



Undergraduate Honors Program Leadership Guide

Dr. David Rhea, PhD.

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY



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Overview

Leadership experience is a key culminating experience in the honors program. 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 university or to the benefit of the Chicagoland area at large. Students can complete the leadership exercised at any time as an honors student, but must be completed before graduation of the university.

The leadership exercise you complete, should be based off 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 role in which you will engage in leadership. An important distinction in this effort is can a student make an argument as to why this constitutes leadership. (some roles e.g. Student senator) is obvious. Other roles volunteering are not obvious.

1. Going through experience such as the leadership institute or class can help provide perspective by which the student can use to help identify what constitute leading others in their activity.
2. There needs to be a goal or outcome - must identify purpose, the goal of the engaging in activity to accomplish; how will you record your progress in leadership efforts; and what skills, theories, etc. will the student utilize in their leadership efforts (who are your follower's)
3. A provided timeline of your leadership experience – For consideration to complete the leadership exercise, the leadership activity the student utilizes must no earlier than within six months of starting their joining in the honors program and must concluded no later than their graduation from GSU and the honors program.

Generally, leadership is done co-curricular (e.g. not for credit), however if the amount and depth of work meets 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 to secure the units of credit.

Process

For a qualifying leadership exercise, the leadership display must have occurred while enrolled in the honors program or within twelve months of joining the honors program (including summer). Within half semester leeway.

Proposal

Your proposal for the qualifying leadership experience should address: (1 – 2 pages)

- What was the leadership role (i.e. title)?
- Where was the leadership effort completed?
- When were, the leadership was done? Ongoing?
- Provide a description of the duties in the leadership exercise (NOTE: if this is a job e.g. freshman peer mentor, attaching a job description will suffice)
- How was leadership displayed in practice (provide an example of how you showed leadership)?
- Who were the people under your direction?
- What traits/principles have you utilized in your leadership experience (use the following link for suggestions: <http://www.leadershipchallenge.com/About-section-Our-Approach.aspx>)
- Can you provide a point of contact that can attest to your leadership (e.g. supervisor)?
- In the context of your academic program person's life/experience, how does this experience enhances your academic program goals/career/personal goals?

Final Product

- 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?
- Include any artifacts that demonstrate your leadership (e.g. pictures, official documents, etc.)

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

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Supervisor/Colleague Signature: _____

Date: _____

