Department of Leadership and Organizational Psychology

Department Overview

The Department of Leadership and Organizational Psychology (http://www.apu.edu/bas/leadershippsych) offers a unique blend of academic and experiential learning that provides students with an effective type of learning experience for personal and professional growth.

The department offers an undergraduate leadership minor (http://catalog.apu.edu/undergraduate/school-behavioral-applied-sciences/leadership-organizational-psychology/leadership-minor) that assists students in identifying and developing personal and professional competencies that enable them to contribute more effectively to all areas of their lives.

Minor in:

- Leadership (http://catalog.apu.edu/undergraduate/school-behavioral-applied-sciences/leadership-organizational-psychology/leadership-minor)

LDRS 103, Calling, Major, and Career Exploration: A Strengths-Based Approach to Life Planning, 3 Units

This course complements LDRS 100 by using a strengths-based approach to life planning in order to specifically help lower-division students make decisions regarding their individual calling, selection of a major, or exploration of a career. Emphasis is on identifying and developing strengths, gifts, and talents. This course is designed specifically for freshmen/sophomores. (Not recommended if you have completed LDRS303).

LDRS 201, Foundations of Leadership, 3 Units

This course blazes the trail for understanding the concepts of good leadership and followership, identifying oneself as a leader, discovering one's sense of calling, establishing a commitment and plan for whole-person leadership development, seeing leadership through an interdisciplinary lens, and grounding one's "leadership story" in an awareness of current history and the reality of the Kingdom of God. Through creative experiences, meaningful texts, and powerful assignments, students are prepared for further leadership education.

LDRS 303, Career and Life Planning, 3 Units

For students entering the professional world, this course aids in understanding career development options, finance management, and coping with stress. Students gain a greater understanding of their strengths, values, interests, skills, and personality as they seek employment and/or apply to graduate school. Relevant guest presenters spend class time sharing important information that benefits students in planning for careers and life.

LDRS 311, Leadership Values and Virtues, 3 Units

This course views leaders as authentic servants committed to transformation. Students study the leader's motivations, the dreams of followers, conflict resolution, as well as personal, intellectual, and civic virtue. Perspectives for steering clear of bad leadership and toward collaboration with those who share the leader's commitment to the common good are considered. The course focuses on the development of leaders who are responsible, good, humble, and who understand the diverse values of others.

Prerequisite: LDRS 201 (may also be taken concurrently) or junior standing or department consent.

LDRS 311H, Leadership Values & Virtues - Honors, 3 Units

This course views leaders as authentic servants committed to transformation. Students study the leader's motivations, the dreams of followers, conflict resolution, as well as personal, intellectual, and civic virtue. Perspectives for steering clear of bad leadership and toward collaboration with those who share the leader's commitment to the common good are considered. The class focuses on the development of leaders who are responsible, good, humble, and who understand the diverse values of others.

Prerequisite: LDRS 201 (may also be taken concurrently), Junior standing, or departmental consent. Must also be a student admitted to the Honors College and be considered a member in "active" status.

LDRS 322, Leadership Strengths and Skills, 3 Units

This course focuses on a strengths-based approach to leadership and leadership development, as well as the skills necessary for good leadership. Opportunities to understand and practice essential skills such as continual learning, powerful communication, problem solving, managing process, goal achievement, conflict resolution, win-win negotiating, and empowering stewardship are woven throughout the course. Training additional leaders is also a key topic. Effective leadership practice through emphasis on strengths development is the goal of this course.

Prerequisite: LDRS 201 (may also be taken concurrently) or junior standing or department consent.
LDRS 333, Leadership Influence and Impact, 3 Units
This course looks at the leader as agent of change on three levels: personal change, influence on individuals and small groups, and impact on cities, organizations, and cultures. Through historical reflection and developing a systemic vision, students are equipped to make a difference in many social settings. By learning to work as mentors, facilitators, and ambassadors, emerging leaders can leave a dynamic legacy.
Prerequisite: LDRS 201 (may also be taken concurrently) or junior standing or department consent.

LDRS 335, Leadership Communication, 3 Units
This course provides students with opportunities to understand theoretical, empirical, and practical aspects of leadership communication by taking a distinct communication approach to leadership studies. Topics including leadership and followership communication styles and practices; various leadership theories and perspectives; power and influence; team/group leadership; organizational, crisis, and public leadership; diversity; ethics in leadership, and leadership development are examined.

LDRS 350, Dean's Leadership Class, 3 Units
This class is for students recommended for their leadership potential by university leaders. Participants are mentored by on- and off-campus practitioners. The class functions as a "learning organization," collaborating to make a difference in the local community. Assignments link leadership to experience, reflection, theory, relationships, and values. Sophomore/junior status preferred.

LDRS 401, Leadership Studies Capstone, 3 Units
This course deepens students' capacity for leadership based on wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. In addition to concluding the leadership minor by linking leadership practice to leadership theory, students dialogue about leadership issues such as gender, community, temptation, finding one's voice, mission, and the whole-person model. A thoughtful and thorough final project and a high-quality portfolio presentation are crafted to integrate students' learning about leadership and to provide a postgraduation plan for lifelong leadership development.
Prerequisite: LDRS 201, LDRS 311, LDRS 322, LDRS 333

LDRS 496, Moral Leadership in Life and Work, 3 Units
This course explores the integration of Christian faith, ethical issues, and personal concerns that confront business and management professionals in life and work. Special attention is given to the application of biblical and ethical principles in real-life case studies, and students have the opportunity to conduct in-depth research and reflection on the character of leadership in organizational life. Meets the General Education Requirement: Integrative and Applied Learning.

LDRS 497, Readings, 1-3 Units
This is a program of study concentrating on assigned readings, discussions, and writing arranged between, and designed by, a student of upper-division standing and a professor approved by the Program Chair. The course allows the student to identify a specific leadership theme and investigate it further.

Faculty
Chair
Edgar Barron (http://www.apu.edu/bas/faculty/ebarron), Ed.D.

Professor
Michael M. Whyte (http://www.apu.edu/bas/faculty/mwhyte), Ph.D.

Adjunct Faculty
Jeff Boian (http://www.apu.edu/bas/faculty/jboian), M.A., MCS, CLI-CA
Stephen Coppenrath, M.A.
Meghan Ebersole, M.A.
Andre Garces, M.A.
Hannah Jung (http://www.apu.edu/bas/faculty/hjung), M.S.
Mike Medeiros (http://www.apu.edu/bas/faculty/mmdeiros), D.Min
Amy Rosdil (http://www.apu.edu/bas/faculty/arosdil), M.Ed.
Crystel Vargas (http://www.apu.edu/bas/faculty/cvargas), M.A.

Program Manager
Grace Kwak