

# ALESHIRE CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Website: [www.washburn.edu/aleshirecenter](http://www.washburn.edu/aleshirecenter) (<https://www.washburn.edu/academics/leadership-institute/>)

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## Vision

To be a premiere center for transformative leadership development and community-engaged learning, committed to developing socially engaged, inclusive, and accountable leaders.

## Mission

The Aleshire Center for Leadership and Community Engagement is committed to developing leaders through high-impact community-engaged learning and research. We empower students to become global citizens that support the creation of thriving, just communities. We bridge academic and co-curricular experiences to foster cross-cultural understanding and create innovative approaches to learning in partnership with community stakeholders.

## Academic Partnerships

- **School of Nursing Leadership Partnership**
  - Nursing students can supplement NU 450 Leadership, Management, Health Policy (2 credit hours) and NU 462 Quality and Safety in Healthcare (3 credit hours) as substitutes for LE 300 Leadership Skills Development (3 credit hours) and LE 400 Leadership Internship (3 credit hours); however, students opting to complete their Leadership Minor or Certificate in this way must enroll in LE 301 Leadership Skills Integration (1 credit hour) concurrently with NU 450 Leadership, Management, Health Policy to substitute for LE 300 Leadership Skills Development, and LE 401 Leadership Internship Integration (1 credit hour) concurrently with NU 462 Quality and Safety in Healthcare to substitute for LE 400 Leadership Internship. The content in LE 301 Leadership Skills Integration and LE 401 Leadership Internship Integration will integrate coursework in the departmental leadership course with the content covered in LE 300 Leadership Skills Development and LE 400 Leadership Internship.
  - Transferability of applicable course credit will be prescribed for each institution in WU's transfer guide, though ultimately is left at the discretion of each academic department. Transfer students will only be able to transfer a maximum of 6 credit hours toward completion of a Leadership Studies Minor (<https://catalog.washburn.edu/undergraduate/academic-institutes-programs/aleshire-center/leadership-studies-minor/>).

- **Community-Engaged Learning**
  - Community-engaged learning (CEL), also known as community-based learning, service-learning, or community service education, refers to an educational approach that integrates classroom instruction with meaningful community experiences. It is a pedagogical strategy that aims to enhance students' understanding of course content, develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, and foster a sense of civic responsibility and social awareness.
  - The Aleshire Center for Leadership and Community engagement seeks to strengthen CEL at Washburn University by supporting resources, funding, and connection with campus and community partners engaged in this work. For additional information or to schedule a consultation, contact Dr. Jason Miller, Community Engagement Faculty Fellow, at [jason.miller2@washburn.edu](mailto:jason.miller2@washburn.edu).

## Co-Curricular Programs and Partnerships

- **Leadership Washburn Transformational Experience**
  - Students earning a WTE in Leadership will complete a 1-3 credit leadership course and complete a 50 hour change project. For more information, see the Leadership WTE (<https://catalog.washburn.edu/undergraduate/academic-institutes-programs/washburn-transformational-experience-wte/leadership-wte/>) section of this catalog.
- **Community & Civic Engagement Washburn Transformational Experience (CCE-WTE)**
  - Students participating in the CCE-WTE engage in significant meaningful work with and for the community. Completion of the CCE-WTE is recognized at commencement and appears on students' academic transcript. For more information, please see the CCE-WTE (<https://catalog.washburn.edu/undergraduate/academic-institutes-programs/washburn-transformational-experience-wte/community-wte/>) section of this catalog.
- **Leadership Challenge Event**
  - The Leadership Challenge Event™ (LCE™) is an annual 2-day event hosted by the Aleshire Center for Leadership and Community Engagement. It is a unique inter-scholastic as well as inter-collegiate leadership competition which provides high school and undergraduate college students an opportunity to participate in an organized competition that simulates real-life experiences. The LCE™ challenges students to address a variety of problems and situations where the outcome of the simulation is dependent on the leadership decisions made throughout the course of the competition.
- **Bonner Scholar Program**
  - This national civic engagement leadership and university honor program requires a significant community engagement commitment, mentored training and enrichment activities, and participation in group initiatives and projects with other members of the program. Participants work to effect social change and build the capacity of community-based organizations; become knowledgeable about issues that affect the local, national and international communities in which we live; and develop broad-based leadership skills through their service experience to support their development as actively engaged citizens. This is based on the premise that college students have a unique and important ability to contribute to society in meaningful, lasting ways. The program is also meant to create a supportive community of students on campus whose common focus on community and civic engagement gives them a sense of

purpose and meaning while connecting their service back to their academic and professional goals. Washburn is one of only 73 colleges and universities that form a network committed to the Bonner Foundation model of Community Engaged Learning. Opportunities are provided for all members of the program to interact with other members in the network and to engage with their national partners. Completion of the program includes the University honor of Bonner Scholar, which is recognized at commencement and appears on the student's academic transcript.

