

Doctorate in Virtual Education

Program Overview:

The Doctorate in Virtual Education program, under the administrative oversight of the School of Education, is committed to preparing individuals who are interested in deepening their understanding of contemporary issues in virtual education and developing practical ways to apply that knowledge in professional settings, with an emphasis on responsible social practice and the integration of multicultural awareness of human diversity. The overall goal is to examine the theory and practice of virtual education and its application for the new century.

Program Description

One of the most striking features of this century is the rapid, accelerating growth of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). This ICT revolution is widely recognized by modern societies as an enduring force that continually reshapes the way people live. All projections suggest that this pace of change will not slow down; instead, it will expand to include most of the nations of the world. Education as a whole, including virtual education, has been profoundly impacted by this transformation—while, at the same time, it opens up a remarkable opportunity to broaden its geographic reach.

The University recognizes the ongoing need in society for experts in the field of virtual education. Our doctoral program in virtual education provides a solid understanding of the theoretical foundations of online educational practice and builds students' ability to apply that knowledge in specific educational settings. Theory, research, and relevant field experiences are integrated to develop capable, ethical professionals who respect individual and cultural differences in the delivery of educational services. Our Doctoral Program Orientation Seminar will introduce students to the program and to the University's virtual learning platform.

Program Structure

The Doctor of Virtual Education program is anchored in research as a cross-cutting focus. This requirement is fulfilled through two research courses, three seminars, and a doctoral dissertation. The research courses cover methodologies used across different types of studies. The seminars guide students in applying research and developing their doctoral dissertation. An approved dissertation document is the final step toward completing the program, at which point the doctoral dissertation will be presented and published.

Doctoral Dissertation

Students will submit the final version of their electronic dissertation to three members of the Dissertation Committee. They will review it and recommend the dissertation defense or provide the required revisions

that must be completed before scheduling the defense. Once the Committee has approved the dissertation document, students must reserve a date to present their doctoral thesis via videoconference.

Course Methodology

Our learning approach is flexible, works for a wide range of learning styles, is fully online, and is delivered through a blend of live sessions and asynchronous group and individual activities grounded in case studies. All live sessions are recorded and made available for students to replay (even if they weren't able to attend), giving the program a high level of flexibility.

Our faculty—each holding a doctoral degree and deeply connected to industry—teach theory through the lens of real-world case studies from companies and institutions, where the concepts learned are put into practice. The combination of asynchronous discussion forums and live chats enables not only the development of a problem-solving mindset, but also the application of situated learning in the volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous environments characteristic of the Fourth Industrial Revolution that we are experiencing as a society.

These spaces for dialogue and exchange foster an active learning approach and strong synergy with fellow students that leads to the development of soft skills and to building a network of contacts (networking) that is invaluable, strengthening our professional profile with a community of peers holding master's degrees with whom we have built a trusted professional relationship. As a result, our master's students build their learning through real-world cases, supported by solid theoretical frameworks and grounded in a flexible online environment, developing soft skills and integrating a network of professionals who will support them throughout their entire career.

	Nombre del curso	Código	Créditos
1º Período Académico	Doctoral Program Orientation Seminar	VED7011	0
	E-Literacy and E-Learning	VED7012	3
	Sustainability and Assessment of Virtual Learning Resources	VED7013	3
2º Período Académico	Research Methodology I	VED7021	3
	Teacher's Challenges and Trends: Teacher or Coach?	VED7022	3
3º Período Académico	Research Methodology II	VED7031	3
	Global Curriculum Design	VED7032	3
4º Período Académico	Accessibility of Virtual Education	VED7041	3
	Cloud Computing in Education	VED7042	3
5º Período Académico	Doctoral Research Seminar I	BUS7051	6
6º Período Académico	Copyrights and Ethics in Virtual Education	VED7061	3
	International Teams – Institutions Strategic Agreements	VED7062	3
7º Período Académico	Doctoral Research Seminar II	VED7071	6
8º Período Académico	Evaluation in Virtual Education	VED7081	3
	Perspectives in Instructional Technology and Distance Education	VED7082	3
9º Período Académico	Doctoral Research Seminar III	VED7091	6
10º Período Académico	Dissertation	VED7101	6
11º Período Académico	*Continuing Dissertation Services	VED7190	1



