GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Overview

The University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education is one of the nation’s premier education schools. At Penn GSE, students and faculty enjoy an Ivy League environment that supports both practical knowledge building and high-quality research. Our alumni are recognized as some of the world’s most influential education leaders, and our distinguished professors are pioneers in their fields.

A world-class school of education in a dynamic Ivy League setting, Penn GSE is a national leader in education research and preparing talented educators. With 40 tenured and tenure-track faculty and just under 1,300 students, Penn GSE is a small school with remarkable scholarly productivity and influence.

Penn GSE offers a vibrant array of high-quality degree programs in education research and practice. Renowned for our expertise in urban education, policy research, quantitative methods, practitioner inquiry, developmental psychology, and qualitative analysis, Penn GSE provides rigorous academic training and professional mentoring to help our students become effective leaders. Graduates of our innovative and interdisciplinary programs are shaping the future of education.

By the Numbers

- Ranked #2 graduate school of education in the 2020 U.S. News & World Report
- 950+ Masters students
- 390+ Doctoral students
- 32% International students
- 60% Students of color
- 40 Standing faculty

For more information: https://www.gse.upenn.edu/

Research

Penn GSE emphasizes the interplay of theory, research, and practice in everything we do, believing that education research produces knowledge to inform practice, but also that research must be informed by the issues, needs, and concerns of practitioners. We are recognized for our strengths in research on urban education, policy, teaching and learning, the cultural contexts of education, language education, qualitative analysis, practitioner inquiry, developmental psychology, and quantitative and multimethod inquiry.

For more information: https://www.gse.upenn.edu/faculty_research

Diversity

Penn GSE has long been committed to preparing its students to live, work, and become leaders in a world marked by sweeping demographic change and interconnectedness. Our students, faculty, and staff come from diverse backgrounds, and the diversity of the school is intentionally fostered by Penn GSE’s policies and practices.

Over the last few years, we have deeply engaged in ongoing learning and dialogue about difference, as well as our shared interest in using education to create opportunity. We work extensively to foster understanding and a climate of inclusion and respect.

Penn GSE is proud of its diverse student population. On average, each class is 60% people of color, with 25% from under-represented groups. Penn GSE continues to enact a number of successful efforts to create a broader pipeline of students.

For more information: https://www.gse.upenn.edu/

Faculty

Penn GSE’s world-class faculty and researchers—the intellectual heart of our School—have a major impact on education research and practice across the globe. This influential faculty answer vital questions and solve pressing problems in local, national, and global education. From literacy to college access to the Common Core, our researchers are leading the conversation about critical issues in education.

Our professors possess particular strengths in teaching and learning, the cultural contexts of education, language education, qualitative research methods, and practitioner inquiry. In recent years, these strengths have deepened to include national leadership in policy research, urban education, developmental psychology, and quantitative and multimethod inquiry.

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Outreach

PHILADELPHIA: Philadelphia is a national testing ground for many of the issues facing American education: school reform, charters, school funding, deep poverty, and a diverse and diversifying student body. In the words of Dean Pam Grossman, “We partner with schools in small and large ways to work towards social justice — always endeavoring to leverage the expertise of the larger research university in service of a better education for all.”

Penn GSE’s students, alumni, faculty, and staff are making an impact in schools, informal learning environments, and community organizations in every neighborhood of the city. The school’s deepest school partnerships include the award-winning Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander—University of Pennsylvania Partnership School (“Penn Alexander”) and the Lea School, both in West Philadelphia. Other initiatives and programs include bilingual language initiatives, projects with specific learning networks, collaborations with the central District administration, mental health counseling, and studying the effects of immigration upon community cohesion in South Philadelphia.

Our commitment to active, on-the-ground engagement in Philadelphia is a reflection of the University-wide values expressed in the Penn Compact. Penn GSE is not just located in Philadelphia—it is of Philadelphia. It is crucial to our mission that Penn GSE faculty and students engage in all levels of education, both formal and informal, in traditional and alternative settings, to better learn how we can solve the challenges of urban education and contribute to the growth and wellbeing of our citizens.

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INTERNATIONAL: The University of Pennsylvania nurtures global networks and encourages innovative, cross-disciplinary research to better understand and resolve global issues. As part of this campus-wide
initiative, Penn GSE students research, study, teach, and work across the globe, and over 70% of our faculty members are involved in international initiatives. From high-quality international degree programs to a stellar international student body, Penn GSE is committed to global education.

For more information: https://www.gse.upenn.edu/