Peabody majors include innovative programs in education, child development, cognitive studies, child studies, and human and organizational development. These programs magnify Peabody’s focus on improving the lives of individuals and enhancing their communities and organizations.

Peabody alumni include teachers in all fifty states and many foreign countries, as well as numerous college or university presidents and many superintendents of school systems. As a Peabody graduate, you’ll become part of a continuum of successful leaders in people-oriented careers—education, administration, public policy, business, research, and government. You might work with a foundation or nonprofit, direct a social service agency, train corporate managers, head a department of human resources, or lead a business. You might advance the behavioral sciences or provide medical and health care.

Whatever your path after Peabody, you will influence the values of your community and help shape the issues we address as a society.

IF YOU WANT YOUR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE TO PREPARE YOU TO FIND SOLUTIONS FOR BOTH INDIVIDUALS AND COMMUNITIES, VANDERBILT’S PEABODY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT may be the perfect fit. As one of Vanderbilt’s four undergraduate schools, Peabody illuminates how people think, learn, and function in groups and organizations.
Ranked one of the top five graduate schools of education by U.S. News & World Report for 14 consecutive years, Peabody College is a vital part of Vanderbilt, one of the world’s leading teaching and research universities. As an undergraduate, you’ll study in a rich interdisciplinary environment with students whose ideas will complement and challenge your own.

The Academic Advantages

In addition to core liberal arts courses in the College of Arts and Science, you may take courses in the Blair School of Music and the School of Engineering. You might participate in an honors program, teacher placements here and abroad, or a five-year combined master’s degree program through one of Vanderbilt’s six renowned graduate and professional schools.

Throughout your college experience, you will witness the great emphasis and value we place on teaching undergraduates. Our small class sizes and low student-teacher ratio (8:1) help create an atmosphere of in-depth learning.

Vanderbilt is a national leader in promoting undergraduate research. Students coauthor faculty research papers and present their work at professional conferences. Research on the learning sciences, psychology, and education policy is conducted at Peabody, and the results are put into practice in schools across the country.

This inquiry occurs in world-class, on-campus research centers. For example, the Education and Brain Sciences Research Lab is part of a research emphasis at Peabody on educational neuroscience. The researchers in this lab seek to understand why some children are successful at learning how to read, while others are not. The goal of their research is to improve the diagnosis and treatment of children who are struggling learners by combining findings from neurobiological, psychological, and educational perspectives.

Peabody’s National Center on School Choice and its National Center on Performance Incentives conduct research that influences education reform.

From the first year on, all Peabody students have opportunities to apply their classroom knowledge in real-world settings.

95% OF SENIORS GRADUATING FROM VANDERBILT ARE SATISFIED WITH THE QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION
Teacher Education Majors

If you elect to study early childhood, elementary, or secondary education, you’ll complete a major within Peabody’s Teaching and Learning department and an additional, non-education major from another department or school. This is a requirement for teacher licensure and an opportunity to add dimension and value to your degree. Students in secondary education must complete another major in the College of Arts and Science through which they will satisfy most of the requirements of the Liberal Education Core.

Students in all four teacher education programs get hands-on experience in the classroom both early and often. In their first required Peabody class, Society, School, and the Teacher, students are already making classroom observations; this course is followed by a carefully designed set of practica in which students are given increasing responsibility for classroom activities. The programs culminate in a semester-long student teaching assignment in two different grade levels of Nashville area public schools.

Roughly 70% of our teacher education graduates go straight into the classroom as full-time instructors, and another 20+% go on to complete graduate studies. All of our teacher education programs are approved by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education, and our Office of Teacher Licensure provides information and assistance to prospective teachers.

Upon completion of the appropriate requirements, graduates are recommended for licensure in Tennessee, which has reciprocal agreements with most states. While graduates must still apply for licensure to teach in other states, the process is fairly straightforward. A Peabody degree is widely recognized as a valuable asset, and our alumni have been approved for licensure in all states and many foreign countries.

