



## The Ph.D. in Education with a concentration in Educational Leadership

Our doctoral program is designed to transform students into producers of knowledge as researchers, policymakers, and scholars dedicated to advancing equity. Assignments, discussions, and activities are generated to develop and reinforce the skills needed for transformative change.

### Our Mission for Excellence, Innovation and Community Impact

As members of a university in an urban area, we have a responsibility to serve the communities around us. This is especially true here at VCU, where so many underserved and disadvantaged are within our reach. Every day, our city, its schools and its students face unique challenges. But where there are obstacles, there are opportunities:

A CHANCE FOR CHANGE.

A CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

### The Context In Which We Work

## 40%

**Economically-disadvantaged** students now make up 40 percent of Virginia's student population.

## 34%

Thirty-four percent of children in Virginia currently live in **low-income** families.

## 17%

Nearly seventeen percent of children in Virginia face **food insecurity**.

## 12%

Students currently receiving **special education services** now represent twelve percent of the student population in Virginia.

## 10%

**English language learners** now represent ten percent of the student population in Virginia.

## 3.3%

One in every 30 children in the United States have **experienced homelessness**.

### The Coursework

#### First Year

##### Fall

Statistics for Social Research  
Leadership for Social Justice & Equity in Education  
Equal Education Opportunity: Towards a Policy Framework

##### Spring

Foundations of Education Research & Doctoral Scholarship I  
Educational Research Design  
Leadership Perspectives for Learning

##### Summer

Foundations of Ed. Research & Doctoral Scholarship II

#### Second Year

##### Fall

Educational Finance Policy & Equitable Distribution of Resources  
The Politics of Education  
Externship

##### Spring

Qualitative Methods & Analysis  
Education Policy Research  
Contemporary Theory & Practice

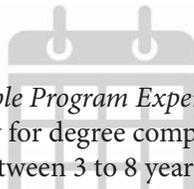
**DISSERTATION WORK BEGINS**

# Why choose Educational Leadership at VCU?

The VCU School of Education combines innovative teaching with real-world learning experiences, drawing on the resources of our culturally rich and diverse urban environment. Our research and development focuses on critical education issues, contributing to our fields of study. Graduates leave fully prepared for 21st century careers as leaders in schools, universities, and other educational settings.



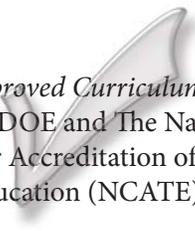
*Social Justice Orientations*  
ground a hallmark curriculum  
dedicated to issues of  
equity, policy, and society



*Flexible Program Experiences*  
allow for degree completion  
between 3 to 8 years in  
individual and group settings



*Internationally Recognized Faculty*  
support and empower students  
as leaders of educational reform  
and policy change



*Approved Curriculum*  
by the VDOE and The National  
Council for Accreditation of Teacher  
Education (NCATE)

## Accolades From Our Alumni

“Initially, I was unprepared to navigate the academic, political, and social contexts that define social justice issues. However, through my work in the doctoral program, I developed valuable research skills that can support and inform both policymakers and practitioners. I graduated with a solid network of cohorts, alums, and colleagues with whom I can partner.”

- Arielle Niemeyer, Ph.D. Graduate

“The members of the Department of Educational Leadership are interested in providing enriching opportunities for all students; whether crafting a unique externship experience; offering research and co-publishing opportunities; encouraging presentations at conferences; or just providing listening ears and words of wisdom. My Ph.D. program at VCU was strengthened because of the unwavering assistance of such a caring faculty and positioned me for an academic career.”

- Kerry Robinson, Assistant Professor, University of Tennessee

### Contact Information

If you are interested in learning more about a Ph.D. in Education with a concentration in Educational Leadership, please visit our website at <http://go.vcu.edu/edleadership> or contact Suzanne Furman at [srfurman@vcu.edu](mailto:srfurman@vcu.edu)