing or constructing meaning. Emphasis will be on a range of qualitative methods for collecting empirical material and methods for the analysis of those data, including decisions about the use of computer analysis.
SWKD 705. Multivariate Analysis in Social Work and Human Services Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: master’s-level course work in research methods and introduction to statistics, graduate standing in social work or permission of program director, and SWKD 701 and 702. The third of a three-semester course sequence focused on concentrated study of principles of the quantitative, scientific method for knowledge building and practice- and policy-related research. Special emphasis on the application and interpretation of multivariate statistical techniques within the context of applied social work research.

SWKD 708. Social Science Foundations for Social Work. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: admission to the Ph.D. program in social work or permission of program director. This doctoral seminar focuses on theories and conceptual approaches used as the knowledge base for social work practice. Emphasis will be given to developing the abilities of students to identify the essential elements of theory, determining the knowledge building purposes of theory and articulating the rationale for selection of theories as a basis and guide for scholarly inquiry. In addition, theories are officially evaluated for their implicit assumptions, values, empirical support and potential usefulness for students’ own specialized area of study. Classic and contemporary theories covered will be drawn from the social sciences with an emphasis on those appropriate for the social change and social justice concerns of social work.

SWKD 710. Social Work, Social Welfare and Social Thought. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: doctoral program admission or permission of instructor. Required seminar for social work doctoral students. Examination of social work, its roles and functions in relation to contemporary social problems, social policy and social work practice interventions that provide solutions to these problems. Analysis of issues of social welfare and the social work profession relating to structure, functions and history from the perspective of social work values, ethics, professional standards and concern for social justice. Designed to foster a critical perspective on the profession in its environment and provide grounding in the historical and cultural traditions and major streams of social thought influencing the profession, its development and the American system of social welfare.

Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. A required seminar for second-year doctoral students that builds on behavioral science theory and research methods/data analysis courses. This course offers analytical and comparative perspectives on classic and contemporary theories and models of change that underlie real-world social work practice interventions, services, programs and policies across system sizes, and the research approaches and methods used to evaluate their implementation and impact. Students discover existing practice theories and models of change related to their own substantive interest in solving a pressing social problem or human challenge and propose a new theoretically and empirically grounded change strategy that contributes to the science of social work, including the advancement of social justice and/or an appreciation of diversity.

SWKD 722. Evaluation of Human Service Programs. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Ph.D. program standing or permission of instructor. Application of social research methods to the planning and development of evaluation research in human service programs. Covers the planning and evaluation cycle, categories of evaluation (evaluability assessment, needs assessment, social indicators, asset mapping, process, performance, outcome and impact), roles of evaluators and stakeholders, development and use of program theory, and dissemination of evaluation results for policy and program improvement.

SWKD 724. Constructivist Inquiry. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Ph.D. program standing or permission of program director. The purpose of this course is to: 1) contrast interpretive and functionalist (positivist) inquiry paradigms and note the conditions under which each is the paradigm of choice for research; 2) clarify the relationship between constructivist and qualitative methodologies; 3) acquaint the student with some of the more common constructivist methods and to offer opportunities in applying those methods; 4) prepare the student to act as a peer reviewer or auditor in a constructivist inquiry.

SWKD 726. Seminar on Social Work Education and Teaching. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Enrollment requires Ph.D. program standing or permission of program director. This doctoral seminar prepares students to become effective and ethical social work educators. The course focuses on teaching and learning approaches in higher education, assessment of educational outcomes, curriculum design and course development, roles and responsibilities of faculty members, and historical and contemporary trends in social work education.

SWKD 791. Topical Seminar. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. May be repeated once for credit. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Study of the current state of knowledge and research within a specialized area of concern to social policy and social work.

SWKD 792. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1, 2 or 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of the program director. Independent reading and study in selected areas under the supervision of a member of the faculty. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits that count toward the 36 required credits. May then be taken for an additional 1-12 credits to accommodate the need for continuous enrollment required of all students between completion of required course work and passage of the comprehensive examinations.

SWKD 797. Directed Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 credits. Prerequisite: completion of first-year Ph.D. courses in social work or permission of program director. The course provides doctoral students the opportunity to do hands-on research prior to the dissertation project that is relevant to their substantive area or individual learning needs. The topic and specific project will be initiated by the student and implemented in collaboration with a School of Social Work faculty member. A proposal for a directed research course must be submitted that specifies how the student will gain experience, knowledge and skills in one or more aspects of conducting a research project, including conceptualization of the question; development of a graphic or visual schema; measurement design and/or instrument development; qualitative, quantitative or mixed-methods research design and implementation; data collection or data management; data analysis; and dissemination of findings. Students may create their own project or dovetail with existing student or faculty projects.
SWKD 798. Integrative Seminar. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 seminar hour. 1 credit. This seminar in the final semester of course work is a capstone course designed to highlight and extend the integration of learning, stress the "wholeness" of the doctoral experience and more intentionally embrace the program themes related to integration, critical thinking, and social justice and diversity. The course serves as organizing structure for understanding gaps in one's own knowledge base, practice peer mentoring and leadership in nurturing an intellectual community, and cooperatively plan final aspects of comprehensive exam study. It is seen as one vehicle for understanding the context of the student's line of inquiry and for deepening professional development, identity and career preparation as a social work scholar and leader. Graded as S/U/F.

SWKD 898. Dissertation Research. 1-16 Hours.
Semester course; 1-16 credits. Prerequisite: successful completion of comprehensive examinations or permission of program director. Students are required to complete 16 credit hours. May be taken for additional credits until dissertation is formally accepted.

VCU Life Sciences
Bioinformatics (BNFO)
BNFO 501. Introduction to Physical Implementation of Databases. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Basic searching and sorting algorithm design, and advanced data structures including hashing and B-trees.

BNFO 505. Essentials of Statistics in Bioinformatics. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: Statistics and permission of instructor. An intensive course designed for graduate students in either the biology/genomics or the computational science tracks of the bioinformatics program, aimed at providing the background in statistical concepts necessary for them to participate in graduate-level courses involving statistics. The course will focus on areas of particular interest in bioinformatics, including probability, combinatorics and linear models.