Early Childhood and Elementary Education

If you want to work with children up through elementary school, this field-oriented program will prepare you for teacher licensure through one of two tracks. In the Early Childhood track you will be prepared for licensure in prekindergarten through third grade. Many students in this track combine their major with the interdisciplinary major in child studies for a deep understanding of young children and learning differences in the early years. In the Elementary Education track you will be prepared to teach all curricular areas to children in kindergarten through the fifth grade and satisfy licensure requirements for elementary schools. In this track you will combine your major with a second major in the liberal arts, an interdisciplinary major, or another major offered by Peabody or the College of Arts and Science. In both tracks you will actively observe and participate in classroom settings throughout your undergraduate years.

Secondary Education

If your goal is to teach students in grades seven through twelve, the secondary education major will provide strong grounding in one or more content areas, experience in teaching methods, and an introduction to current research in the field. You will complete Liberal Education Core requirements, professional education requirements, and courses in a primary area of emphasis in at least one licensure field, which will give you a second major in Vanderbilt’s College of Arts and Science. You may also choose to earn certification in more than one teaching area. Students gain practical experience every year through a variety of classroom settings and complete a semester of student teaching as a capstone experience.

Top Five Graduate Schools of Education

14 CONSECUTIVE YEARS BY U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT
Vanderbilt Kennedy Center

Closely affiliated with Peabody College and its Department of Special Education, the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for Research on Human Development seeks to improve the quality of life of persons with disorders of thinking, learning, perception, communication, mood, and emotion caused by disruption of typical development. It is one of fourteen national centers on developmental disabilities supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development.

The Vanderbilt Kennedy Center boasts 90 researchers drawn from Peabody, the Schools of Medicine and Nursing, and the College of Arts and Science. Its five research programs seek to understand human development, prevent and solve developmental problems, and enable people with disabilities to lead better lives. Research areas include, among other topics: adoption, aggression, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, autism, brain plasticity, circadian rhythms, depression, Down syndrome, ethics in research and medicine, fetal alcohol syndrome, genetics, learning disabilities, motor disabilities, multiple sensory disorders, neurotransmitters, psychopharmacology, seizure disorders, sickle-cell disease, social development, substance abuse, and visual perception.

Susan Gray School for Children

Peabody’s Susan Gray School for Children serves as a training site for teachers and researchers and provides early intervention for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers who show developmental disabilities or delays. Susan Gray, a former Peabody faculty member, conducted groundbreaking research that influenced the founding of the national Head Start program.

Special Education

Peabody’s Department of Special Education is widely considered the best in the nation for research related to teaching children with disabilities, and our graduates are in demand by school systems throughout the country. Combining theory, extensive field experience, and innovative practices, the program equips future teachers with the skills to assess and design instructional programs for students with learning differences.

As a student of special education, you’ll pursue an interdisciplinary major in exceptional learning with an emphasis in one of the three specialty areas: mild and moderate disabilities, multiple and severe disabilities, or visual impairment.

The major can be combined with other non-education majors in Peabody College or with majors or minors offered through Vanderbilt’s three other undergraduate schools. Students can also gain dual licensure by majoring in both special education and early childhood or elementary education. This is especially good preparation for teaching in the inclusive classroom setting that accommodates both special needs and typically developing children.

The program is field-oriented and problem-centered, with most courses requiring direct involvement with individuals with disabilities. From the first year, you’ll observe and work in a variety of educational settings in local schools and in experimental classrooms on campus. Students may also minor in special education, taking courses that match their interests.
ONE-ON-ONE WITH

Donna Y. Ford

An award-winning professor, author, researcher, and lecturer, Donna Ford is well known and well respected for her research on gifted education and multicultural education. With a focus on recruiting and retaining culturally diverse students in gifted education, multicultural and urban education, minority student achievement, and family involvement, Ford not only challenges assumptions about academic achievement among black and Hispanic students, she seeks ways to improve it.

