

# 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, organizations 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

### Education core outcomes

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

### Education leadership, policy and justice concentration-specific outcome

1. Students will develop an in-depth understanding of issues, scholarship and practice related to leadership, educational policy and justice.

2. Students will appropriately link theory and existing research as they imagine, design and conduct original and rigorous applied research related to leadership, educational policy and justice.
3. Students will interrogate and engage in self-reflection about their own positionality to advance scholarship and leadership practices that challenge social injustice, which includes but is not limited to systems of racism, settler colonialism, sexism, heterosexism, cis-sexism, able-ism, racist nativism, etc.

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

The VCU Graduate Bulletin website documents the official admission and academic rules and regulations that govern graduate education for all graduate programs at the university. These policies are established by the graduate faculty of the university through their elected representatives to the University Graduate Council.

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

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

## Degree candidacy requirements

A graduate student admitted to a program or concentration requiring a final research project, work of art, thesis or dissertation, must qualify for continuing master's or doctoral status according to the degree candidacy requirements of the student's graduate program. Admission to degree candidacy, if applicable, is a formal statement by the graduate student's faculty regarding the student's academic achievements and the student's readiness to proceed to the final research phase of the degree program.

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

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

## Graduation requirements

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

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

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

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

## Admission requirements

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

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

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

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

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

## Degree requirements

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

1. Credit hour requirements: Students are required to complete a minimum of 60 credit hours.
2. Grade requirements: Receipt of a grade of C or below in three courses constitutes automatic dismissal from the program. Courses with a grade below C cannot be used to satisfy degree requirements.
3. Externship requirement: Students must complete an approved externship.
4. Examination requirements: Students must pass both a qualifying examination early in the program and a comprehensive examination near the end of the program.
5. Dissertation requirements: Students must complete and defend a research dissertation.

## Curriculum requirements

Course	Title	Hours
<b>Foundation</b>		
EDUS 702	Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship I	3
EDUS 703	Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship II	3

<b>Research</b>		
EDUS 608	Educational Statistics	3
EDUS 710	Quantitative Research Design	3
EDUS 711	Qualitative Methods and Analysis	3
• Collaborative research		
EDUC 697	Collaborative Scholarship	
or EDUC 797	Directed Research	
• Research elective		
3		
<b>Externship</b>		
EDUC 700	Externship	3
<b>Dissertation</b>		
EDUC 899	Dissertation Research (minimum of six credit hours)	6
EDUS 890	Dissertation Seminar	3
<b>Concentration courses</b>		
ADMS 701	Education Policy Research	3
ADMS 703	Leadership for Social Justice and Equity in Education	3
ADMS 704	Education Finance Policy and the Equitable Distribution of Resources	3
ADMS 707	The Politics of Education	3
ADMS 708	Equal Educational Opportunity in the 21st Century Metropolis: Toward a Policy Framework	3
ADMS 709	U.S. Educational Policy	3
EDUS 712	Mixed Methods Research	3
Elective (any graduate-level School of Education course) <sup>1</sup>		
3		
Elective (any graduate-level course offered outside of the School of Education) <sup>2</sup>		
3		
<b>Total Hours</b>		
<b>60</b>		

1

Any graduate level School of Education course includes course subjects ADLT, ADMS, CLED, ECSE, EDLP, EDUC, EDUS, IDDS, READ, SEDP or TEDU.

2

Any graduate level course taken outside of the School of Education excludes course subjects ADLT, ADMS, CLED, ECSE, EDLP, EDUC, EDUS, IDDS, READ, SEDP or TEDU.

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

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

### Contact

Enrollment Management  
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### Additional contact

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**Program website:** [soe.vcu.edu/academics/doctoral-programs/phd-leadership-policy](https://soe.vcu.edu/academics/doctoral-programs/phd-leadership-policy) (<https://soe.vcu.edu/academics/doctoral-programs/phd-leadership-policy/>)