Admissions Requirements

Do you think the VT Educational Leadership doctoral program may be right for you? To be admitted, you must:

- Have an appropriate master’s-level degree from an accredited institution and at least a 3.3 GPA on your most recent graduate coursework
- Currently serve in a school leadership position or have school administrative experience
- Complete a successful interview with one of our selection committees

Applicants are evaluated based on their written and oral communication skills; technological competence; letters of recommendation; and commitment both to completing the program and to continuing their service as educational leaders.

How to Apply

Submit an online graduate application at https://graduateschool.vt.edu/admissions/how-to-apply.html, making sure to indicate the appropriate program area, degree type, campus, and start date. General graduate information is found at http://graduateschool.vt.edu/

We will begin to review applications in January/February 2020 and continue to accept applications until the cohort is full. We will conduct applicant interviews in March/April 2020 and make candidacy decisions in April/May. The new cohort will begin classes in Fall (August) 2020.

Contacts

Please send any questions or requests for further information to:

Carol S. Cash, EdD
Program Leader
cash48@vt.edu

Susan Li
Graduate Academic Program Assistant
susanli@vt.edu

Ted Price, PhD
Pted7@vt.edu

Jodie Brinkmann, EdD
Sammy1@vt.edu or jbrinkmann@vt.edu

Visit the Educational Leadership Program website at http://www.soe.vt.edu/edad/

Do you know another educator who would make an outstanding superintendent or school administrator? Pass along this brochure!

Virginia Tech does not discriminate against employees, students, or applicants on the basis of age, color, disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, or any other basis protected by law. For inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies, contact the executive director for Equity and Access at (540) 231-8771 or Virginia Tech, North End Center, Suite 2300 (0318), 300 Turner St. NW, Blacksburg, VA 24061.

Virginia Tech Richmond Center
2810 Parham Rd., Suite 300
Richmond, VA 23294
(804) 662-7288

Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Fall 2020 Cohorts

Is it time for you to go back to school? Change your future by earning a doctorate with Virginia Tech!

Apply today!
History and Purpose

For over forty years, the Virginia Tech Educational Leadership doctoral program has prepared aspiring educational administrators throughout the Commonwealth. Designed for working educational professionals, the program is conducted on a part-time basis, with coursework that balances modern academic theory with real-life practice. Ed.D. graduates leave with the skills they need to lead ethically; initiate school reform; investigate issues in educational policy; communicate with diverse constituents; and improve the learning and prospects of all K-12 students. Many alumni of the program have gone on to serve as superintendents, school principals, central office administrators, state DOE officials, university faculty, or researchers.

Locations and Cohorts

We offer our Ed.D. online and at five Virginia Tech extension sites: the Hampton Roads Center (in Virginia Beach), the Northern Virginia Center (in Falls Church), the Richmond Center, the Roanoke Higher Education Center, and the Southwest VA Higher Education Center (in Abingdon). The Ed.D. program operates on a cohort model. In other words, each site admits a new, approximately fifteen-person group – or cohort – of doctoral students every three years. The members of a given cohort all attend the same classes in the same sequence and pursue common plans of study.

A new Ed.D. cohort will begin this upcoming Fall 2020 at the Hampton Roads Center and online. Interested candidates should apply this January or February 2020 before all available spaces fill!

Coursework

Ed.D. students complete approximately 69 hours of coursework on a part-time basis. Typically, students attend two classes – totaling 6 credit hours – per semester. Students may attend fewer credit hours in Summer I or II, or more credit hours while working on their dissertation research, but must always be enrolled in a least 3 credits and one class for continuous enrollment. Courses are conducted in the evening to fit the schedules of full-time educators.

All Ed.D. students graduate with a minimum of 69 doctoral course credits, 50 transfer credits (from previous graduate coursework), and 99 credits in total. The degree may be completed in three years, though some students take additional semesters to complete their dissertations.

Course Topics

Course topics include advanced school law; advanced school finance; instructional leadership; governance and policy; facilities planning; theories of administration; and quantitative research methods. Each course will touch upon relevant, contemporary issues in K-12 education, such as standardized testing, school safety, special education, school accreditation, diversity, educational politics, and educational reform.

Course Delivery

Courses are offered face-to-face, blended, and online for most cohorts. For the on-line cohort, all courses are delivered online and usually asynchronously.

Dissertation

The Ed.D. in Educational Leadership and Policy studies is not awarded solely on the basis of coursework completion. To graduate, each student must also conduct a major research study culminating in the presentation and defense of a dissertation. The Ed.D. dissertation demonstrates the student’s ability to investigate a practical issue in educational administration – in program evaluation, program implementation, curriculum development, or another related topic agreed upon by one’s dissertation chair and advisory committee. The majority of students write their dissertations in the traditional five-chapter format (i.e., as a research paper with an introduction, literature review, methodology, results, and conclusion.)

Accreditation

The VT Educational Leadership Program is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, and the Educational Leadership Constituent Council. It is approved by the Virginia Board of Education.

Tuition

As full-time Virginia K-12 school employees, our students qualify for a reduced tuition rate. Though tuition rates for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year have not yet been published, you may view the current 2019-2020 rates and learn more about lowering your tuition at https://www.bursar.vt.edu/content/dam/bursar_vt_edu/tuition/2019-2020.pdf under the bottommost header, “Virginia School Personnel.”