



Crawford Honors College

Leadership Guide

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GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY



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Overview

Leadership experiences are an important part of the Crawford Honors College Curriculum. One of our learning outcomes is to foster leadership amongst our students. As such, the leadership experience functions to ensure students take advantage of their coursework and talents in such a way that utilizes those leadership abilities to the benefit of the student, the university and the Chicagoland area.

The leadership exercise(s) you complete should be based on academic, professional, or personal goals. Your honors advisor can help you determine which path is best for you to display your leadership. Regardless, there are a few similarities:

You will need to identify a leadership activity in which you will engage in leadership. An important distinction in this effort is whether a student can make an argument as to why this constitutes leadership. Some roles like Student Senator are obvious. Other roles in volunteering are not as obvious.

1. Going through experiences such as a leadership institute or class can help provide a perspective that the student can use to help identify what constitutes leading others in their activity but does not constitute a leadership experience for honors program credit.
2. The student needs to identify a practice, theory, or approach to leadership that the leadership experience develops through the work being done. Put another way, if a person asked you how your experience developed your leadership, what would your answer be?
3. A provided timeline of your leadership experience—For consideration to complete the leadership exercise, the student's leadership activity must start no earlier than six months after joining the Crawford Honors College and must conclude no later than their graduation from GovState and the Crawford Honors College.

Generally, leadership is done as an extracurricular activity (e.g., not for credit). However, if the amount and depth of work meet the standards for academic credit (i.e., independent study in honors or in your discipline), you can work with a faculty member to develop the curriculum as independent study to earn credit hours toward graduation.

Process

For a qualifying leadership exercise, the leadership display must have occurred while enrolled in the Crawford Honors College or within six months of joining the Crawford Honors College.

Leadership Reflection Essay

To be completed after the leadership experience ends

- Leadership report/ essay (3 – 5 pages)
- Provide a general synopsis of your leadership role/experience.
- What did you observe and learn about your leadership practices from this experience?
- Did your GSU coursework concepts tie into your leadership efforts?
- What leadership theories/concepts can help explain how you carried yourself in your experience?
- How did this leadership experience enhance or clarify career/personal goals?
- Has the leadership experience changed your perspective on your leadership skillset?
- Include any artifacts demonstrating your leadership (e.g. pictures, official documents, etc.)
- A Leadership Verification Form is included if needed to help validate the leadership work done.

Leadership Verification Form

Student:

Name: _____ ID #: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Discipline: _____

Leadership Organization: _____

Address: _____

Supervisor/Colleague:

Name: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Period of Leadership Role/s: _____

Provide a brief description of how the following applicant has displayed leadership (attach a separate page if needed):

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Supervisor/Colleague Signature: _____

Date: _____