BNFO 507. Essentials of Molecular Biology in Bioinformatics. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: Cell biology and permission of instructor; Pre- or corequisite: Organic chemistry or permission of instructor. An intensive course designed for graduate students in either the biology/genomics or the computational science tracks of the bioinformatics program, aimed at providing the background in statistical concepts necessary for them to participate in graduate-level courses involving statistics. The course will focus on areas of particular interest in bioinformatics, including probability, combinatorics and linear models.

BNFO 508. Introduction to Bioinformatics Research. 2 Hours.
Semester course; lectures and 3 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Prerequisites: graduate status and permission of instructor. Introduction to all active research programs in bioinformatics. Presentations of research programs by investigators and rotation of students through track-appropriate faculty labs to gain direct exposure to individual research projects. Graded as S/U/F. Required of all first-year students pursuing the thesis option (M.S.).

BNFO 514. Modeling Biocomplexity. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2.5 lecture and .5 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: one year of calculus. Introduction to the modeling and simulation of the behavior of complex biological systems, including models in both continuous and discrete time. Numerical methods using mathematica, analytical methods using calculus and laboratory experiments using computer interfaces will be used to study population dynamics and the behavior of physiological systems exhibiting such properties as oscillations and chaotic biological dynamics. Crosslisted as: PHYS 514.

BNFO 530. Bioinformatics and Genomics in Drug Research. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Covers the basic elements of cellular pathways and drug interactions, and how modern genomics comes into play. Presents bioinformatics principles being used every day in data-intensive fields of research. Introductory and concept-oriented, the course will prepare students for grasping how bioinformatics is being used in many areas of biomedical sciences. Geared toward students coming from a variety of backgrounds in biology, biochemistry and chemistry. While many of the analytical approaches are statistical in nature, there is no requirement for a background in statistics or mathematics. Each student will have the opportunity to design a small project applying bioinformatics concepts. Crosslisted as: MEDC 530.

BNFO 540. Fundamentals of Molecular Genetics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BIOL 310 or consent of instructor. The basic principles and methodologies of molecular biology and genetics are applied to genome organization, replication, expression, regulation, mutation and reorganization. Emphasis will be placed on a broad introduction to and integration of important topics in prokaryotic and eukaryotic systems. Crosslisted as: BIOL 540.

BNFO 541. Laboratory in Molecular Genetics. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 2 credits. Pre- or corequisite: BIOL 540 or equivalent. Experiments are designed to apply advanced techniques and concepts of molecular biology and genetics using prokaryotic and eukaryotic systems. Emphasis will be placed on experimental design, integrating results throughout the semester, making use of relevant published literature, scientific writing and providing hands-on experience with advanced equipment and methodologies. Crosslisted as: BIOL 541.

BNFO 591. Special Topics in Bioinformatics. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable lecture hours. 1-4 credits. Adviser's approval is required for counting each special topics course toward meeting specific requirements of the master's program. An introductory, detailed study of a selected topic in bioinformatics unavailable as an existing VCU course. If multiple topics are offered, students may elect to take more than one. Graded as "S," "U" or "F." Students will find specific topics and prerequisites for each special topics course listed in the Schedule of Classes.

BNFO 592. Independent Study. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; variable lecture hours. Variable credits. Determination of the amount of credit and permission of instructor, adviser and curriculum committee must be obtained prior to registration for this course. Designed to provide an opportunity for independent study at an introductory graduate level in a bioinformatics-related area of interest and significance to the student outside what is available through the courses and other options in the Bioinformatics Program. Graded as "S," "U" or "F."
BNFO 600. Basic Scripting Languages. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Basics of programming in PERL or other appropriate scripting language.

BNFO 601. Integrated Bioinformatics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Presents major concepts in bioinformatics through a series of real-life problems to be solved by students. Problems addressed will include but not be limited to issues in genomic analysis, statistical analysis and modeling of complex biological phenomena. Emphasis will be placed on attaining a deep understanding of a few widely used tools of bioinformatics. Crosslisted as: BIOL 601.

BNFO 602. Bioinformatics Practicum. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. BNFO 601/BIOL 601 or permission of instructor. Practical application of bioinformatics to genomic, proteomic and pharmacogenomic analyses. Students will work in small groups to plan, develop and execute a project designed to solve practical challenges in the realm of bioinformatics. Proficiency in various aspects of bioinformatics will be developed.

BNFO 621. Business and Entrepreneurship Essentials for Life Scientists. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Consists of presentations on the core concepts of business, including intellectual property, patents and patent law, entrepreneurship, launching a “start up,” raising capital, financial management, marketing, managerial accounting, planning, and project management. Course includes lectures and discussions on core concepts of business and their real-world application. Students will develop a business plan and/or a plan to manage a research project. Business case studies and team projects with presentations are required. Focus is on the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries.

BNFO 637. Networks Biology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2.5 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: prior course work in cell biology or molecular biology, or permission of instructor. Covers in detail networks as a basic tool for the systems biology approach to biology and medicine, particularly on the molecular level. Qualitative and quantitative aspects of biological systems and processes will be identified and analyzed. The course focuses on the biochemical networks formed in the cell from genes, proteins and metabolites. Network structure and dynamics will be characterized proceeding from graph theory and other mathematical methods. Essential part of the course is the practical work with basic software for building, manipulation and analysis of biological networks, as well as for identifying structural motifs and modules, and comparative network organisms (human, drosophila, yeast, C. elegans).

BNFO 650. Sequence Analysis in Biological Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: BNFO 601/BIOL 601 or permission of instructor. This course will treat the computational theory behind algorithms that are used for nucleic acid and protein sequence analysis. Students will be exposed to the theory and methodology of computational biology that has led to the development of current sequence analysis software. The objective of the course is to provide students with a basic knowledge of how current software tools have been developed and how they function, which will permit them to then apply this knowledge to the development of new algorithms and technology.

BNFO 653. Advanced Molecular Genetics: Bioinformatics. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: Cell/molecular biology or permission of instructor. An advanced course on contemporary bioinformatics. Topics covered include the principles and practice of DNA, RNA and protein sequence analysis, computational chemistry and molecular modeling, expression array analysis and pharmacogenomics. The course includes lectures, reading, computer lab, homework problem sets and projects. Crosslisted as: MICR 653.

BNFO 690. Seminars in Bioinformatics. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Presentation and discussion of research topics of current interest in the field of bioinformatics. Graded as "S," "U" or "F.