VED7011 - Doctoral Program Orientation Seminar: This customized introductory course serves as an entry point to the doctoral program. It also provides an introduction to the process

Academic study from the perspective of a researcher who applies the scientific method. This course enables students to choose their research track and clearly understand the process of developing a doctoral dissertation.

VED7012 - E-Literacy and E-Learning: This course explores "media literacy" as a growing source of information and values, through a critical evaluation of elements of film, television, the Internet, advertising, radio, and print media. The approaches are autobiographical, ideological, nonverbal, and mythic.

VED7013 - Sustainability and Assessment of Virtual Learning Resources: Students examine the core principles of effective online assessment through multiple design approaches and the use of creative practices directly tied to course activities to measure student learning and its sustainability. The course will use case studies, authentic assessments grounded in applying real-world concepts, and collaborative activities that evaluate the quality of student learning rather than relying on traditional methods that measure how much information students retain. In an era of accountability, this course offers strategies for aligning assessment, program competencies, learning outcomes, and course activities that genuinely engage students and foster meaningful sustainability.

VED7021 - Research Methodology I: This research course equips students with the foundational knowledge and skills needed to design doctoral-level qualitative research, including how to interpret data analysis. Students explore the nature of qualitative inquiry, fieldwork strategies and the practice of observation, theoretical approaches to qualitative research, the importance of quality assurance, and ethical and legal considerations, as well as the social-change implications of conducting qualitative research and generating knowledge. Students use software to code data and to interpret and present results. Students will apply and strengthen their knowledge and skills by developing a qualitative research plan. Project components include planning, ethics and research access, data collection and analysis, and the research report.

VED7022 - Teacher's Challenges and Trends: Teacher or Coach?: Online teaching comes with many challenges and emerging trends. Instructors are expected to integrate the latest research on cognitive processing and learning outcomes. Bringing games, simulations, and virtual worlds into online learning can be a transformative experience for both teachers and students. This hands-on course shows students how to spot opportunities to design games, simulations, and virtual environments within the curriculum; how to successfully integrate these interactive experiences to strengthen student learning; and how to measure learning outcomes. The course also explores how to secure institutional support to adopt and fund more advanced simulations. Students will examine contexts, resources, tips, case studies, and other real-world examples.

VED7031 - Research Methodology II: This research course equips students with the foundational knowledge and skills needed to design doctoral-level quantitative research, including an understanding of data analysis and the application of statistical concepts. Students examine complete quantitative research designs and appropriate statistical tests, the importance of quality assurance and ethical considerations, as well as the social change implications of conducting quantitative research and generating knowledge. This course approaches statistics through a problem-solving lens, with a focus on selecting the right statistical tests for a research design. Students use statistical software to extract relevant insights and to interpret and present results. Students will apply and strengthen their knowledge and skills by developing a quantitative research plan.

VED7032 - Global Curriculum Design: This course focuses on initiatives developed around global curriculum design in virtual education. Students will review and analyze program impact and sustainability. The course takes a deeper look at designing programs for special populations. As a final project, students will develop a global curriculum design model for this course.

VED7041 Accessibility of Virtual Education: The virtual school community has a responsibility to ensure its programs are accessible and that educational opportunities are equitable. Virtual education programs must prioritize these areas to make sure they deliver the greatest benefit to the widest range of students. This course provides an overview of accessibility in virtual education.

VED7042 - Cloud Computing in Education: Cloud computing is an emerging field that has drawn strong interest from both academia and industry in recent years. Cloud-based distributed systems such as Facebook®, Gmail®, Amazon®, and others play an increasingly important role in society. Students need to understand the principles behind these systems to help build the Internet of tomorrow. Many schools and organizations are adopting cloud computing, and a critical understanding of how cloud computing is structured is essential to take full advantage of the opportunities and benefits this new computing paradigm brings to education. This course offers a comprehensive look at the concepts, technologies, models, strategies, and applications of cloud computing.

