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.