“We can have great teachers from all backgrounds and great programs, but if students don’t believe in themselves, they won’t achieve and take advantage of the programs and opportunities offered by schools,” she points out.

Ford was identified as gifted in elementary school and has always been interested in gifted education and students, but her interest grew when her son was identified as gifted but started underachieving in the second grade due to a poor relationship with his teacher. “He started hating school and doing poorly on assignments. This is when two areas of interest became a passion for me: black students’ under-representation in gifted education and why gifted students in general, but gifted black students in particular, underachieved. So I decided to concentrate on gifted students in my doctoral studies. My work in gifted education is both personal and professional.”

In seeking solutions, Professor Ford and Assistant Professor of African American and Diaspora Studies Gilman Whiting created the Achievement Gap Institute at Peabody to assist educators and administrators in understanding and closing this gap. They also put their research to use by co-founding the Scholar Identity Institute, which has worked with young black males in Nashville’s school districts since 2006 and has expanded to sites across the country.

According to Ford, “We work with students to change their attitudes about being academic. We focus on self-efficacy (you can do it!), self-awareness (strengths and shortcomings), need for achievement being greater than affiliation, and taking responsibility for one’s own decisions and actions. I learned early in life to be self-sufficient and make wise choices. When mentoring, I stress the value of having a strong work ethic. Effort trumps ability in my experiences. To work hard and with integrity is a winning combination.”

“...
Learning/Psychology Majors

The majors in child development, child studies, and cognitive studies offer honors programs to qualified juniors and seniors, with opportunities to conduct research in collaboration with faculty members.

Child Development

This major focuses on children from infancy through adolescence and the context in which they live, including family, peer, school, community, and cultural influences. Providing a strong background in the social and behavioral sciences related to child development, it attracts many students who wish to pursue a graduate degree in psychology, medicine, nursing, social work, education, public policy, or law.

To this major, you could add another major in cognitive studies, early childhood or elementary education, special education, or human and organizational development. You can also opt for a five-year child development/nursing program that combines your bachelor’s with a master’s from Vanderbilt’s School of Nursing.

Child Studies

This interdisciplinary major has a broader focus than the child development major and is especially designed for students who want to work with children across a broad array of formal and informal educational settings. The possibilities with this major include working with children in school settings, formulating child-centered public policy, being involved in patient education in medical settings, or becoming legal advocates for children and families, to name just a few.

A hands-on, applied focus, including an optional practicum and internship, gives students ample experience with children in real-world settings. You might work in the national Child Life program at Vanderbilt’s medical center, for example, or at the university’s Susan Gray School as an intern with children with developmental delays.

Cognitive Studies

If you are intrigued with the process of learning itself, this major will shed light on the way people think, solve problems, and reason.

Courses focus on aspects of human cognition, including communication, cognitive development, basic cognitive processes, application of knowledge, and sociocultural facets of learning. They draw from psychology, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, and statistics to illuminate human cognition. The major emphasizes the scientific method and research process, and many opportunities exist for independent study and research in collaboration with faculty members.

Many students with this major go on to graduate school in the social and behavioral sciences and in areas such as medicine and law that place importance on inquiry and clear thinking.

Junyi Chu, a child development and cognitive studies major, immersed herself in research, first with faculty guidance and most recently on her own, as she researched whether a teaching approach based on the national math curriculum in her native Singapore could help U.S. seventh graders learn algebra.
Human and Organizational Development Major

The Human and Organizational Development (HOD) major prepares you to solve human problems in organizations and communities. Doing so requires knowledge of human development, group dynamics, organizational theory and behavior, economics, public policy, statistics, and methods of inquiry. The carefully planned curriculum ensures that every student obtains a strong foundation in the liberal arts and sciences, with extra emphasis on developing writing, oral presentation, and analytic skills.

