

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 admission, applications are typically due in early spring. For exact dates, visit ed.unc.edu/pls.

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.



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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
- **Collaborate with engaged scholars** who are currently working with the school districts and state departments of education across the United States as well as the U.S. Department of Education's Institute for Education Science on a range of issues related to post-pandemic educational recovery, teacher labor markets, and student transitions to higher education, among others

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



James Sadler '21

*Director of Research and Analytics
Baltimore Promise*

“The PLS program has allowed me to explore my research interests on multiple fronts, from the fields of policy, political science, sociology, and economics. This interdisciplinary approach with a focus on rigorous research has given me the necessary tools to help tackle some of the world’s hardest educational questions.”

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

Visit ed.unc.edu/pls

PROPEL
the WORLD