BNFO 691. Special Topics in Bioinformatics. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. Adviser’s approval is required for counting each special topics course toward meeting specific requirements of the master’s program. An advanced, detailed study of a selected topic in bioinformatics unavailable as an existing VCU course. If multiple topics are offered, students may elect to take more than one. Students will find specific topics and prerequisites for each special topics course listed in the Schedule of Classes.

BNFO 692. Independent Study. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. Variable credit. Determination of the amount of credit and permission of the instructor, adviser and curriculum committee must be obtained prior to registration for this course. A course designed to provide an opportunity for independent study in a bioinformatics-related area of interest and significance to the student outside what is available through the courses and other options in the Bioinformatics Program.

BNFO 697. Directed Research in Bioinformatics. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-9 credits. May be repeated for credit. Directed research leading to the M.S. degree in bioinformatics. Graded as S/U/F.

BNFO 700. Externship in Bioinformatics. 1,2 Hour.
Semester course; variable hours. 1 or 2 credits. Prerequisites: BNFO 601/BIOL 601 and BNFO 620, or permission of instructor. Typically off-campus planned experiences for advanced graduate students designed to extend professional competencies, carried out in a professional setting under supervision of an approved professional. Externship activities monitored and evaluated by university faculty. Plan of experience designed by extern and external adviser with prior approval of department. An externship class will meet weekly using online technology to accommodate students doing out-of-town summer externships. Each externship will be a defined project leading to a required final report or product and offering real potential benefits to the sponsoring company/lab. Subsequent to the externship, a presentation to program faculty and students is required.
Environmental Studies (ENVS)

ENVS 515. Mangrove Avian Field Ecology. 4 Hours.
Semester course; 2 weeks study abroad in Panama (or other tropical location with mangrove forests); 3 lecture and 3 laboratory hours. 4 credits. Prerequisites: BIOL 317. This course provides students with an immersive study of tropical ecology with a focus on bird ecology and conservation of mangrove ecosystems through a unique blend of rigorous science and community engagement. While studying abroad during the winter intersession, students learn about mangrove ecosystems by collecting data on birds and habitat and by reading and discussing scientific papers. Students also engage with local conservation organizations leading efforts to protect wetland habitats. Throughout the spring semester, students read and discuss related research and conduct data analysis. Students also participate in education outreach with local schools. Progress and research findings are presented in a symposium open to the public. Students are challenged by this course as they are asked to collect, analyze, interpret and make sense of the data in light of what others have found.

ENVS 521. Introduction to Geographic Information Systems. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. An introduction to creating and using geographically referenced databases for urban and environmental analysis and planning. Includes geographic and remote sensing data structures, global positioning systems, spatial analysis, geographic data standards, public domain software and data resources, and principles of cartography design. Lab exercises in the use of geographic information systems software tools. Crosslisted as: URSP 521/GEOG 521.

ENVS 541. Principles of Waste Management. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Design and operation of waste treatment, storage, disposal and control processes will be covered. Design tanks, landfills and incinerators will be discussed in detail. Data acquisition and interpretation methods needed for process control and monitoring will be examined.

ENVS 550. Ecological Risk Assessment. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: course work in ecology, or permission of instructor. Ecological risk assessment provides an introduction to the concepts and practice of risk assessment as applied to ecological applications, focusing on the United States. The course will examine the history of risk assessment in U.S. environmental regulation and policy, development and practice of ecological risk assessment and application to regional issues. All students will conduct a risk assessment for a regional case study.

ENVS 556. Historical and Cultural Landscapes. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Open only to seniors who have completed ANTH 302 or 303 and graduate students with permission of instructor. Students will study historical and contemporary landscapes as the products of the producers of human culture, with particular attention to riverine landscapes. Focus will be on the ways in which humans shape and respond to their ecosystems. Students will participate in an active field research program, including the archaeological recovery and analysis of historical landscapes. Crosslisted as: ANTH 556.

ENVS 590. Research Seminar in Environmental Studies. 1 Hour.
An interdisciplinary examination of problems and issues related to environmental studies.

ENVS 591. Topics in Environmental Studies. 1-3 Hours.
Variable hours. 1-3 credits per semester. May be repeated with different topics for a maximum of 6 credits. An in-depth study of a selected environmental topic. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester and prerequisites.

ENVS 601. Survey in Environmental Studies. 3 Hours.
Provides a foundational understanding of issues central to environmental studies. Lectures will address the theoretical and scientific basis for a variety of pertinent issues, including: and water quality and quantity, pollution prevention, environmental law and policy, population growth, global climate change, conservation, and human and ecological health.

ENVS 602. Environmental Technology. 1-3 Hours.
This course gives students the opportunity to develop skills not available in the traditional academic setting. Students take two to four workshops offered by the Center for Environmental Studies in its Environmental Technology Training Workshop series. Students will complete an additional project related to each workshop or series of workshops for evaluation purposes.

ENVS 603. Environmental Research Methods. 3 Hours.
Prerequisite: STAT 543 or permission of instructor. Provides students with an understanding of statistical and research methods as they apply to environmental research. Students will complete projects on available data sets. This course emphasizes the application of current data analysis methodologies, including the graphical display of summary data, statistical modeling and prediction, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

ENVS 628. Environmental Policy and Administration. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course explores the relationship between environmental policy and its implementation within a democratic political system. It includes an investigation of basic concepts that underlie environmental policy and the difficulties encountered when attempting to apply them in a real-world setting. It also surveys a variety of tools and methodologies that may be useful in attempting to develop and implement environmental policy. Crosslisted as: PADM 628.

ENVS 640. River Policy. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Examines public policy related to rivers and watersheds. Uses the James River for exploring and illustrating generic river policy issues. Crosslisted as: GVPA 640.

ENVS 650. Pesticides, Health and the Environment. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: Course work in toxicology, chemistry or permission of instructor. This course is a balanced overview of the benefits and adverse effects of pesticides in the environment and as related to human health. The class provides an interdisciplinary study of pesticide use, fate, exposure, transport and effects.

ENVS 654. Environmental Remote Sensing. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: ENVS 602, or permission of the instructor. This course provides a basic and applied understanding on the use of digital remote sensor data to detect, identify and characterize earth resources. Students are required to demonstrate an understanding of the spectral attributes of soils, vegetation and water resources through various labs involving both image- and non-image-based optical spectral data. Crosslisted as: URSP 654/BIOL 654.