In addition to the core curriculum, you will select a concentration or track that provides a focus for your study during the junior and senior years. Through the HOD program’s active learning approach to education, you learn through seminars, simulations, case studies, field experiences, and interaction with professionals in the field. Many students also add an additional major or minor, available through the respective departments of all four of Vanderbilt’s undergraduate colleges and schools.

Students must also complete a semester-long internship during which they demonstrate the core competencies of HOD—understanding and solving problems in organizations and communities. Through the coursework that accompanies the internship, students integrate and apply concepts from earlier classes to analyze organizational performance and complete a project that enhances the effectiveness of the organization.

Each of the HOD tracks also provides excellent preparation for advanced study in one of Peabody’s early admission master’s programs. Students wishing to pursue graduate study may apply in their junior year and, if admitted, begin taking graduate courses in their senior year, making it possible to complete most of Peabody master’s programs in one additional year of study.

Heidi Shuette put the leadership and organizational effectiveness skills she learned as a human and organizational development major to good use during an internship with the Machine Label Group, home to Taylor Swift among others.

POPULAR INTERNSHIP DESTINATIONS FOR HOD UNDERGRADUATES

New York City
San Francisco
London
Washington, D.C.
Chicago
Nashville
Community Leadership and Development
This track will prepare you for community leadership in a globally changing world. You will focus on developing skills and knowledge for careers in community organizations, business, government and policy organizations, nonprofit agencies, housing, and community development banking. After graduation you will be ready for a staff position or for graduate study in law, policy, journalism, education, the social sciences, or related fields.

Education Policy
Through the education policy track, you will gain a scholarly and applied understanding of public policy, with an explicit focus on educational policy. In this track you will gain the content, knowledge, methods, and analytical skills to allow you to view and engage in educational policymaking in a broader social, political, and economic context. This coursework will prepare you for a variety of careers in learning organizations and in government, in the nonprofit sector, in advocacy groups, and in research and consulting firms. The education policy track also provides excellent training for either professional or graduate study in public policy, in education, or in a related social science field.

Health and Human Services
As the demand for health and human services professionals grows, this track offers you a broad-based curriculum to gain knowledge and skills for positions in service professions such as counseling, social work, medicine, dentistry, health policy, allied medical sciences, athletic training, physical therapy, and health promotion.

HOD Tracks

International Leadership and Development
Studies in this track focus on the major elements of globalization—modern international financial architecture, nongovernment organizations and social movements, international trade, immigration, and the emergence of global networks—ultimately providing you with an understanding of critical issues in international professions and industries. The track will prepare you for positions in transnational business settings, relevant government agencies, foundations, community development organizations, or nongovernmental organizations.

Leadership and Organizational Effectiveness
The LOE track will prepare you for a leadership role in either the public or private sector, including financial institutions, businesses, corporations, government, or community service agencies. Most students aspire to positions in entrepreneurial businesses or in corporations. The curriculum will expose you to the theories and skills associated with leadership, organizations, human resources, strategic planning, managing change, and entrepreneurship.
ONE-ON-ONE WITH

Kristopher Preacher

What started as more than a passing interest in the statistical tools with which science is conducted led to the creation of one of a handful of undergraduate minors in the nation in quantitative methods. “I became fascinated not with the substance of the topics being studied, but with the process as a graduate student. I wish I had known about quantitative psychology when I was an undergraduate, so I co-developed the quantitative methods minor at Peabody to give our undergraduates early access to training in this area,” notes Professor Preacher, who raised the idea for the minor when he came to Peabody in 2011.

“I was attracted to Peabody, because it has one of the best and largest quantitative methods faculties in the world, with a long history of collaboration across the university,” he says, referring to how the psychological sciences at Vanderbilt consist of departments in Peabody College (psychology and human development) and the College of Arts and Sciences (psychology) with quantitative methods comprised of faculty from both departments.

