

Master of Arts in Leadership Studies

The MA in Leadership Studies offers graduate students and working professionals an engaging curriculum centered on enhancing their understanding of leadership within the communities, organizations, and systems that they belong to.

The focus of the MA in Leadership Studies is to build foundational knowledge of the history, theory, and practice of leadership with an emphasis on ethical decision making and understanding of the dynamics of power in doing the work of leadership as well as to apply this knowledge to real world contexts (e.g., workplace conflict, community nonprofit agencies, civic and public contributions).

In addition to introducing graduate students and working professionals to the culture of graduate education, the academic objectives for the program include learning and fostering:

1. Frameworks and techniques to better understand and navigate leadership situations, challenges, and opportunities within professional and community environments
2. Strategies to respond efficiently and effectively to the demands of a changing social, cultural, and political landscape while doing the work of leadership
3. Resources necessary to supplement their degrees and professional positions with a stronger understanding in and historical background of best practices for the ways that leadership is relevant to solving critical problems

Admission to Graduate Studies

Admission Requirements

- All applicants must meet the requirements outlined in the Admission to Graduate Study (<https://policy.ku.edu/graduate-studies/admission-to-graduate-study/>) policy.
- Bachelor's degree: A copy of official transcripts showing proof of a bachelor's degree (and any post-bachelor's coursework or degrees) from a regionally accredited institution, or a foreign university with equivalent bachelor's degree requirements is required.
- English proficiency: Proof of English proficiency (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/english-requirements/>) for non-native or non-native-like English speakers is required. There are two bands of English proficiency, including Admission and Full proficiency. For applicants to online programs, Full proficiency is required.

Application Deadlines

The MA program in Leadership Studies accepts applications for the fall, spring, and summer terms. Applications and all required supplemental materials must be submitted by the deadlines listed on the program's website (<https://ils.ku.edu/>) to be considered for admission.

Application Materials

Applicants should upload the supporting application documents listed below to the online application (<https://gradapply.ku.edu/apply/>).

- Copy of official transcripts (<https://graduate.ku.edu/transcripts/>) from all colleges or universities attended
- Statement of purpose (no longer than two pages, single spaced)
- Research-based writing sample (at least five pages, double spaced)
- Three letters of recommendation

Contact

Visit the I (<https://diversityleadership.ku.edu>)LS website (<https://ils.ku.edu/>) for more information about the program and admissions requirements.

The Master of Arts in Leadership Studies requires a total of 30 hours of graduate-level credit hours in approved courses with Leadership and Diversity and Inclusion content. All elective courses should be chosen in consultation with an advisor.

Code	Title	Hours
Core Courses		
LDST 705	Professionalization Seminar in Leadership Studies	3
LDST 710	History and Theory of Leadership Studies	3
LDST 715	Leadership, Equity, and Inclusion	3
LDST 720	Leadership Ethics	3
LDST 850	Leadership Capstone (This course is required of all admitted students in the final semester of their degree program and provides students with the opportunity to integrate and synthesize the interdisciplinary knowledge they have gained. Students will be required to submit a final capstone project as part of the course that will be evaluated by the instructor.)	3
Leadership Theory, Skills, and Methods Electives		6
2 courses that provide additional study in the area of leadership skills, methods, or theory.		
Leadership Contexts and Communities Electives		6
2 courses that offer students the opportunity to explore or extend existing investigation of communities, populations, identities, contexts, movements, and issues common to the work of leadership in diverse spaces.		
One additional course from one of the elective areas		3
Total Hours		30

Supplemental Coursework

LDST 700 Introduction to Graduate Studies may be required for students who the admissions committee determines would benefit from additional preparation for graduate study.

Elective Options

Code	Title	Hours
Leadership Theory		
LDST 710	History and Theory of Leadership Studies	3
AMS 802	Theorizing America	3
WGSS 567 or ISP 567	Native Feminisms	3
WGSS 600	Feminist Contemporary Political Theory	3
WGSS 801	Feminist Theory	3
WGSS 811	Black Feminist Theory	3

WGSS 812	Affect and Queer Theory	3
Leadership Skills & Methods		
LDST 730	Managing the Work of Leadership	3
LDST 760	Leadership and Communication	3
ABSC 801	Design and Analysis of Community Development Methods	1-6
ABSC 804	Research in Community Health Promotion	1-6
ABSC 807	Design and Evaluation of Community Health Promotion Methods	1-6
ISP 871	Community Health and Development	3
PUAD 836	Data Informed Decision-Making	3
WGSS 802	Feminist Methodologies	3
SW 640	Grant Writing and Program Development	1.5
LDST 781	Leadership Program Assessment	3
LDST 715	Leadership, Equity, and Inclusion	3
Leadership Contexts and Communities		
LDST 740	Leadership and Power	3
AAAS 720	Intercultural Communication: The Afro-American	3
AAAS 730	Black Leadership	3
AAAS 811	The Civil Rights Movement	3
AAAS 812	The Black Power Movement	3
AAAS 885	Race and the American Theatre	3
ABSC 710	Community Health and Development	3
AMS 767	Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Gerontology and Aging	3
or SOC 767	Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Gerontology and Aging	
AMS 805	American Pluralism: Race, Ethnicity, and Religion in American Life	3
AMS 835	Colloquium in the History of Gender	3
or HIST 895	Colloquium in the History of Gender	
ASLD 614	Historical Foundations of Deaf Education	3
COMS 910	Organizing Identity, Identification, and Stigma	3
C&T 807	Multicultural Education	3
ELPS 830	Foundations of Multicultural Education	3
EVRN 673	Environmental Justice	3
EVRN 628	The Politics of Public Health	3
HIST 896	Colloquium in United States Women's History	3
ISP 800	Indigenous Issues in the United States	3
PSYC 821	Women and Violence	3
PUAD 702	Diversity and Social Equity in Public Administration	3
PUAD 703	Foundations of the Nonprofit Sector	3
PUAD 705	Managing Nonprofit Relationships	3
PUAD 854	Innovation and Organizational Change	3
WGSS 701	Seminar in: _____	3
SW 635	Sexuality and Gender Diversity	1.5
SW 637	Criminal Justice System: Abolish or Reform	1.5
SW 708	Human Rights and Social, Racial, Economic, and Environmental Justice	3

- engage in effective oral communication with diverse audiences across varied contexts.
- integrate principles of ethical decision-making into leadership decisions.
- integrate principles of critical reflection into leadership decision-making.
- develop an understanding of the historical background and core domains relevant to social diversity and equity in the United States.
- develop and apply knowledge and approaches (e.g. skills, competencies, strategies, styles, etc.) to respond efficiently and effectively to the demands of a changing social, cultural, and political landscape while doing the work of leadership.

At the completion of this program, students will be able to:

- produce effective written communication for and with diverse audiences across varied contexts.