ENVS 655. Hydrogeology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: ENVS 355 or equivalent, or permission of instructor. Focuses on the fundamental concepts of groundwater flow and contaminant transport with an emphasis toward environmental issues such as waste disposal, surface water hydrology, groundwater hydrology and wells, environmental impacts and hydrogeological systems. Allows students to understand and interpret the basic environmental hydrogeologic characteristics of a site and to use that knowledge to provide an informed opinion on protection and remediation.
ENVS 660. Virginia Environmental Law. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: ENVS/PADM 628 or permission on instructor. An overview of relevant Virginia environmental law and regulations in the fields of environmental planning, management and policy. Provides students with working knowledge of documentation necessary for compliance with state environmental programs.

ENVS 670. Pollution Physiology. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: Course work in: ecology, toxicology or animal physiology; or permission of instructor. Courses provides an in-depth presentation of the physiology of animals in polluted habitats and examines the responses of aquatic organisms exposed to pollutants and other environmental stressors, including: thermal and salinity changes, anoxia and hypoxia, hypercapnia, chemical contamination, sedimentation and microbial contamination. The course takes a comparative approach and focuses on non-human systems. Both laboratory and field experiences are provided.

ENVS 691. Topics in Environmental Studies. 1-3 Hours.
Provides an in-depth study of a selected environmental topic.

ENVS 692. Independent Study. 1-3 Hours.
Variable hours. 1-3 credits per semester. May be repeated with different topics for a maximum of 6 credits. An in-depth study of a selected environmental topic.

ENVS 693. Internship in Environmental Studies. 1-3 Hours.
Each credit hour represents 60 clock hours of work. Provides students with a workplace experience in a public or private agency related to Environmental Studies.

ENVS 697. Research. 1-3 Hours.
Planning, preparation, completion, and presentation of research in environmental studies.

ENVS 698. Thesis. 1-3 Hours.
Planning, preparation, completion, and presentation of research in environmental studies.

Life Sciences (LFSC)

LFSC 510. Biological Complexity. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisites: physics and calculus, or permission of instructor. Open only to graduate students and qualified seniors. An introduction to the basis of complexity theory and the principles of emergent properties within the context of integrative life sciences. The dynamic interactions among biological, physical and social components of systems are emphasized, ranging from the molecular to ecosystem level. Modeling and simulation methods for investigating biological complexity are illustrated. Crosslisted as: BIOL 545.

LFSC 520. Bioinformatic Technologies. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: BIOL 545/ LFSC 510 or permission of instructor. Introduction to the hardware and software used in computational biology, proteomics, genomics, ecoinformatics and other areas of data analysis in the life sciences. The course also will introduce students to data mining, the use of databases, meta-data analysis and techniques to access information. Crosslisted as: BIOL 548.

LFSC 591. Special Topics in Integrative Life Sciences. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. A 500-level study of a selected topic in integrative life sciences. Students will find specific topics and prerequisites for each Special Topics course listed in the Schedule of Classes. If multiple topics are offered, students may elect to take more than one.

LFSC 610. Analytical Methods in Biocomplexity Analysis. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 2 laboratory hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: LFSC 510/ BIOL 545 or equivalent, or permission of instructor. An introduction to mathematical and computational methods in biocomplexity analysis and the mathematical and computational simulation of biological systems. Topics include methods for dynamical systems analysis, nonlinear systems analysis, gene sequencing, fractals and chaos, and pattern recognition. Students will be exposed to Maple, Matlab, SPSS, E-cell, BioPerl, Epigram, and C.

LFSC 630. Integrative Life Sciences Research. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Restricted to integrative life sciences doctoral students. An introduction to integrative research in the life sciences from the molecular to ecosystem level. The course will include presentations on ongoing interdisciplinary and systems-oriented life sciences research by faculty members and discussion and analysis of classic interdisciplinary research projects.

LFSC 690. Research Seminar in Integrative Life Sciences. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. May be repeated for credit. Presentation and discussion of research topics of current interest in the life sciences. Graded as "S," "U" or "F.

LFSC 691. Special Topics in Integrative Life Sciences. 1-4 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-4 credits. Prerequisite: Permission of instructor required. Advanced graduate study of a selected topic in integrative life sciences. Students will find specific topics and prerequisites for each Special Topics course listed in the Schedule of Classes. If multiple topics are offered, students may elect to take more than one.

LFSC 697. Directed Research in Integrative Life Sciences. 1-15 Hours.
Semester course; variable lecture/laboratory hours. 1-15 credits. May be repeated for credit. Directed research leading to the Ph.D. degree in Integrative Life Sciences.

da Vinci Center for Innovation

Innovation in Product Design and Development (INNO)

INNO 501. Arts Principles for Product Innovation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Open only to students enrolled in the Master of Product Innovation program or with approval of instructor. Introduces studio-based arts instruction to individuals with a background in business, engineering or other non-arts discipline. Lectures and assignments expose students to a broad range of skills and vocabulary, enabling them to comprehend, analyze and communicate visually. Working individually and in teams, the core experience will be formed through iterative making, via direct, hands-on material experience.
INNO 502. Business Principles for Product Innovation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Open only to students enrolled in the Master of Product Innovation program or with approval of instructor. Introduces business principles and concepts to non-business students. Topics cover the functions and activities organizations engage in to conduct commerce, including planning, marketing, accounting, operations, finance and human resource management. Project management, as used for developing innovative ideas and commercializing new goods and services, is the organizing structure used for integration of concepts.

INNO 503. Technology Principles for Product Innovation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Open only to students enrolled in the Master of Product Innovation program or with approval of instructor. Introduces technology and technological principles to students with non-engineering-related degrees. A particular focus is learning and applying a technology problem-solving process to different types of open-ended problems. The process includes the steps of needs identification, information gathering, idea generation, evaluation and selection.

INNO 590. da Vinci Project. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Open only to students enrolled in the Master of Product Innovation program. Students will engage in an interdisciplinary product innovation project with a corporate sponsor under faculty supervision. Topics and activities will hone product innovation skills, including project management, team building, concept generation and testing, market analysis, visualization, and prototyping.

