EDUCATION, DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PH.D.) WITH A CONCENTRATION IN RESEARCH, ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

Program goal

The research, assessment and evaluation concentration is designed for individuals who want to develop skills to undertake, use and teach research, assessment 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.

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

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
7. Satisfactory scores on the GRE

Please visit the School of Education website (https://soe.vcu.edu/academics/doctoral-programs/phd-research-assessment/) 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 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

Course	Title	Hours
Foundation		
EDUS 702	Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship I	3
EDUS 703	Foundations of Educational Research and Doctoral Scholarship II	3
Research		
EDUS 608	Educational Statistics	3
EDUS 710	Quantitative Research Design	3
EDUS 711	Qualitative Methods and Analysis	3
Research elective		3
Externship		
EDUC 700	Externship	3
Dissertation		
EDUC 899	Dissertation Research (minimum of six credit hours)	6
EDUS 890	Dissertation Seminar	3
Concentration courses [1]		
EDUS 661	Educational Evaluation: Models and Designs	3
EDUS 662	Educational Measurement and Evaluation	3
EDUS 712	Mixed Methods Research	3
PADM 627	Workshop in Policy Analysis and Evaluation	3
PPAD 721	Survey of Applied Research Methods in Public Policy	3
SOCY/PADM 605	Survey Research Methods	3
Total Hours		**48**

[1]

Students may select other courses in consultation with their adviser.

The minimum total of graduate credit hours required for this degree is 48.

Contact
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Program website: soe.vcu.edu/academics/doctoral-programs/phd-research-assessment (https://soe.vcu.edu/academics/doctoral-programs/phd-research-assessment/)