



MA in Leadership

Program Director: Dr. Kimberly DeSimone • kdesimon@sbu.edu • (716) 348-7422

Program Overview

The Master of Arts in Leadership is an accelerated, one-year 33-credit online master's program, or a two-year, part-time degree that blends the latest leadership theory and practice with a strong foundation in communication skills required for the global marketplace. The program provides a highly interactive, team-based learning experience encompassing the following objectives:

- Develop personal awareness and clarity of purpose as a leader;
- Examine ethics and leadership values from a service orientation perspective;
- Foster interpersonal and organizational communication skills;
- Adapt and respond to global changes in the marketplace and diverse populations;
- Develop critical thinking and problem solving skills;
- Engage in strategic thinking for organizational growth and change.

Online courses are taken in seven-week sessions, with two sessions offered per semester. Courses do not need to follow a specific sequence except for Cornerstone and Capstone courses. For those wishing to enroll in part-time study, the program can be taken in two years.

The Cornerstone Course, **MSL 605. Leadership and Values**, is our gateway course that all students first take. It introduces leadership theories that will be built on throughout the program and students will complete a 360 evaluation to develop an action plan related to their leadership skills and abilities.

The Capstone Courses, **MSL 655. Project in Strategic Leadership** (2 credits), and **MSL 660. Leadership Portfolio** (1 credit), are required. Each focuses on an individual student project and portfolio that integrates learning throughout the program and demonstrates each student's unique leadership skills and attributes.

Admission Requirements

1. A completed application that includes a short essay (500 words) stating candidate's goals for engaging in such a learning experience;
2. A baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university;
3. Transcripts from all institutions attended;

4. At least three years of significant work experience;
5. A current résumé.

Online-only Program Format

Today's busy professionals need the flexibility to take care of their business and personal lives while also pursuing a graduate degree, but our program provides much more than convenience.

Our excellent faculty are specially trained to teach in the online environment. They will engage students in ways that are not possible in a face-to-face environment, and they're committed to ensuring that students not only learn the content of the curriculum, but that they are able to apply that content to leadership challenges.

Students will have access to technical support any time they need it. In order to set you up for success, all online students will take an online orientation course.

Degree Requirements (33 credits)

Required courses (33 hours; each 3 credits unless noted)

LEAD 605. Leadership and Values
LEAD 610. Leadership and Diversity
LEAD 615. Developing Human Resources
LEAD 620. Global Leadership
LEAD 625. Organizational Structure and Behavior
LEAD 631. Ethical Leadership & Inclusion
LEAD 635. Conflict Resolution
LEAD 640. Leading Change
LEAD 645. Organizational Performance
LEAD 650. Legal and Political Environments
LEAD 655. Project in Strategic Leadership (2 credits)
LEAD 660. Leadership Portfolio (1 credit)

Exit Criteria

1. A cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
2. Successful completion of the Leadership Portfolio and Leadership Project