Learning Outcomes for the Ph.D. Program in Higher Education

Graduates from the doctoral program in Higher Education (HED) at Virginia Tech will acquire knowledge, experiences/skills, and dispositions in four specific areas: professional practice, scholarship, professional involvement, and service.

Professional Practice

Successful graduates will be able to:

1. Describe the history, philosophy and structure of higher education in general (EDHE 6064)

2. Articulate the major policy issues affecting American higher education (EDHE 6204)

3. Articulate the role that the federal and state governments and special interest groups play in American higher education (EDHE 6214)

4. Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the legal foundations and constraints that affect higher education administration (EDHE 6074)

5. Summarize and apply organizational theory to the practice of higher education (EDHE 6304)

6. Identify and discuss issues and trends in higher education organization, finance and administration (EDHE 6084, EDHE 6094)

7. Employ essential technology skills appropriate to their positions (Various courses)

Evidence of these competencies might include:

- Completed papers that address the topics expressed in the competencies related to learning
- Individual or group presentations that address the topics expressed in the competencies related to learning
- Completed projects related to field experiences (i.e., GA assignments and internships)
- Completed assessment or program evaluation projects (i.e., class assignments or class projects, independent studies)
- Completed powerpoint presentations, the use of Facebook, Twitter and other social networking technologies to enhance the effectiveness of their work and
maintaining a professional web presence

☐ Completed media projects that include the use of blogs, videos, photography, podcasts, or phone apps to enhance the effectiveness of their work and maintaining a professional web presence

Scholarship

Successful graduates will be able to:

1. Collect and analyze data using quantitative techniques (EDRE 6605, EDRE 6606)
2. Collect and analyze data using qualitative techniques (EDRE 6504, EDRE 6524)
3. Employ essential program assessment and program evaluation skills
4. Write good statements of the problem and purpose (EDHE 6924, various courses)
5. Successfully critique the research literature in the profession
6. Prepare manuscripts for potential publication
7. Demonstrate understanding of the APA manual of style (various courses)

Evidence of these competencies might include:

☐ Showing how one’s writing has improved over time as a result of participation in the program
☐ Completing a comprehensive literature review on a specific topic or population
☐ Completing an independent study or project involving data analysis
☐ Completing a department report involving program evaluation or outcomes assessment
☐ Submitting a short article or program summary to a newsletter
☐ Writing a publication-ready paper
☐ Submitting a manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal
Professional Involvement

Successful graduates will be able to:

1. Articulate the genesis of major professional associations in the field of student affairs/higher education (EDHE 6064)

2. Formulate and explain a personal professional philosophy

3. Develop individual plans for their own professional development

4. Demonstrate personal commitment to at least one national professional association related to their anticipated career path

Evidence of these competencies might include:

☐ Developing a mentoring/coaching relationship with a professional practitioner

☐ Joining the Virginia Tech Higher Education Association and contributing to the success of the organization

☐ Joining one national association that focuses on their major interests in the profession

☐ Attending professional development activities that correspond to a plan for professional development

☐ Making presentations at local, state, regional, or national professional meetings

☐ Serving as a program reviewer for a conference program committee

Service

Successful graduates will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding about service, volunteerism, and commitment to the Higher Education program, the profession, and the community

2. Articulate a personal philosophy about service in general

3. Demonstrate service to the Higher Education program

4. Engage in service to other units of the university (e.g., School of Education, College, Graduate School, University)

5. Demonstrate service to the profession
6. Identify skills they can bring to service opportunities in the local community and beyond.

Evidence of this competency might include:

- Encouraging high quality individuals to apply to the Higher Education program or to join the profession.
- Volunteering time and skills to the Higher Education program during Interview Weekend, Fall Orientation, and on-going orientation when requested.
- Volunteering at the Graduate Life Center or serving as a member or officer of the Graduate Student Assembly.
- Volunteering at the conferences of the professional associations of which they are members.
- Serving as committee members of university groups or professional associations.
- Volunteering with a non-profit organization.