LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Graduate Faculty

Graduate Program Head
James A. Nemes

Program Code
LEAD

Campus(es)
Great Valley (M.L.D.)

Degrees Conferred
Master of Leadership Development (M.L.D.)

The Penn State Great Valley Master of Leadership Development (MLD) program is a 36-credit interdisciplinary professional program that blends the social and behavioral sciences with ethical studies to develop outstanding organizational and community leaders. As part of the School’s Management Division, the program is accredited under the specialized accreditation received from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International (AACSB). The program is designed to meet the educational needs of professionals at the middle to senior levels of management. Note that the focus of this program is different from that of the MBA offered by the School. While the MBA program provides an overview of leadership, the purpose of the MLD program is to provide an in-depth analysis of the theory and practice of authentic transformational leadership by providing an environment in which faculty and students can have a complete and open collaboration on what constitutes exemplary leadership. The MLD curriculum emphasizes strategic leadership and the creation of wealth in organizations, balancing financial measure of performance with learning and growth, and customer and external process perspectives. The program builds on the mid- and high-level managerial and administrative experience of students in order to achieve its goal of promoting positive change in individuals, teams, organizations, and communities. The MLD program develops authentic transformational leadership aimed at enhancing individual, team, and organizational effectiveness.

The program provides training in leadership-relevant research, and some students continue on to pursue a doctoral degree. Required research may be conducted utilizing Penn State Great Valley’s research support as well as access to the library and computer resources of the entire Penn State system.

The MLD program is geared primarily toward the needs of part-time students who are employed full-time. Courses in the program, which are offered at Great Valley, are scheduled for the convenience of adult learners, mainly in the evening or on Saturdays.

Admission Requirements

Applicants apply for admission to the program via the Graduate School application for admission (http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply). Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-300 Admissions Policies (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies).

Admission is granted only to candidates who demonstrate high promise of success for graduate work.

An undergraduate and/or graduate GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is required for admission. It is strongly preferred that applicants present at least five years of related professional work experience.

Leadership Development

Admission decisions are based on a review of the applicant’s professional and academic accomplishments as presented in the Admissions Dossier and the quality of the applicant’s credentials in relation to those of other applicants who meet the requirements for admission. A complete Admissions Dossier includes the following:

- online Graduate School application (http://gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply) and non-refundable application fee;
- current resume, preferably indicating at least five years of related work experience;
- official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended (http://www.gradschool.psu.edu/prospective-students/how-to-apply/new-applicants/requirements-for-graduate-admission);
- completion of two 300-word leadership essay questions developed by the faculty to assess an applicant's logical reasoning and writing skills;
- two confidential evaluation forms/letters of endorsement from executives or community leaders detailing their evaluation of the applicant’s leadership ability and potential.

The language of instruction at Penn State is English. English proficiency test scores (TOEFL/IELTS) may be required for international applicants. See GCAC-305 Admission Requirements for International Students (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies/gcac/gcac-300/gcac-305-admission-requirements-international-students) for more information.

Degree Requirements

Master of Leadership Development (M.L.D.)

Requirements listed here are in addition to Graduate Council policies listed under GCAC-700 Professional Degree Policies (http://gradschool.psu.edu/graduate-education-policies).

A minimum of 36 credits at the 400, 500, or 800 level is required, with a minimum of 18 credits at the 500 or 800 level, and at least 6 credits at the 500 level. A series of leadership cornerstone (9 credits) and leadership competency courses (12 credits) are required to provide all MLD students with a common body of knowledge. Leadership Context courses (12 credits) and a Capstone course (3 credits) round out the program.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LEAD 501</td>
<td>Leadership Across the Lifespan</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>BUSAD/LEAD 555</td>
<td>Full Range Leadership Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEAD 557</td>
<td>Leadership Models and Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEAD 561</td>
<td>Dynamic Communication in Leadership Contexts</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BUSAD/LEAD 556</td>
<td>Diversity Leadership</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or BUSAD 542</td>
<td>Global Intercultural Management</td>
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One of the following:

- MGMT 873 Corporate Innovation Strategies
- SYSEN 550 Creativity and Problem Solving I
Leadership Development

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BUSAD/LEAD 519</td>
<td>Developing Creative High Performance Organizations</td>
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<tr>
<td>MBADM 815</td>
<td>Ethical and Responsible Business Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LEAD 863</td>
<td>Ethical Dimensions of Leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PSY 833</td>
<td>Ethics and Leadership: Psychological and Social Processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STS 589</td>
<td>Ethics and Values in Science and Technology</td>
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Leadership Context courses (12 credits) provide an overview of the situations in which leadership processes are embedded. Students can choose 4 context-specific electives (12 credits). A list of courses that will fulfill this requirement is maintained by the program office.

Culminating Experience

All students must complete a capstone course that provides students with an opportunity to enact what they have learned in their course work in the context of promoting positive change in their organizations:

<table>
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<tr>
<td>LEAD 862</td>
<td>Strategic Leadership (Capstone Course)</td>
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Total Credits: 36

Student Aid

Graduate assistantships available to students in this program and other forms of student aid are described in the Tuition & Funding section of the Graduate School's website. Students on graduate assistantships must adhere to the course load limits set by The Graduate School.

There are a limited number of scholarships, fellowships, and graduate assistantships available.

Most students work full-time and take classes part-time. In many cases, employers have a tuition reimbursement plan paying for partial or full tuition. To learn more about payment options for students who receive employer tuition reimbursement benefits, or for more information about financial aid and other payment options that may be available, contact the Great Valley Financial Aid Office, 610-648-3311.

Courses

Graduate courses carry numbers from 500 to 699 and 800 to 899. Advanced undergraduate courses numbered between 400 and 499 may be used to meet some graduate degree requirements when taken by graduate students. Courses below the 400 level may not. A graduate student may register for or audit these courses in order to make up deficiencies or to fill in gaps in previous education but not to meet requirements for an advanced degree.

Leadership Development (LEAD) Course List

Learning Outcomes

Learning Goal 1: Build one’s own personal authentic transformational leadership competencies through self-reflection and behavioral display.

- Develop and implement a personal diversity leadership improvement plan to build expertise in relating with diverse individuals in the workplace.

Learning Goal 2: Build communication and critical thinking skills as they relate to authentic transformational leadership concepts and processes.

- Write three short essays applying communication theory to specific leadership contexts, situations, and opportunities.
- Demonstrate skills required for conducting research in organizations.

Learning Goal 3: Foster a commitment to high integrity practices.

- Evaluate and analyze the ethical dimension of decision making.

Learning Goal 4: Value differences in people as a vital force in work groups, teams and organizations.

- Develop and implement a personal diversity leadership improvement plan to build expertise in relating with diverse individuals in the workplace.
- Discuss how concepts of transformational leadership and authentic leadership relate to social entrepreneurship, and add value to personal relationships, community, and society at large.

Contact

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Program Website: View (http://greatvalley.psu.edu/academics/masters-degrees/leadership-development)