

# Doctor of Philosophy *in Education*

## *Policy, Leadership, and School Improvement*



**A degree for future  
academics, researchers,  
and analysts prepared to  
lead in academia or in  
research and policy-focused  
organizations**

## At A Glance

**Degree Type:** Ph.D. in Education

**Program Length:** 5 Years

**Application Deadline for Fall 2022:** February 8, 2022

The Policy, Leadership, and School Improvement (PLS) concentration of our Ph.D. in Education program prepares its students to conduct rigorous research into the social, political, and economic conditions affecting schools, and to recommend policy solutions that are effective, socially just, and technically sound.

Our students gain the analytic skills to discern ideological from empirical questions and to investigate pressing educational problems. Students also learn conceptual and analytic approaches from economics, political science, and sociology, and complete intermediate and advanced courses in cutting-edge methods of educational research.

Throughout their time in the program, students have opportunities to work closely with faculty members on ongoing research projects, further developing research skills.

# Doctor of Philosophy in Education

## Policy, Leadership, and School Improvement

The PLS concentration of the Ph.D. in Education program also provides its students opportunities to:

- **Explore education's most pressing and persistent problems** including, but not limited to, teacher quality, turn-around schools, high school effectiveness, resource allocation, principal instructional leadership, and issues of class, gender, immigration, and race in education
- **Work with engaged scholars** committed to professional service and who serve on editorial boards and advisory forums at local, state, and national levels; PLS faculty are currently working with the federal Race to the Top initiative in North Carolina and a national education research center funded by the U.S. Department of Education

PLS faculty members are committed to providing students with funding, including tuition, health insurance, and a living stipend.



Brittany Murray '20  
Assistant Professor  
Davidson College



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## How will you propel the world?

To learn more about the Policy, Leadership, and School Improvement concentration of the Ph.D. in Education program or about applying, email [ed@unc.edu](mailto:ed@unc.edu)

Visit [ed.unc.edu/pls](https://ed.unc.edu/pls)

