The VCU Initiative for Maximizing Student Development PhD Program (IMSD PhD) provides PhD-level training in the biomedical sciences for individuals from groups traditionally underrepresented in biomedical research. The program supports students in the first and second years of PhD training. After completing the first year of PhD training, students can transition into graduate programs in a variety of disciplines in the biomedical sciences or public health.

Students are mentored by faculty who will provide academic advising, lab rotation research experiences, and oral and written communication skill tutoring through poster presentations at any number of different research meetings. IMSD students are provided with tuition and fee remission, health insurance and a competitive stipend.

Eligible applicants must first be admitted to a PhD program at VCU in biomedical sciences or public health. Students must be U.S. citizens, permanent residents or a non-citizen nationals. Proof of citizenship status will be required.