Program Outline

Year 1

Eight day seminar – Vancouver (August)

Year-long Courses (Online)

MEDL 500 Foundations of Educational Leadership
MEDL 580 Leadership in the BC Context
MEDL 650 Leading Learning

Year 2

Intersession – VIU Nanaimo (July)

MEDL 550 Research in Education
MEDL 600 Educational Change

Fall Semester (Online)

MEDL 590 Leadership Values and Ethical Decision-Making

Spring Semester (Online)

MEDL 680 Field Inquiry

Intersession (Online)

MEDL 690 Major Project

About Vancouver Island University

Vancouver Island University is a comprehensive post-secondary institution located on beautiful Vancouver Island in British Columbia. Our main campus is located in Nanaimo and we have regional campuses in Duncan and Powell River, and a campus centre in Parksville. More than 17,000 full-time and part-time students are enrolled in academic, applied, career/technical, vocational, trades and developmental programs leading to certificates, diplomas and degrees.

For further information, please contact:
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"I love how my own classroom has become my learning space, making the study and work integrate powerfully."  Current Student

The information contained in this guide is accurate at the time of printing. Vancouver Island University reserves the right to make such changes as necessary, including cancellation and adjustment of courses.

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Start Date and Application Deadline
The program begins in mid-August and applications are accepted between November 15 and March 31.

Admission Requirements
To receive an application for Admission, please contact Dr. Harry Janzen, Dean of Education, Vancouver Island University: Harry.Janzen@viu.ca

Program Objectives
The M.Ed. (Distance Option) develops leaders who are committed to:
• High quality and high equity learning experiences for all learners
• Respect for and knowledge of Indigenous ways of knowing
• The development of innovative learning environments based on contemporary knowledge from the learning sciences
• The use of formative assessment to strengthen learner self-regulation and ownership
• Teamwork across roles and the development of collaborative, learning-focused, inquiry-oriented cultures
• Designing and implementing high-quality, professional learning to build capacity at all levels of the system.

Program Overview
The goal of this program is to help prepare and equip school and system leaders to lead contemporary schools with a significant emphasis on new conceptions of learning and a deep commitment to quality and equity. Your interest in continually improving your own practice, as well as your curiosity about innovative approaches to learning and teaching, make you an ideal candidate for the graduate program.

The two year program design recognizes the complex lives of educators. The program begins with an intensive eight day residency in Vancouver. During the Fall and Spring students complete their course work online. Year Two begins with a four week July residency at VIU in Nanaimo. The final course and major project are completed online during the Fall and Spring of Year Two.

Unique features of this program include its focus on international perspectives on learning, leadership and innovation, teamwork with lead colleagues and districts and the opportunity to explore new knowledge during a year-long school-based inquiry. The program is readily accessible to teachers from all parts of British Columbia and around the world.

Students wishing to complete only the first year of the program receive the Teacher Leadership Graduate Diploma.

Program Content
Through the program’s learning experiences you will extend your knowledge and understanding in the following areas:

Learning Sciences: You will examine contemporary international work in learning sciences. You will commit to incorporating new knowledge about learning into your own practices. You will critically explore the role of new media and technology to support and extend quality learning.

Inquiry: You will develop an understanding of the ways in which focused inquiry creates motivation for change. By working through a spiral of inquiry, you will have the opportunity to directly apply your knowledge to address an important learning issue.

Leadership: You will learn about distributed and networked forms of leadership connected to system transformation. You will explore the kinds of leadership mindsets required to shift schools and systems toward deeper forms of learning for all.

Adult Learning: You will develop knowledge about teacher professional learning and the role of leadership in designing powerful forms of adult learning.

System Perspective: You will gain a perspective on the strengths and areas for change in the Canadian and BC education system. You will explore ways that Canadian and international jurisdictions are approaching large system change.

Innovative Learning Environments: You will explore the conclusions from current learning sciences research to design a more personalized approach to learning in your setting. You will explore the ways that schools in a variety of jurisdictions are connecting learning more directly with community and are expanding the notion of when, where and how learning takes place.

“The program has provided meaningful and practical learning that has motivated me to develop school practices that are sustainable.”

“I feel there is so much room in this program to learn the way I learn.”

Current Student