INNO 600. Integrative Design Studio. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Open only to students enrolled in the Master of Product Innovation program. Integrates the theory and practice of product innovation across the arts, business and engineering disciplines. Students are exposed to and apply a broad set of skills and tools to aid in understanding, envisioning and communicating product innovation. Working in interdisciplinary teams, students will hone teamworking skills and collectively address contemporary issues associated with product innovation, such as sustainability.

INNO 651. Master's Project in Product Innovation I. 6 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 6 credits. Prerequisites: two of INNO 501, 502 and 503; and INNO 590 and 600. This capstone experience requires that an interdisciplinary team engage in various facets of a real product development initiative. The project may be company-sponsored or an approved student-originated effort. Applying arts, business and engineering skill sets gained from previous course work, students will identify a potential opportunity and conceive viable product concepts to be pursued across the three project stages of concept generation, concept development and refinement and concept finalization. The semester will culminate with each team producing a set of prototypes and initial business cases for preferable concepts, with at least one viable concept supported by a viable business case an expected class deliverable. Graded as S/U/F.

INNO 652. Master's Project in Product Innovation II. 6 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture and 4 laboratory hours. 6 credits. Prerequisite: INNO 651. This is the second course of the capstone experience. An interdisciplinary team will continue engaging in the facets of a company-sponsored or student-originated product development initiative begun in INNO 651. Applying arts, business and engineering skill sets gained from previous course work, students will further develop viable concepts and culminate the capstone experience with the proposal of at least one well-detailed, functional product prototype accompanied by a formal business plan. Students will participate in three project stages: prototype and business case incubation, working prototype and business plan development, and commercialization. Graded as S/U/F.

INNO 691. Topics in Product Innovation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Study of current and emerging topics in the field of product innovation. Topics may vary by semester. See the Schedule of Classes for offerings each semester.

INNO 697. Guided Study in Product Innovation. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Prerequisite: Approval of proposed work is required by the Master of Product Innovation program. Students in the M.P.I. program wishing to do research on problems in the area of product innovation will submit a detailed outline of their problem. They will structure a research study, undertake this study and prepare a written report on the problem.

Office of Research and Innovation
Clinical and Translational Research (CCTR)

CCTR 520. Fundamentals of Research Regulation. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Focuses on the regulations that govern translational and clinical research. There will also be a series of discussions on the influence of international policies and research guidelines on the conduct of research. Topics include, but are not limited to, the history and current role of the FDA and the OHRP within the research arena; informed consent regulations relevant to federally funded research i.e., the common rule; informed consent regulations relevant to investigations conducted in support of a new drug application or an expanded marketing indication; good clinical practice guidelines; international conference on harmonization (ICH) conduction of research guidelines; HIPPA rules and regulations relevant to the conduction of research on human subjects; fiscal accountability/responsibility; and clinical trial registration and results reporting guidelines.

CCTR 630. Design Implications in Clinical Trials. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course focuses on designing intervention studies to achieve research objectives by selecting appropriate study samples, end points and trial designs. Specific topics include efficacy versus effectiveness trials and critiquing clinical trial protocols, with emphasis on evaluating strengths and weaknesses of trial design.
CCTR 631. Adaptive Clinical Trials. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: CCTR 630 or BIOS 571. This course is intended for the research scientist who is interested in advancing innovative trial designs and wishing to incorporate adaptations, modifications and changes to the clinical trial process. The goal is to enhance comprehension and methodologic skills in designing adaptive clinical trials for clinical investigators. The course provides an overview of the theoretical framework and key concepts of adaptive design methods in clinical trials. The design and implementation process are discussed through real-world examples. The feasibility, validity, integrity and efficiency of the trial designs will be stressed through comparisons between traditional fixed and adaptive trials. Graded as pass/fail.

CCTR 640. Team Science: Theories and Practice. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. In this seminar-style course, students will keep current by participating in presentations, discussion and writing on the topic of the science of team science. This course is designed to introduce students to research in the social sciences and to help build skills in critical-thinking, leading discussions, writing and providing succinct presentations. Teamwork is difficult and it is pervasive. Whether engaging in collaborative research or collaborating with others within a chosen profession, students will better understand how to be more effective at being team members as well as leading a team. Graded as pass/fail.

CCTR 690. Research Seminar in Clinical and Translational Sciences. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. The course will include student presentations and discussion of research topics and published papers of current interest within the broad field of the biomedical and biobehavioral sciences, focusing on interdisciplinary and systems-related research. Students will be required to make an oral presentation on their research the final semester they enroll in the course for credit. Students will keep current on new findings in the biomedical and biobehavioral sciences and, through presentations and the constructive critiques of course participants, will develop verbal research communication skills. Graded as S/U/F. M.S. students will be enrolled for three semesters; Ph.D. students for four semesters.

CCTR 691. Special Topics in Translational Research. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-6 credits. Restricted to graduate students in clinical and translational sciences programs or by permission of instructor. Translational research improves the "bench-to-bedside" trajectory of health research and is a rapidly evolving field. This course provides exposure opportunities to learn about the latest issues surrounding translational research in various disciplines. Graded S/U/F.

CCTR 692. Special Topics in Translational Research. 1-6 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-6 credits. Restricted to graduate students in clinical and translational sciences programs or by permission of instructor. Translational research improves the "bench-to-bedside" trajectory of health research and is a rapidly evolving field. This course provides exposure opportunities to learn about the latest issues surrounding translational research in various disciplines.

Semester course; variable hours. 1-5 credits. May be repeated for credit. Research leading to the M.S. or Ph.D. degree and elective research projects for other students. Graded S/U/F.

CCTR 700. Master's Capstone Project. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. This course is the final "capstone" product for which a student should enroll after successfully completing 27 credits of didactic course work and directed research hours. Enrollment requires the approval of the program director and student's adviser. Students may select one of two options: 1) and NIH-style grant application demonstrating knowledge of the translational and clinical processes and the regulatory environment in which research is conducted or 2) a scientific research article to be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal. Students will demonstrate that they are able to integrate the core competencies of the master’s program into problem resolution as evidenced by the development of a sound, well-written research project grant proposal or research article. Graded as S/U/F.

