Preparing School Leaders to Implement Effective Special Education Systems That Improve Student Outcomes (LEAD)

VANDERBILT Peabody College Department of Special Education

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

TEXAS The University of Texas at Austin

Come join Vanderbilt University (VU), University of Maryland (UMD), and The University of Texas at Austin (UT) for a fully-funded PhD program in special education in Fall 2027!

Our Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)-funded training grant will address the national, state, and local need for preparing highly qualified PhD-level faculty and leadership personnel in special education with expertise in the implementation of evidence-based practices, programs, and policies to support outcomes of high-need children with disabilities and their families.

Scholars in the program will develop expertise in a range of areas, including:

1. Rigorous **research methods** coursework and content area expertise that leads to high quality products
2. Mastery of **theoretical understanding** of and leadership in models of implementation, special education policy, and special education systems
3. Knowledge and expertise in special education **law and policy** and of related factors that influence effective implementation, including organizational leadership and professional development/coaching, that maximize the impact of leadership and supervision roles in special education/early intervention
4. Knowledge and expertise in special education **systems** (e.g., early intervention, K-12 schools), including transition between systems, to support effective implementation of programs, practices, and policies in high-needs school systems and children with disabilities and their families in schools and in the community
5. Knowledge and expertise in actively **collaborating with and advocating for families, communities, and policies** that serve the individual needs of and improve outcomes for students with disabilities and their families
6. **Applied leadership, research, and implementation** experiences through required intensive field-based internship experiences involving community and local, state, and federal education
7. The ability to use data and to **synthesize, disseminate, and evaluate findings** to effectively use the evidence and translate the evidence to practitioner, family, and community audiences

Students will participate in:

- Coursework at VU, UMD and UT
- LEAD On-Site Intensives
- Teaching and Supervision Experiences
- Leadership Apprenticeship in Special Education/Early Intervention
- Bimonthly LEAD Virtual Seminars
- LEAD Research Conference

Apply by December 1

E-mail Dr. Jason Chow at jason.chow@vanderbilt.edu
Dr. Jade Wexler at jawexler@umd.edu
Dr. Dr. Lauren Hampton at lauren.hampton@austin.utexas.edu
for any questions about each program.

Application link for VU

Application link for UMD

Application link for UT

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Join us!

Austin, TX



Nashville, TN



College Park, MD/ Washington, DC





Core Faculty



Jason Chow | **Project Director, Associate Professor, Vanderbilt University**

Dr.Chow's research focuses on language, social, and behavioral development, use, implementation, and sustainability of evidence-based practice, and research synthesis methods.



Jade Wexler | **Professor, University of Maryland**

Dr. Wexler's research focuses on designing and evaluating professional development, literacy coaching, and sustainable school-wide service delivery models to support teachers' implementation of evidence-based literacy practices at the secondary level.



Lauren Hampton | **Associate Professor, The University of Texas at Austin**

Dr. Hampton's research focuses on early identification and parent-implemented interventions for young children with language delays and/or autism.



Shanna Hirsch | **Associate Professor, University of Maryland**

Dr. Hirsch's research focuses on Improving behavioral outcomes for students with disabilities through the use of evidence-based and high-leverage practices; developing practical and effective functional assessment-based interventions; designing and delivering teacher professional development.



Blair Lloyd | **Associate Professor, Vanderbilt University**

Dr.Lloyd's research focuses on individualized assessments and interventions for students with persistent challenging behavior, issues in observational measurement, and single case research designs.



Veronica Kang | **Assistant Professor, University of Maryland**

Dr. Kang's research focuses on supporting social communication and language for children with autism in immigrant communities, early intervention provider and parent coaching, and community engagement and advocacy.



James Lee | **Assistant Professor, The University of Texas at Austin**

Dr.Lee's research focuses on culturally responsive interventions for young children with diverse neurodevelopmental conditions, including autism, through cultural adaptation and implementation science.

Check out the profile pages for each person listed above & e-mail us regarding questions about ongoing and upcoming research and scholarly activities!

Award #H325D260090