In addition to the two-course introductory statistics sequence already mandatory for all psychology majors, the quantitative methods minor requires four advanced courses, including psychometrics, modeling, correlation and regression, and multivariate statistics. The list may sound daunting, but Preacher is confident that most undergraduates at Vanderbilt are ready for a certain amount of graduate school coursework material during their undergraduate careers.

“Students just don’t know about these methods, and basically entire areas of study, yet quantitative methods are critical for scientific research,” he notes. “Researchers are constantly asking new and more sophisticated questions. It is up to quantitative psychologists to help translate theories into new, testable statistical models. I train students to be the best scientists—and the best consumers of science—they can possibly be. I was inspired to pursue graduate training in methodology by some truly exceptional professors; I aspire to be like them.”

“Researchers are constantly asking new and more sophisticated questions. It is up to quantitative psychologists to help translate theories into new, testable statistical models.”

Kristopher Preacher
Associate Professor of Quantitative Methods
Associate Chair, Department of Psychology and Human Development
Merit Scholarships
Each year, Peabody College awards honor scholarships to incoming freshmen through the Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholarship Program, one of Vanderbilt’s three signature scholarship opportunities. Awards are made on the basis of leadership and merit. Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholars receive full tuition, plus a one-time stipend to be used towards a summer study abroad or research experience. Scholarships are renewed each year as long as the recipient maintains at least a 3.0 GPA. Cornelius Vanderbilt Scholars have the opportunity to participate in a series of programs designed especially for highly talented students. Students may also apply for scholarships awarded through Vanderbilt’s two other signature scholarship programs: the Ingram Scholarship and the Chancellor’s Scholarship Programs.

Peabody College also offers additional merit-based scholarships as Dean’s Achievement Awards. To be considered for any of our three signature scholarship programs and additional Peabody College awards, students must submit the online scholarship application via your MyAppVU portal after you have applied for admission.

Other Academic Opportunities

Honors Programs
Beginning as a first-year student and continuing through four years, recipients of Peabody College honor scholarships are eligible to participate in a college-wide honors seminar that cuts across disciplines. Other students may apply for this program as well.

The undergraduate majors in child development, child studies, cognitive studies, human and organizational development, and special education offer research-based honors programs. In these programs, outstanding students are given the opportunity to participate in cutting-edge research on teams with professors and graduate students. Moreover, most honors program experiences culminate in a student writing an honors thesis, which is excellent preparation for graduate work.

Teacher Licensure
Peabody College education students may combine their majors with appropriate programs in Vanderbilt’s College of Arts and Science, Blair School of Music, or School of Engineering to satisfy various licensure requirements for teaching.

Our teacher education programs are approved by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education. Graduates generally apply for licensure in Tennessee, which has reciprocal agreements with most states, although they must apply for licensure wherever they choose to teach. The Office of Teacher Licensure provides assistance in fulfilling licensure requirements in every state.

Accelerated and Joint Programs
Qualified Peabody undergraduates can complete a bachelor’s degree on an accelerated schedule and begin working toward an advanced degree in one of Vanderbilt’s renowned graduate and professional schools. For example, Peabody students may opt for a combined five-year program in human and organizational development and organizational leadership, which bestows B.S. and M.Ed. degrees. Peabody students in the nursing “bridge” program may apply in the junior year to a master’s program at Vanderbilt’s School of Nursing.
Dates to Remember 2016/2017

July/August Application available
November 1 Application deadline for Early Decision I
November 8 Priority filing deadline for College Scholarship Service (CSS) PROFILE and FAFSA for Early Decision I
December 15 Decision notification for Early Decision I
January 1 Application deadline for Early Decision II and Regular Decision
January 2 Priority filing deadline for CSS PROFILE* and FAFSA for Early Decision II
February 1 Priority filing deadline for CSS PROFILE* and FAFSA for Regular Decision
February 15 Decision notification for Early Decision II
April 1 Decision notification for Regular Decision
May 1 Deadline for matriculation deposit

*For international students, priority filing deadline for CSS PROFILE is January 2, 2017.