

Leadership Adventure Minor (21 credits)

Introduction:

The Leadership Adventure (LEAD) combines theoretical and practical experiences in leadership development to prepare students to be future leaders. Students begin with an introduction to leadership studies and an emphasis on personal assessment that becomes the foundation for their leadership development learning plan. The program is based on the adventure learning tradition from outdoor experiential education that places students in small group problem-solving situations to gain personal insight into their leadership. The leadership coaching method is also used as a key process to move the student leader from their current skill level to where they want to go in terms of increasing leadership effectiveness. Additional courses enhance an understanding of the leadership phenomena and allow for practical application of leadership skills and attitudes. Students are required to 'practice' leadership by involvement in a leadership position in a campus organization or a leadership position in the community.

Key Learning Outcomes and/or Core Process Statements:

- 1) To develop leadership competencies (skill based or character based) to fill the leadership gap in our society (SLO).
- 2) Students will demonstrate leadership skills and values in experiential contexts (i.e. learn by doing) (SLO).
 - Engage with adventure based experiential learning methods as a fundamental pedagogy within the classroom.
 - Collaborate with the campus 'learning laboratories' provided by student life and student development organizations at CSUN
 - Collaborate with external 'learning laboratories' provided by community organizations.
- 3) Provide multiple points of honest feedback to student leaders to allow for genuine growth and development of personal leadership skills (SLO).
- 4) Implement best practices from leadership development programs into the pedagogy of the minor.
- 5) Create a sustainable system for leadership development that maximizes multiple university resources for the teaching and learning process utilizing student development arms of the university (USU, AS, Student Development Office) as well as including peer coaching by student leaders.

Process Summary:

- Step 1: Students apply for the Leadership Adventure (LEAD) Minor
- Step 2: Enroll in the gateway courses for the Minor; RTM 302 Leadership and RTM 306 Leadership Coaching. Leadership theory is combined with leadership assessment exercises to help students create a Leadership Development Learning Plan in consultation with an academic advisor for the minor. The adventure learning tradition in outdoor experiential education is used in these gateway courses. Adventure learning combines personal discovery and small group problem-solving situations to gain personal insight into leadership.

- Step 3: Students begin a Leadership Portfolio in the gateway courses and continue to develop the Portfolio over the length of the program. The portfolio provides a key assessment tool for the program.
- Step 4: Additional course work is completed to fulfill the 12 units of core classes and 9 units of electives to enhance an understanding of the leadership phenomena and allow for practical application of leadership skills and attitudes.
- Step 5: Students complete experiential learning in the RTM 498 class after completion of the gateway courses and prior to completion of the minor program.
- Step 6: The leadership coaching method is used as a key process to move the student leader from their current skill level to where they want to go in terms of increasing leadership effectiveness. Student leaders passing the Coaching Certification exam will be able to participate as peer coaches for students enrolled in the RTM 498 class requirement.

Curriculum for the Leadership Adventure Minor (21 units)

Core (12 units)

Students are required to take the three foundational courses from the RTM Department (302, 202, and 306). The student must also complete a minimum of 3 units of field assignments in direct leadership experience (RTM 498). The field learning experience might involve an identified leadership role in a campus organization or a leadership role in a community organization. The learn-by-doing classes of RTM 498 require one on one coaching and peer-learning reflection sessions.

RTM 302 Dynamics of Leadership in Recreation and Human Services (3 units)

RTM 202/L Planning Programs and Events (2/1) (3 units)

RTM 306 Leadership Coaching (3 units)

RTM 498A-B. Field Assignment and Reports (1-2) (3 units)

Electives (9 units)

Students complete a minimum of 9 units from the following elective options from a variety of academic disciplines. Students should consult with their minor advisor to identify relevancy of electives courses to their leadership development learning plan. Students must complete an assignment focused on personal leadership development from each class to include in their leadership portfolio. Other relevant courses for electives are allowed if approved by faculty minor advisor. Academic departments are encouraged to add relevant electives.

Diversity/Groups/Teams

- RTM 310 Adventure Recreation and Human Relations (3)
- PSY 383 Interpersonal Competence and Group Dynamics (3)
- COMS 356 Intercultural Communication (3)

Leadership in Organizational Context

- PSY 356 Industrial and Organizational Psychology (3)
- RTM 444 Non-profit Organizations and Fund Development (3)
- RTM 452 & 452L Outdoor Leadership (3)

Leadership Skill Development

- COMS 151/L Fundamentals of Public Speaking (3)
- COMS 323 Group Communication

[Total Units required for the Leadership Adventure Minor is 21]