



RISING LEADER PROGRAM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course is more than the study of leadership; it is designed to help you develop your own leadership style. As a first-year student, this course will enable you to explore your own transition process and learn how intentional leadership experiences can support you through this process. Classes will involve activities to enhance personal development and the practice of leadership.

Throughout this course, we will engage in challenging dialogue intended to facilitate your acclimation to college and prepare you to become student leaders (on and off campus) in any role you choose. You will work with upper-class mentors and in small groups to help you adjust to campus life and develop your leadership skills.

This course encompasses both traditional classroom learning and experiential learning. Your ability to "experience leadership" will occur by working in small groups and being active in a student and/or non-profit organization.

The Rising Leader Class is a 2 credit class made up of incoming first year students that are selected through a competitive application process. Once in this class, you can develop your leadership skills through fun activities, focus on developing those skills on and off campus, and have successful upperclassman mentors. The class is very adaptable to the way you learn some of the work is individual, in small groups with your mentor, and others in a large group with class instructors. We invite you to apply!

CURRICULUM

COMMUNITY BUILDING

- **Peer groups:** Small groups consisting of six to ten students will meet three times each semester. These groups will be conducive to meaningful discussions and participatory activities, and led by an upperclassman Peer Mentor.
- **Facilitators and advisors:** Upper-class students will serve as primary facilitators to the peer groups and serve as program advisors, while guided by the Graduate Assistant for Leadership Programs. Staff and faculty to be invited for certain workshops depending on topic.

EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

- Peer group activities—peer group meetings will involve activities and discussions based on student and group experiences.
- Active part in a student organization, and/or nonprofit organization.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Leadership forums specifically for RLC participants will provide perspectives on leadership from practicing leaders.
- Workshops and activities: Workshops introduce students to many issues related to leadership and service.
- Slingshot to Success and Get Involved programs
- Leadership conference
- Self-Study and Reflection through

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Develop leadership skills and knowledge through:

- * Collaboration and teamwork
- * Leadership theory and models

2. Heighten self-awareness in order to strengthen one's understanding of their leadership abilities through:

- * Self-reflection and critical thinking
- * Mentor relationships
- * Practical experience

* Discovering one's passion and talents

3. Develop value and belief system through:

- * Civic engagement
- * Interactive diversity and crosscultural experiences