CCTR 702. Statistics for Genetic Studies I. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to students in the psychiatric, behavioral and statistical genetics track of the clinical and translational sciences doctoral program or by permission of instructor. Teaches students statistical methods for multidisciplinary research, specifically presenting the mathematical components that underlie statistical analysis and including probability theory, statistical distributions, inference and linear models.

CCTR 703. Statistics for Genetic Studies II. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours. 3 credits. Restricted to students in the psychiatric, behavioral and statistical genetics track of the clinical and translational sciences doctoral program or by permission of instructor. Builds upon the quantitative statistical methods from CCTR 702. Students will learn the mathematical components that underlie statistical analysis with a focus on maximum-likelihood methods and structural equation modeling. These components provide the necessary foundation for clinical and translational research and the advanced statistical genetic methods for understanding how genetic and environmental factors impact the development of psychiatric and substance abuse disorders.

CCTR 801. Clinical Practicum. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Designed to equip students with knowledge of the translational and clinical research processes and the environments in which research is conducted. Through participation in these practica, the student will observe and develop an appreciation for the role of clinical or translational scientists in the design, conduction and analysis aspects of human research, including data collection, analysis or monitoring; case management of protocol participants; recruitment and enrollment of human subjects; protection of subjects and subjects rights; development of informed consent documents; preparation of adverse event experience reports; construction or monitoring of case report forms; grant and budget development; report preparation; and education of other health care professionals, patients or families regarding clinical and translational studies, protocol development and program administration. Graded S/U/F.
CCTR 802. Research Practicum I. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Designed to equip students with knowledge of the translational and clinical research processes and the environments in which research is conducted. Through participation in these practica, the student will observe and develop an appreciation for the role of clinical or translational scientists in the design, conduction and analysis aspects of human research, including data collection, analysis or monitoring; case management of protocol participants; recruitment and enrollment of human subjects; protection of subjects and subjects' rights; development of informed consent documents; preparation of adverse event experience reports; grand and budget development; report preparation; and education of other health care professionals, patients or families regarding clinical and translational studies, protocol development and program administration. Graded as S/U/F.

CCTR 803. Research Practicum II. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Designed to equip students with knowledge of the translational and clinical research processes and the environments in which research is conducted. Through participation in these practica, the student will observe and develop an appreciation for the role of clinical or translational scientists in the design, conduction and analysis aspects of human research, including data collection, analysis or monitoring; case management of protocol participants; recruitment and enrollment of human subjects; protection of subjects and subjects' rights; development of informed consent documents; preparation of adverse event experience reports; construction or monitoring of case report forms; grand and budget development; report preparation; and education of other health care professionals, patients or families regarding clinical and translational studies, protocol development and program administration. Graded as S/U/F.

CCTR 898. Dissertation Research in Clinical and Translational Sciences. 1-10 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours. 1-10 credits. Students will be required to complete a minimum of 15-30 credits under this course number directed toward completion of a dissertation. Prerequisite: admission to candidacy. Dissertation research with a strong interdisciplinary focus, as facilitated by the composition of the research advisory committee. As facilitated by the composition of the research advisory committee. Graded as S/U/F.

Research (OVPR)

OVPR 601. Scientific Integrity. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. A survey of contemporary issues relating to responsible conduct in research. Topics include academic integrity, mentoring, authorship and peer review, use of humans and animals in biomedical research, ownership of data, intellectual property, conflict of interest, scientific record keeping, collaborative research, research misconduct, and genetic technology. Graded as pass/fail.

OVPR 602. Responsible Scientific Conduct. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Priority registration to postdoctoral trainees and graduate students; others by permission of instructor. A survey of contemporary issues relating to responsible conduct in research. Topics include research integrity, mentoring, authorship and peer review, use of humans and animals in biomedical research, ownership of data, intellectual property, conflict of interest, scientific record keeping, collaborative research, research misconduct, and genetic technology. Graded as pass/fail.

OVPR 603. Responsible Conduct of Research. 1 Hour.
Short course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Restricted to graduate or professional students, with preference given to Preparing Future Faculty students. Registration requires permission of PFF Program office. This course is designed to provide a learning experience that will enable students to develop and refine skills needed to solve problems involving relevant topic areas of responsible scientific conduct and to clearly articulate ethically and legally acceptable solutions to problems posed about scientific conduct. Content of the course includes relevant guidelines, policies and laws bearing on the conduct of scientific research including those dealing with scientific authorship, use of humans and animals in research, conflict of interest, data ownership, scientific record keeping, collaborative research, and ownership, protection and use of intellectual property in the arena of scientific research. Conventions and normative behavior related to responsibilities in the scientific mentor-trainee relationship will also be covered. Graded as pass/fail.

Graduate School

Graduate School (GRAD)

GRAD 601. The Academic Profession. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Restricted to graduate or professional students. Designed to introduce graduate students to the roles and responsibilities of faculty members in institutions of higher education. Through readings, discussion and conversations with faculty members from a variety of settings, students will learn about the changing social expectations for higher education, the diverse settings in which faculty work and strategies for developing and presenting marketable academic skills. Graded as pass/fail.

GRAD 602. Teaching and Learning in Higher Education. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Restricted to graduate or professional students. This course focuses on the art and science of teaching and learning in higher education. Graded as pass/fail.

GRAD 604. Teaching, Learning, Technology and the Future of Higher Education. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. This course is designed to provide students with an introduction to contemporary technologies and the implications for instructional practices that can serve as both a foundation and a process for continued growth and development in understanding teaching and learning. Throughout the course students will explore and critically examine how the World Wide Web and emerging digital technologies are changing the landscape of learning in higher education. Class sessions will consider key instructional contexts/issues and explore the ways in which digital technology might enhance learning. Specific attention will be given to the ways in which students explore, select, use and assess the use of technology in teaching.
GRAD 605. Professional Specialty Seminar. 1 Hour.
Short course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisites: GRAD 601, GRAD 602 and OVPR 603. Restricted to graduate or professional students. Registration by permission of PFF Program Office. Seminars will provide students with the opportunity to focus on the full range of faculty responsibilities specific to their chosen disciplines/professions in such a way that builds on the more general knowledge and skills covered in GRAD 601 and GRAD 602. Students will be enrolled in a professional cluster section related to their academic disciplines (such as fine arts, social sciences, physical and life sciences, health sciences, etc.). There are no substitutions for this seminar course. See PFF Program website (http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/programs/pff/courses.html) for additional information on cluster sections and course registration. Contact the PFF program office or the instructor with questions regarding which professional cluster section is most appropriate. Graded as pass/fail.