- **Community-Based Work Study:** Students who qualify for Federal Work Study have the option of earning this money by working with a nonprofit organization, public school, or government entity in the community that matches their academic and/or professional goals.

## Academic Programs

- Leadership Studies, Minor (<https://catalog.washburn.edu/undergraduate/academic-institutes-programs/aleshire-center/leadership-studies-minor/>)
- Leadership Studies, Certificate (<https://catalog.washburn.edu/undergraduate/academic-institutes-programs/aleshire-center/leadership-studies-certificate/>)
- Community Studies, Minor (<https://catalog.washburn.edu/undergraduate/academic-institutes-programs/aleshire-center/community-studies-minor/>)
- Graduate Certificate in Communication and Leadership (<https://catalog.washburn.edu/graduate/college-arts-sciences/graduate-certificate-communication-leadership/>)
- Communication and Leadership, M.A. (<https://catalog.washburn.edu/graduate/college-arts-sciences/master-arts-communication-leadership/>)

## Course Offerings

### CE 250 Introduction to Community Studies (3)

This course introduces students to the interdisciplinary academic discipline of community studies. Topics include the importance of understanding self and place, theories of community change, basic community-based research methods, and the importance of civic engagement.

### CE 251 Introduction Poverty Studies (3)

This course examines poverty as a problem for individuals, families, and societies. It focuses on the United States, perhaps the most impoverished of any developed nation. This course emphasizes discussion intended to advance understanding and prompt critical analyses of the assigned readings. Prerequisites: None.

### CE 300 Special Topics in Community Studies (0-3)

Topics will vary from semester to semester and will be announced in advance. May be taken for more than one semester. Prerequisites: CE 250 or consent of instructor.

### CE 350 Community-based Research (3)

Community-based research (CBR) is a collection of research methods focused on social justice and social change. This field-based course presents an overview of CBR weaving together three key areas. First, an exploration of the historical and theoretical underpinnings of CBR. Second, key aspects of CBR practice such as ethics, working with diverse populations, program planning, and program evaluation. Third, the skills CBR practitioners use to collect and analyze data in their work. Prerequisite: CE 250 or consent of instructor.

### CE 391 Social Change and Political Activism (3)

This course is designed to familiarize students with mobilizing and development of issue campaigns. The content of the course will focus on an understanding of social action, change and advocacy. Organizing a campaign refers to a particular form of community participation in which "grassroots" people learn techniques to share in power. This implies that the model will focus on recruiting grassroots membership and targeting systems for change. The methods may include collaborative problem solving, strategic planning and confrontation. Targets for change may be individuals, systems, institutions, and policies.

### CE 397 Directed Readings (1-3)

Under the supervision of a faculty member, students will undertake an extensive reading course to further their understanding of a specific topic within Community Studies. May be repeated for a maximum of six hours. Students are limited to six hours total from CE 397 and CE 398 combined. Prerequisites: CE 250, declared minor, junior/senior standing, and consent of instructor.

### CE 398 Directed Research (1-3)

Under the supervision of a faculty member, students will undertake an independent research project to further their understanding of a specific topic within Community Studies. May be repeated for a maximum of six hours. Students are limited to six hours total from CE 397 and CE 398 combined. Prerequisites: CE 250 or consent of instructor.

### CE 399 Internship (1-3)

Under the supervision of a faculty member, students will be placed with a local community-based organization to gain practical experience in a community setting. May be repeated twice for a maximum of three hours. Prerequisites: CE 250 or consent of instructor.

### CE 400 Special Topics in Community Studies (1-3)

Topics will vary from semester to semester and will be announced in advance. May be taken for more than one semester. Prerequisite: CE 250 or consent of instructor.

### CE 401 Community Studies Capstone (3)

In this course, students will apply core knowledge from the interdisciplinary academic discipline of community studies to address a community-identified need. Special attention is given to reflection and professional preparation for various career paths including nonprofit and community-based organizations, and governments. Prerequisites: CE 250 and 12 credits in the minor or instructor consent.