VED7051 - Doctoral Research Seminar I: This course has two goals: first, to provide students with a foundation in scholarly literature that has had a meaningful impact in academia; and second, to use the reading and discussion of these works as a way to spark ideas that help students produce a conceptual dissertation thesis draft. The selected readings serve as models of knowledge-building and argumentation. Students are expected to situate their thinking within the broader intellectual context the course provides. The final product of this seminar will be their doctoral dissertation proposal.

VED7061 - Copyrights and Ethics in Virtual Education: Virtual education is a modern educational model designed to address the challenges of today's schooling systems and meet the needs of society and individuals in the 21st century. Developing an ethical framework for virtual education raises many questions, yet practical solutions are within reach. One of the central concerns is whether current ethical guidelines truly fit educational research conducted in virtual worlds. This course aims to explore key ethical issues tied to the potential use of virtual reality systems in education, examine why it is so difficult to define a clear ethical stance on these matters and, finally, identify a set of ethical principles despite these challenges.

VED7062 - International Teams – Institutions Strategic Agreements: Cooperation among educational institutions around the world is becoming increasingly essential. The World Wide Web has prompted institutions to embrace a new international culture that has reshaped how education is delivered and has given rise to "International Teams." The purpose of this course is to review agreements among educational institutions worldwide to determine which institutions are involved, the type of agreement in place, their shared goals, how long they have been working together, and the outcomes they have already achieved or hope to achieve. Students may choose any level of the educational system.

VED7071 - Doctoral Research Seminar II: This course helps students further develop both quantitative and qualitative research methods, while also expanding their literature review. The final outcome of this seminar will be an initial draft of the research methodologies that will later be refined and expanded in the final dissertation.

VED7081 - Evaluation in Virtual Education: Virtual education is expanding rapidly. Every day, virtual technology moves forward at an incredible pace, and education can't overlook any of the key elements involved in the process—one of the most important is assessment. This course provides an opportunity to review the literature and case studies focused on leading-edge evaluation in virtual education. Students will engage with all levels and formats of education to examine how assessment is being carried out in virtual environments. Students will also evaluate the learning strategies used in virtual education.

VED7082 - Perspectives in Instructional Technology and Distance Education: This course highlights the shifting and emerging features that define life online—especially in and around the world of virtual learning. "Cybercultures" are explored as intricate blends of ideas, philosophies, concepts, and theories, some of which can clash sharply with one another. As a framework, students will see that "cybercultures" grow out of the ongoing efforts of different groups to make sense of activities, language codes, and multifaceted practices within complex, constantly evolving settings. They are shaped by people, machines, and the everyday stories that connect them. While students will encounter a range of viewpoints, they should also notice recurring themes—especially the belief that virtual learning (e-learning) will be a critically important part of education's future.

VED7091 - Doctoral Research Seminar III: This course covers both the theoretical and practical sides of designing dissertation research and successfully defending that design before an evaluation panel. Its goal is to support students throughout the doctoral dissertation process. The dissertation is expected to be an original research project that demonstrates the student's ability to conceive, plan, and carry out independent research under the guidance of their advisor and the dissertation committee. While the full committee considers key issues related to the topic and methodology, the student ultimately bears sole responsibility for completing the work and reporting it as a meaningful contribution to knowledge in the relevant field through a peer-review process.

VED7101 - Dissertation: All doctoral students are required to complete a Doctoral Dissertation. Three milestones are required: the concept paper, the dissertation proposal, and the final dissertation document which will bring together all research and findings. In this way, each student is given the opportunity to become an expert in a selected area/ subject through an original contribution to research.

VED7190 - *Continuing Dissertation Services: Additional support for students who need more time to complete their dissertation.