GRAD 606. Internship/Externship in Professional Teaching. 1-3 Hours.
Intern course; variable hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisites: GRAD 601, 602, 605 and OVPR 603. Restricted to graduate or professional students. Registration by permission of the PFF Program Office after proposal submission and approval. The internship in professional teaching is the capstone experience of the Preparing Future Faculty Program in which students will gain experience and practice in clinical/field or studio instruction under the tutelage of a senior faculty mentor at an institution that most likely mirrors the institution of interest to the student. A proposal agreement must be signed by the faculty mentor who will direct the project and assign the final grade and must be submitted to the PFF Program office for approval before the student enrolls or begins the internship/externship. The proposal must define the project and the intended outcomes, must specify the learning goals and the agreed-upon methods for evaluation, and must identify the institution where the project will take place. At the end of the project, the student must submit to the faculty mentor a report describing the experience and the extent to which the stated goals were accomplished. The faculty mentor will submit the student report, along with an evaluation of the project and the grade to be awarded, to the director of the PFF Program. Each internship/externship course requires approximately 150 contact hours in the form of preparing for and carrying out the project. The student’s role is to be one of “junior faculty member” and the faculty member’s as guide and mentor. Students must complete all three hours of GRAD 606 for the PFF Certificate of Achievement and must have made final edits and uploads of all relevant materials to their PFF electronic portfolios. Refer to PFF Program website for proposal instructions and electronic portfolio requirements: http://www.graduate.vcu.edu/programs/pff/courses.html. Graded as pass/fail.

GRAD 610. Career and Professional Development Planning for Graduate Students. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours per week for seven weeks. 1 credit. Prerequisite: graduate standing. This course is designed to assist participants as they navigate the challenges faced when making career choices in a complex global economy. Includes opportunities for self- and career-skills assessment.

GRAD 611. Professional and Personal Development. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Open to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows with permission of instructor. The course will involve self-assessment and development of the student’s personal mission statement and individual development plan in consultation with faculty and alumni mentors from the student’s discipline.

GRAD 612. Oral Presentation Skill-building for Career Professionals. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Graduate standing required. This course focuses exclusively on developing and delivering presentations. Students are expected to create professional presentations representative of their focused research area to be delivered to a “lay” audience. Class exercises focus on audience analysis and strategic choices, theme development, argument construction, and impromptu public speaking as a means to develop confidence in speaking to an audience. Graded as S/U/F.

GRAD 614. Introduction to Grant Writing. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Enrollment requires graduate standing. This course introduces the graduate student to the grant-writing process. Topics include basic components of a grant application, writing the proposal, identifying funding sources, understanding proposal guidelines and the grant proposal review process. Graded S/U/F.

GRAD 615. Biomedical Science Careers Seminar Series. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Open to graduate students and postdoctoral fellows with permission of instructor. Trainees investigate the broad spectrum of potential careers available to biomedical scientists by participating in weekly discussions, each with a scientist who has been successful in a different career path. Graded P/F.

GRAD 616. Becoming an Entrepreneur. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Enrollment requires graduate standing. This course introduces the student to the core concepts and resources of entrepreneurship. Topics include recognizing the need for innovation, how to develop a business plan, building an effective team, intellectual property, patent and trademark strategy, marketing strategy and cultivating funding sources. Graded S/U/F.

GRAD 617. Biomedical Sciences Projects in the Community. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour and 1 service-learning/laboratory hour. 2 credits. Prerequisite: Enrollment requires graduate standing. The community service based experiential learning project is selected to provide an integrative learning experience that addresses the practice of citizenship and promotes an awareness of and participation in public affairs. Service projects will be selected to benefit a community organization, agency, public service provider, the VCU BEST program or another unit within the university. The goal of these projects is to provide students with an opportunity to gain firsthand exposure to specific target populations/organizations, observing the needs and current efforts, if any, to address those needs. Community partners will include nonprofit agencies, schools, worksites, hospitals and state and local health departments. Approved experiential learning placements and assignments will vary depending on the specific project topic and learning objectives. Reflection, project/activity presentation and website narratives will be required for the experiential learning project.

GRAD 691. Topics in Graduate Education. 1-15 Hours.
Variable lecture hours. Variable credit. Restricted to graduate or professional students. A seminar course for the examination of specialized issues, topics, readings, problems or areas of interest for all graduate students, such as the responsible conduct of research, globalization, mentoring, service-learning and areas of interest for graduate students interested in careers within and outside of academe. This course is open to all graduate, postgraduate and professional students unless specifically restricted. Graded as P/F.
GRAD 693. Graduate Internship. 1-9 Hours.
Semester course; variable hours (60 hours per credit). 1-9 credits. Students will spend 60 to 540 hours in a planned, supervised experience with an agency or business. A summary of work duties and how internship relates to degree program along with confirmation of hours worked must be submitted. Must consult with and have approval from current degree program director for course to count in degree program. Graded as S/U/F.

GRAD 697. Directed Research. 3.6 Hours.
Semester course; 3.6 research hours. 3.6 credits. Prerequisite: completion of all course work in M.I.S. program's individualized course of study concentration and approval of final research project proposal and degree candidacy. Restricted to graduate or professional students. Registration by permission of M.I.S. graduate program director. A final directed research study for the M.I.S. capstone project culminating in a synthesis of the academic focus areas of the student's M.I.S. curriculum plan. Students must receive a grade of A or B. A maximum of 6 credits applicable to the M.I.S. degree.

Academic Affairs
Community Studies (CMST)
CMST 691. Special Topics in Community Studies. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 variable hours. 1-3 credits. May be repeated for a maximum of 6 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Provides an in-depth study of a selected topic related to community studies. See the Schedule of Classes for specific topics to be offered each semester. If several topics of different content are offered, students may elect to take more than one.

CMST 692. Independent Study in Community Studies. 1-3 Hours.
Semester course; 1-3 variable hours. 1-3 credits. Prerequisite: permission of instructor. Intensive study or research under supervision of a faculty member in an area not covered in-depth or contained in other VCU graduate-level courses.

