Staley School of Leadership Studies

Leadership Studies

Overview
Kansas State University’s Staley School of Leadership Studies offers students an interdisciplinary academic minor designed to complement any of the more than 250 majors and options at K-State. It’s the only program of its kind at a public university in the country. Leadership studies is one of the most popular academic programs at K-State with nearly 1,000 students enrolled in the minor. Since its founding in 1997, the Staley School of Leadership Studies strives to fulfill each part of its mission statement: Developing knowledgeable, ethical, caring, inclusive leaders for a diverse and changing world.

The Staley School serves as a resource for service learning on campus. Additionally, it develops service-learning programs through the courses and programs as a way to engage students in deep learning.

Students can practice their leadership skills through any number of leadership studies-sponsored programs at K-State and in Manhattan. Leadership studies students represent every undergraduate college at K-State and bring breadth and depth to every class in the minor.

Professional options
Careers
The program has highly successful alumni working throughout the world. Alumni are putting their knowledge and skills to work in many settings:
- Medical, law and other professional schools
- Accounting and business
- Public relations
- Athletic administration
- Elementary, secondary and English as a second language teachers
- Animal sciences and horticulture
- Human resources
- State politics and international relations
- Public administration
- Marriage and family therapy
- Higher education administration
- Regional and community planning
- Nonprofit organizations
- Environmental design and engineering

Points of pride
Leadership studies is the most popular minor among Kansas State University undergraduates, and it’s the only program of its kind at a public university in the country.

Academics
All courses and programs are designed to meet one or more of the following objectives:
- Develop knowledge of self, group dynamics and communication processes, as well as current and historical perspectives on leadership.
- Foster ethical decision-making through critical analysis, problem-solving, and discussions about integrity and character.
- Emphasize caring as a key component of effective leadership, which requires boldness, fortitude, service, positive change orientation, inspiration and celebration.
- Cultivate an inclusive world by encouraging open dialogue and sharing of stories and experiences in recognition of all that unites us.
- Appreciate diversity by educating about a variety of cultures, studying leadership issues of special populations, and facilitating intercultural communication.
- Recognize change as a vital part of the leadership process and prepare future leaders to deal with change in a constructive way.

Degree options
Nonprofit focus
The nonprofit focus within the leadership studies minor provides students with the knowledge, skills and experience that will prepare them for leadership in today’s rapidly growing nonprofit sector. Students will complete the four core classes and two designated electives. In addition, students will complete a 150-hour internship and attend a professional conference. Students will also have the opportunity to participate in a student group with other nonprofit-focus students. At the completion of the minor, students will receive a nonprofit leadership designation on their transcript.

Standard focus
Students in the standard focus complete the four core classes and two electives, chosen from a diverse list of courses.

Facilities
The Leadership Studies Building opened in 2010 and serves as an ideal location for learning. The building has been LEED gold certified by the U.S. Green Building Council for its commitment to sustainability. The building includes four fireplaces, a coffee house and an outdoor amphitheater.

Activities
The school provides students with academic knowledge and hands-on learning experiences.

Opportunities to serve include:
- Academic mentoring
- Alternative breaks
- HandsOn Kansas State
- International Service Teams
- Manhattan Good Neighbors program
- Student coordinators
- LEAD 212 class leaders
- Staley School Ambassadors
- Bill Snyder Leadership Legacy Fellows

Suggested coursework
Academic minor (16 credits)
Students can participate in the leadership studies minor, which offers a standard and nonprofit focus, as well as partake in the co-curricular programming that focuses on personal and social responsibility. Students can work with their major academic advisor to see if any of the elective courses will fulfill the requirements for their academic major, as well as the leadership studies minor.

Students minoring in leadership studies must receive a grade of C or higher in all courses (core and elective) counted toward the minor. In addition, students must achieve a minimum of a 2.5 GPA in the sum of their courses (core and elective). Both requirements must be met to be eligible to receive the minor.

Core courses requirements (10 credits)
All students completing the leadership studies minor, including those in the nonprofit leadership focus, take 10 hours of core courses:
LEAD 212 Introduction to Leadership Concepts (2 credits)
Students will practice leadership in a collaborative learning community as it relates to self, others and community. This course is an introduction to understanding leadership through the perspective of person, position, process, practice and purpose.

LEAD 350 Culture and Context in Leadership (3 credits – sophomore standing required)
Students are provided the opportunity to integrate course and leadership experiences in light of contemporary issues in the study of leadership behavior across cultures and contexts. Students will explore the effects of cultural identity, life experience and world views on leadership relationships as it relates to privilege and inclusion. Students will develop the capacity to practice inclusive leadership through advocacy for social change.

k-state.edu/admissions/academics