Do you wish to make a deep and positive impact on school communities? Designed for both initial preparation and continuing education of school leaders, the Ph.D. in Educational Policy, Planning and Leadership with a concentration in K-12 Administration prepares graduates to become bold and innovative educational leaders. Through a rich set of experiences, students leave the program well-prepared to offer dynamic and constructive leadership to meet the challenges facing education in the 21st century.

**FAST FACTS**

**Designed for:** Teachers and other educational professionals seeking leadership and teaching roles in academic and professional settings

**Prerequisite:** Master’s degree in education or related field

**Coursework:** 69 credit hours minimum. Most courses are offered in the evening to accommodate working professionals

**Entry term:** Fall

**Fieldwork:** Fieldwork is integrated into coursework; Research seminar; 6-credit dissertation

**CULMINATING EXPERIENCES**

Throughout the degree program, real-world experiences allow students to study at the intersection of theory and practice.

**Extended learning opportunities:** During advanced coursework, students have opportunities to co-teach graduate courses or work with faculty in ongoing research projects in areas of common interest.

**Research Seminar:** Explore your research interests and the challenges of conducting educational research.

**Dissertation:** Ph.D. students develop their own line of research with the help of a faculty advisor, culminating in a dissertation experience supervised by a committee made up of three faculty members.

**COURSE TOPICS INCLUDE:**

**CORE SEQUENCE**

- Educational policy: development and analysis
- Educational planning
- Leadership in education
- Cross-disciplinary perspectives in education

**RESEARCH COMPONENT**

- Principles of educational research
- Statistics in education
- Qualitative research methods
- Applied field research project

**COGNATES**

- Curriculum and learning design
- K-12 leadership
- Meeting the needs of special populations

**LEARN MORE**

**Questions about the K-12 Ph.D. program? Contact one of the program directors:**

Mike DiPaola, Chancellor Professor  
mfdipa@wm.edu  |  757-221-2344

Megan Tschannen-Moran, Professor  
mxtsch@wm.edu  |  757-221-2187

**Questions about applying for admission? Contact an admissions representative:**

graded@wm.edu  |  757-221-2317
As the world quickly changes, education must evolve to ensure that today’s students are prepared to meet the world of tomorrow. To do that, we need educational leaders with the knowledge, skills and tools to effectively lead that change.

The Department of Educational Policy, Planning & Leadership is preparing the educational leaders who will guide, influence and shape institutions at all levels of education. We offer on-campus programs in K-12 and higher education administration, as well as an Executive Ed.D. for working professionals who wish to study at the intersection of theory and practice.

In addition to a solid foundation in educational theory, ideas and inquiry, students are challenged to ask the tough questions in education and lead transformative innovation in schools and communities.

With a focus on equity and excellence, our programs in educational leadership will prepare you to be an agent of change and a bold leader in education.

**EDUCATIONAL POLICY, PLANNING & LEADERSHIP DEGREE PROGRAMS**

Curriculum and Learning Design (Ph.D.)

Higher Education Administration (M.Ed. and Ph.D.)

K-12 Leadership (M.Ed. and Ph.D.)

Executive Ed.D. with concentrations in gifted education, higher education administration, K-12 administration and school psychology

**WHY W&M?**

Looking to pursue a graduate degree in education? Here are a few reasons to consider W&M:

**A welcoming and supportive community**

With just over 650 students, the School of Education is big enough to offer a diverse range of programs, people and experiences, but small enough to feel like family. You’ll make close connections with your fellow students and your professors — relationships that will stay with you for life and help you forge your own career path.

**A focus on leadership in education**

Our programs produce leaders — people with the passion, skills and tenacity to effect change in education. Our alumni achieve early recognition, becoming school leaders and innovators.

**A campus in the heart of historic Williamsburg**

Study at a campus that offers more than 300 years of history and countless beloved traditions.

**Professors who are leaders in the field**

Our faculty are recognized and respected around the world for instruction and research. They’re passionate about their own research as well as the success of their students — they are, after all, teachers first and foremost.

**Field experiences that will change your life**

You won’t be stuck in a lecture hall and you won’t have to wait until after graduation to begin making a difference in the lives of students and communities. Opportunities abound to pursue meaningful, fulfilling experiences that allow students to both learn and contribute.

**Programs for students at every career stage**

Our graduate programs are designed to meet the needs of a diverse student population that includes full-time and part-time students, people re-entering the paid work force after raising a family, and recent recipients of bachelor’s or master’s degrees preparing for advanced positions in the field of education.

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