

SUMMARY
Degree and Academic Programs
November 8, 2021

Actions

Attached: Materials prepared for approval by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV)

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Approve Establishment of School of Animal Sciences

College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences

Approve Discontinuance of PhD in Educational Research and Evaluation

For Information Purposes Only – no action required

Attached: Letter from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) regarding approved department name

Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine

Department of Health Systems and Implementation Science

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above degree actions be approved.

November 8, 2021

**DISCONTINUANCE OF PHD IN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND EVALUATION IN
THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND HUMAN SCIENCES**

Table of Contents

Proposed Intent to Discontinue..... 1
Background..... 1
Critical Shortage Area..... 1
Teach-out Plan 1

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board of Visitors approve the discontinuance of the Ph.D. in Educational Research and Evaluation.

November 8, 2021

DISCONTINUANCE OF PHD IN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND EVALUATION IN THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Proposed Intent to Discontinue

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) requests to discontinue the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Educational Research and Evaluation degree program (CIP code: 13.0603). The degree program is located in the School of Education in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Background

The Ph.D. in Educational Research and Evaluation was initiated before the establishment of the Council of Higher Education. Since 2013, enrollment in the degree program has steadily declined. During the course of the 2019/2020 State Council of Higher Education (SCHEV) productivity review process, the Ph.D. in Educational Research and Evaluation degree program was targeted as a program that was not meeting the standards set forth in the Virginia Public Higher Education Policy on Program Productivity. Based on the information contained within the productivity review process, administration within the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences determined that the program should be discontinued.

Rationale for Intent to Discontinue

Enrollment and degree completions for the Ph.D. in Educational Research and Evaluation program have steadily declined since 2013 and it has become increasingly difficult to recruit new students into the program. Based on the data and information contained within the productivity review process, the declining enrollment, and input from the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, the institution made the decision to close the degree program.

Critical Shortage Area

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Educational Research and Evaluation degree program is not a critical shortage area.

Teach-out Plan

A total of 12 are currently enrolled in the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Educational Research and Evaluation degree program. Six (6) students have completed required coursework for the program, are currently in the research and dissertation phase of the program, and are expected to graduate by Spring 2023. Four (4) students will complete the required coursework for the program in the Spring 2021 semester, will then begin the research and dissertation phase of the program, and are expected to graduate by Spring 2024. The remaining two (2) students in the program are currently in the process of developing Plans of Study and will be offered the opportunity to complete the Ph.D. in Educational Research and Evaluation or switch to another program of their choosing.

Should a current student in the Ph.D. in Educational Research and Evaluation degree program leave the university and not complete the program by the Spring of 2026, the School of Education is committed to working with the students to identify a path for completion in another program within the university that meets their needs.

**DISCONTINUANCE OF PHD IN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH AND EVALUATION IN
THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND HUMAN SCIENCES**“Stopped Out” Students

The nine (9) students that have “stopped out” since 2010 have been considered. Seven (7) of the students have completed the required coursework for the degree program but have not completed the research and dissertation phase of the program. Two (2) students have not completed the required coursework or developed Plans of Study. There is a 5-year period in which students may return and complete the Ph.D. in Educational Research and Evaluation degree program. This group of students will be notified in writing about the discontinuation of the degree program. The School of Education faculty will assist students through the transition process.