

MINOR IN LEADERSHIP

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND ALLIED PROFESSIONS

The Leadership Minor (LEAD Minor) at Western Carolina University is an interdisciplinary minor focused on providing in-depth instruction and participatory learning opportunities for students who wish to further develop their leadership potential and skills. Designed to be complementary to students' intended majors, the minor provides developmental opportunities aimed at enhancing leadership potential in collegiate, local, regional, national, and international settings. The LEAD Minor is rooted in the tenets of the Social Change Model of Leadership. Under the framework of the Social Change Model (SCM) for Leadership Development, students enrolled in the in the leadership minor will learn that leadership is more than a positional point of view. It is the art of self-discovery and the role that one plays in a group to make an impact on the greater community.

The LEAD Minor consists of 18 credit hours of coursework. Of those credit hours, nine are required courses and nine may come from approved electives. Within the elective options there are three types of courses: LEAD Core Electives, LEAD Track Electives, Partner-Program Electives. Students from any major may elect to complete the LEAD Minor. LEAD Core Electives are leadership courses taught through the LEAD Minor and highlight leadership in specific contexts. LEAD Track Electives are, generally, living learning community classes for freshmen, as well as freshman leadership programming courses and job training classes specific to on-campus employment. Partner-Program Electives are non-LEAD courses that compliment the mission and goals of the LEAD Minor. These classes count for the minor and are taught by other majors.

GOALS OF THE LEAD MINOR INCLUDE:

- Engage students in conversations and critical thinking about leadership in their various fields of study as contextualized locally, nationally, and globally.
- Offer students opportunities for self-reflection and exploration of their own personalities, gifts, and opportunities as they pertain to engaged citizenship through leadership.
- Provide students with knowledge and experiences that enhance their understanding of leadership and make them even more competitive in the job market, as well as better equipped to provide community leadership.



“The Leadership Minor is applicable to anything you want to do after graduation. The preparation I gained from my LEAD classes gave me the confidence to enter the workforce as a young professional who is confident, adaptable, and determined. I use what I have learned every day in my job as an Admissions Counselor while interacting with students, parents, and colleagues. Not only does the Leadership Minor provide a strong foundation for leadership skills, but it also offers fantastic networking opportunities that have developed into mentor/mentee relationships I truly value.” **Hannah Scott '16**

The LEAD Minor is a part of the Department of Human Services in the College of Education and Allied Professions. Specifically, it is housed in the Higher Education Student Affairs Program.

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