Learning, Diversity, & Urban Studies: Understanding Today’s Changing Educational Landscape

“Urban and diverse settings are rich repositories of human capital, innovation, and culture. This program is designed to help educators explore problems and solutions in the classroom and beyond.”

—Rich Milner
Associate Professor of Education, Program Director

Admission
LDUS is a selective program. Admission will be based on GRE scores, transcripts from other colleges or universities attended, and letters of recommendation. Your application, which can be submitted online without a fee, should be made by December 31. Financial assistance to qualified students is available.

For additional information, please contact:
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Program of Studies
The 30-hour LDUS program can be completed over three semesters (fall, spring, and summer). Students enter as a cohort, taking their core courses together. These courses include: Learning, Diversity, and Urban Studies Seminars 1 and 2 (6 hours), Learning, Design, and Diversity (3 hours), and Action Research (3 hours). As an LDUS student, you will also choose a strand (9 hours, see below), participate in an internship (6 hours), and take 3 hours of electives. The three strands offered are:

- **The Learning Strand**, focusing on the design of learning environments.
- **The Diversity Strand**, exploring language, race, class, gender, socio-economic status, equity, sexual orientation, equality, and discrimination.
- **The Urban Studies Strand**, focusing on inner-city schools, neighborhoods, metropolitan regions, and educational policies and practices.

The LDUS program culminates with either a capstone experience or a thesis. If you choose to write a thesis, additional time is required.

In Search of Equity
Racial and ethnic minorities currently comprise approximately 30 percent of the United States population. Statistics project that Hispanic Americans alone will make up a third of the nation’s population by the year 2050. Statistics also point to disturbing disparities in achievement, access and opportunity among and between racial and ethnic groups. Identifying a need, Vanderbilt University’s internationally renowned Peabody College has launched Learning, Diversity, and Urban Studies (LDUS), a master’s degree program designed to help teachers and other professionals deepen their knowledge, skills and understanding of diversity in schools and beyond.

Applying world-class research resources, the program will equip educators to partner with complex urban communities to address inequitable learning opportunities and improve quality of life.

Avenues of Inquiry
As an LDUS student, you will investigate the many concerns that surround equity, such as poverty, rezoning, school choice, and language acquisition. Peabody College is a research institution, and you will learn to develop invaluable research skills.

Nashville, a rapidly growing urban setting, will also enrich your experience. In this evolving city, Peabody is collaborating with local organizations to create an educational system that works for all.

An Expanding Field
Individuals with expertise in the subject of diversity are increasingly in demand. Teachers who graduate from LDUS can expect to strengthen their classroom teaching, but LDUS graduates are equally prepared to assume roles as diversity officers in schools, professional development coordinators, curriculum coordinators, learning coaches, or professionals in nonprofit or for-profit organizations. LDUS also offers excellent preparation for entry into a doctoral program.

“Not only are my professors world-class researchers, they also genuinely care about me, my interests, and my aspirations. I have been able to engage critical questions about how race, class, culture, policy, curriculum, and instruction shape our nation’s urban schools.”

—Susan Patrick, ’11