Center for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care
Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Care (IPEC)
IPEC 501. Foundations of Interprofessional Practice. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Open to students enrolled in a professional health science degree program. An introductory study of the concept of interprofessional collaborative practice, this course includes units on health care systems, teams and teamwork, and professional roles and responsibilities. Students actively work within interprofessional student teams to apply course content during specific learning activities that build a foundation of the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for effective interprofessional practice in contemporary health care.

IPEC 502. Interprofessional Quality Improvement and Patient Safety. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: IPEC 501. Course restricted to students enrolled in the schools of Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy. A study of interprofessional quality improvement and patient safety, this course includes units on quality in the workplace, error in the health care system and improving health care. Students actively work within interprofessional student teams to apply course content to specific learning activities for interprofessional quality improvement and patient safety practice.

IPEC 510. Interprofessional Communication and the Care Coordinator I. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Enrollment requires acceptance into the Care Coordination Certificate program. Defines the various roles of the care coordinator. Identifies all health care providers on the interprofessional team and what their responsibilities are to patient and family care. Focuses on development of effective interprofessional communication and leadership strategies by introducing concepts of teamwork. Explores strategies for conflict negotiation and patient engagement. Facilitates the sharing of individual perspectives and patient care experiences.

IPEC 511. U.S. Health Care and Care Coordination. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours, delivered online. 2 credits. Enrollment requires acceptance into the Care Coordination Certificate program. Explores the overall infrastructure of the health care system and care delivery models. Introduces concepts of regulation. Examines how the effect of different settings and levels of care impact care transitions. Explores effective use of the electronic health record. Identifies the patient-centered care model as integral to improving outcomes. Describes the best ways to share information across health care settings during care transitions.

IPEC 512. Health Care Payment Models and Care Coordination. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours, delivered online. 3 credits. Prerequisite: IPEC 511. Examines aspects of health care financing that affect the type of services the care coordinator can provide. Provides an overview of key points related to insurance coverage, including managed care, Medicare and Medicaid. Reinforces the utilization review process and compliance. Discusses an overview of current U.S. health policy with a special focus on vulnerable patients and the importance of population health management.

IPEC 513. Ethical and Legal Considerations in Care Coordination. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours, delivered online. 2 credits. Prerequisite: IPEC 512; corequisite: IPEC 515. Focuses on applying ethical decision-making frameworks to analyze ethical dilemmas that occur with patient care and between members of the interprofessional team. Examines care coordinator role conflict between patient advocacy versus health system advocacy. Provides a framework for identifying potential liabilities while working in the care coordinator role. Examines issues surrounding access to care and social justice. Explores legal responsibilities of the care coordinator.

IPEC 514. Hospital-based Care Coordination. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours, delivered online. 3 credits. Prerequisite: IPEC 513. Explores care coordination in the hospital setting with a focus on discharge planning, medication reconciliation and effective care transitions out of the hospital. Addresses how to identify those patients who have high risk for excess utilization of hospital resources due to limited financial means, lack of insurance, chronic illness, and/or catastrophic injury. Addresses national recommendations for effective care coordination strategies to improve patient outcomes.

IPEC 515. Interprofessional Communication and the Care Coordinator II. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. Prerequisite: IPEC 510. Reinforces roles and responsibilities of health care providers on the interprofessional team during care coordination and prepares students to assume a professional role. Applies effective interprofessional communication and leadership strategies by reinforcing concepts of teamwork. Explores strategies for conflict negotiation and patient engagement. Facilitates the sharing of individual perspectives and patient care experiences.
IPEC 516. Community-based Care Coordination. 3 Hours.
Semester course; 3 lecture hours, delivered online. 3 credits.
Prerequisites: IPEC 514 and IPEC 515. Emphasizes the value of maintaining a primary care provider and connecting the patient with appropriate community resources. Emphasis will be on the patient-centered medical home model of health care delivery, which provides an environment conducive to direct coordination of a patient’s primary care with a special focus on effective care transitions. Discusses concepts of advanced care planning, medication management and patient engagement from the outpatient perspective. Identifies how to differentiate high-risk patient populations and provide effective transitions of care within community settings. Introduces concepts of population health and the role of the family in care of the patient.

IPEC 525. Mindfulness Practices for Health Care Professionals: Clinical Applications. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 16 hours (lecture/seminar). 1 credit. Open to health care professional students in good standing (e.g., students in the schools of Dentistry, Nursing, Medicine, Pharmacy, Allied Health Professions or Social Work or in the programs of dental hygiene or clinical psychology). This course will allow a qualified health care professional student the opportunity to participate in a variety of mindfulness practices and learn their applications to clinical practice.

IPEC 528. Global Health. 1 Hour.
Semester course; 1 lecture hour. 1 credit. This course is designed for professional students in medicine, pharmacy and physical therapy traveling to the Dominican Republic, Honduras or Peru with the Humanitarian Outreach Medical Brigade Relief Effort. With a focus on clinical and research endeavors in Central and South American countries, this course provides a foundation in interprofessional teamwork and international health care for health professions students. Themes of cultural competency, determinants of health, clinical skills and ethical issues are interwoven throughout the course. Graded as Pass/Fail.

IPEC 561. IPE Virtual Geriatric Case. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours, delivered online. 2 credits. Using a web-based interface, health professional students from multiple disciplines will collaborate to identify health care needs and plan care for an older adult patient. Contemporary theoretical concepts and evidence-based recommendations are integrated within a complex, unfolding case that crosses all settings and services of care: ambulatory, inpatient, post-acute, community-based and palliative/end-of-life. Patient- and family-centered care concepts are also emphasized throughout each module. Students who participate in this preceptor-supervised virtual case will make decisions based on their discipline-specific geriatric-gerontological competencies, reinforce understandings about the scope of practice for other health professions and expand working capacity for interprofessionalism and team-based care. Graded Pass/Fail.

IPEC 562. IPE Quality Improvement Project Practicum. 2 Hours.
Semester course; 2 lecture hours. 2 credits. Prerequisite: IPEC 502 or HADM 609 or approval by course director. Enrollment restricted to students in the schools of Allied Health Professions, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy. This capstone course will provide interprofessional teams of students the opportunity to apply quality improvement processes and patient safety theories, models, methods, and tools in a health care setting to execute a quality improvement project in an organizational setting. Graded as Pass/Fail.
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