### LE 100 Exploring the Concept of Leadership (3)

A survey of leadership theories and introduction to the academic study of leadership using contexts of the leadership process and case studies; requires identifying personal leadership potential, articulating a personalized leadership theory, and applying leadership concepts in a Campus Action Project. Prerequisite: None.

Course Attributes:

- Gen Ed AY 2024-2025: Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Gen Ed Pre-AY 2024-2025: Social Science
- USLO: Critical and Creative Thinking

### LE 125 Foundations of Leadership in Society (1-3)

This course will expose students to a variety of concepts, theories and skills relevant to contemporary leadership thought. Students will be challenged to consider their personal conceptions and philosophy of leadership. Students will examine leadership within particular contexts such as creating change, ethical leadership, leadership and management, and historical leadership thought and leaders. Prerequisite: None.

**LE 200 Ethical Responsibilities of Leadership (3)**

A survey of the fundamental ethical responsibilities of leadership; requires examination of obstacles to and opportunities for ethical leadership, an understanding of the cultural contexts of leadership and an articulation of a personal ethics statement as a foundation for applied ethics in the leadership process. Prerequisite: LE 100 or appropriate HN 202 or consent.

**LE 300 Leadership Skills Development (3)**

Students focus on developing individual and interpersonal leadership skills, teamwork and collaboration skills, and an understanding that leadership is more than the exercise of power; techniques for embracing and leading change are practiced in a semester-long change project. Prerequisite: LE 200 or appropriate HN 201 section or consent.

**LE 301 Leadership Skills Integration (0-3)**

Students will integrate their learning from a leadership skills course from another department with the curriculum of the Leadership Institute. Outcomes include development of individual and interpersonal leadership skills, teamwork and collaboration skills, and an understanding that leadership is more than the exercise of power; techniques for embracing and leading change are practiced in a semester-long change project. Prerequisite: LE 200 or appropriate HN 201 section or consent; Corequisite: NU 450 or another departmental leadership skills course at a 300 level or higher.

**LE 320 Leadership Campus Experience I (0-1)**

Students will review a contemporary leadership theory as a framework with which to integrate their learning from a campus leadership position with an understanding that leadership is more than just a position. Students will begin to think critically about creating change in association with a campus leadership experience. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor or junior standing.

**LE 321 Leadership Campus Experience II (0-1)**

Students will participate in a campus leadership position and reflect on the experience to develop a greater awareness of self and how they contribute to the process of leadership. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor or junior standing and completion of LE 320.

**LE 322 Leadership Campus Experience III (0-1)**

Students will reflect on leading change through implementation of a change project. Within this course, students will reflect on their learning from their student involvement within the framework of leadership theories. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor or junior standing and completion of LE 320 and LE 321.

**LE 350 Leadership Practicum Experience (3)**

Students pursuing the Leadership Studies Certificate will practice a "change agent" leadership role by implementing and evaluating a change process, and produce a detailed record of the experience suitable for archiving. Prerequisite: LE 300 or consent of instructor.

**LE 375 Gender and Leadership (3)**

An examination of an analytic framework for understanding the role that gender plays in defining and determining access to leadership and power. Contains an analysis of the myths, challenges, and opportunities that accompany the issue of gender through an exploration of gender and leadership both conceptually and practically. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor or junior standing.

**LE 398 Special Projects - Leadership (0-3)**

Independent study or project in leadership. The same project may be repeated up to 3 credits. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor.

**LE 399 Special Topics in Leadership (0-3)**

Special topics in leadership. May be repeated for different topics. See course schedule for current offerings. Prerequisite: Consent of instructor or junior standing.

**LE 400 Leadership Internship (3)**

Students will practice a "change agent" leadership role by implementing and evaluating an evidence-based change process, and produce a detailed record of the experience suitable for archiving. Prerequisite: LE 300 and consent of instructor.

**LE 401 Leadership Internship Integration (0-3)**

Students integrate their learning from an internship from another department with the curriculum of the Leadership Institute. Students must practice a "change agent" leadership role within this internship. Within this course, students will reflect on their learning from the internship within the framework of the Leadership Institute curriculum. Prerequisite: Consent of Instructor. Corequisite: NU 462 or another departmental leadership internship course.