

Leadership

The undergraduate Mercy Leadership minor provides students with a foundational understanding of leadership theories, practices, and skills. Through a combination of coursework and experiential learning opportunities, students will develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills necessary to lead effectively in various contexts. The program emphasizes self-awareness, teamwork, and problem-solving, and prepares students for leadership roles in a variety of settings. Upon completion of the program, students will be well-equipped to lead in diverse settings and make meaningful contributions to their communities.

Leadership Minor

LS 101	Introduction to Leadership	3
LS 201	Group Dynamics	3
LS 301	Foundations of Servant Leadership	3
LS 401	Leadership & Social Justice	3
LS 635	Leadership Foundations	3
Total Hours		15

Courses

LS 101 Introduction to Leadership: 3 semester hours

This course introduces common theories and models of leadership, allowing students to reflect on their own leadership styles, skills, and goals. Through readings, small- and large-group discussions, simulations, and reflections on co-curricular and service activities, students will understand the width and breadth of leadership opportunities in their current lives as well as their futures, both on the personal and professional levels. This is the first of a five-course sequence in the Leadership Minor, and, as such, will introduce and complement the courses students will take in future semesters. Prerequisite: None.

LS 201 Group Dynamics: 3 semester hours

This course provides students with a foundation in the theory and practice of cooperative leadership and followership within groups. Students will acquire knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed to become an effective group member. Topics include characteristics of groups and group processes, motivation, group cohesion, roles within groups, conflict, power, and influence. The focus of the course is analyzing groups and learning to use reflective practices to improve the dynamics of groups, whether as a leader or follower. Prerequisite: LS 101.

LS 301 Foundations of Servant Leadership: 3 semester hours

This course will introduce students to Servant Leadership, a style of leadership which prioritizes the common good and the growth and well-being of others. Students will examine the principles of servant leadership, study servant leaders throughout history, and learn the difference between volunteering and service. In addition, students will work together to design, engage in, and evaluate a service-learning project while learning about, and reflecting on, the systemic factors which led to the needs of those whom their projects will serve. Prerequisite: LS 201 Group Dynamics.

LS 401 Leadership & Social Justice: 3 semester hours

This course will allow students to take an in-depth look at the relationship between the critical concerns of the Sisters of Mercy and leadership. The five critical concerns addressed will be women and children, anti-violence, anti-racism, the earth, and immigration. Students will acquire knowledge, attitudes, and skills needed to understand and challenge their implicit biases and misinformation, and work to become a more inclusive leader. Topics include, but are not limited to, recognizing and understanding the barriers, biases and benefits to creating and leading in a diverse workforce. Prerequisites: LS 301.