Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership

Welcome
The master of arts in organizational leadership is designed to meet the needs of diverse students for professional training that is based upon knowledge from business, economics, communication, organizational functioning, leadership principles, political science, psychology and research.

The program provides unique opportunities for students to apply what they are learning. Students develop and refine administrative knowledge and leadership skills in a variety of modern public and private sector organizations.

Additionally, this degree allows enough flexibility for you to focus on an area of specialization and earn a graduate certificate while moving toward a master’s degree.

Studying Online
Online classes require self-discipline and motivation, especially since you do not have a specific time and place established for class meetings. Familiarizing yourself with what’s required of an online student and the many tools available to support online learners is key!

The Orientation for Online Learners provides guest access to Blackboard, along with helpful information ranging from pre-enrollment through registration. It is designed to walk you through the different processes involved with admissions, financial aid, advising and registration. The Student Resource Portal provides one-click access to academic support and student resources across campus. The link to each area is provided below:

Orientation for Online Learners:  [www.wku.edu/online/orientation](http://www.wku.edu/online/orientation)
Student Resource Portal:  [www.wku.edu/online/srp](http://www.wku.edu/online/srp)

In addition to online support, which is accessible in these areas, there is also a team of distance learning professionals available to answer questions, listen to your concerns and provide solutions. You can reach us at learn.online@wku.edu.

Admission Requirements

The following is required for admission to the Master’s in Organizational Leadership:

- Students who have a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited university and a 2.75 overall GPA are not required to take the GRE
They should apply for admission online at www.wku.edu/graduate. Students who did NOT receive their bachelor's degree from WKU must also submit official undergraduate transcripts.

- **Students with a GPA between 2.5 and 2.75 may seek alternative admission**
  - This admission process will be based on a holistic evaluation of the candidate's body of academic and professional experiences. Candidates who apply for an alternative admission must submit a resume and any other credentials that verify their professional experiences. Student admitted under the alternative admission requirements are conditionally admitted and must achieve a 3.0 GPA in the first six credits of graduate courses.

**Supporting documentation should be mailed to the following address:**

The Graduate School  
1906 College Heights Blvd.  
Bowling Green, KY 42101

**Degree Program Requirements**

The **MA in Organizational Leadership** requires 10 classes (30 credit hours), including:

**Core of Required Courses (6 classes/18 hours)**

- **LEAD 500**: Effective Leadership Studies  
- **LEAD 525**: Leadership Ethics  
- **LEAD 600**: Capstone in Leadership Studies

**Select Two (2) of the Following:**

- **COMM 531**: Global Leadership Communication  
- **PS 520**: Elements of Public Administration  
- **LEAD 575**: Special Topics in Leadership  
- **LEAD 550**: Leadership in Global Contexts  
- **LEAD 540**: Leading Teams

**Select One (1) of the Following:**

- **EDFN 500**: Research Methods  
- **SOCL 513**: Methods of Social Research  
- **LEAD 560**: Applied Research Methods in Organizational Leadership

**General Electives Courses (4 classes/12 hours)**

You may choose from a variety of classes in topics that will best support your professional development. Please work with your graduate advisor to plan your program of study.
Financial Aid Eligibility

Financial Aid includes grants and loans for educational purposes. The government requires the student to file a form online to the government agency for this purpose, which is called FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov to apply. Once that form is completed and filed, the student will receive an email from WKU about the status. All financial aid comes through the WKU Student Financial Aid office and they communicate mostly through email. The email will explain all the grants and/or loans that are available to the student and how to receive the money.

Nearly all students are eligible for some form of financial assistance. In fact, over 90% of the students who applied for financial aid in recent years received an award offer. Every effort is made to assist you and your family in obtaining the resources necessary to meet the difference between the total cost of attending Western Kentucky University and your ability to contribute toward your education.

If you would like to apply for financial assistance (loans, grants, scholarships, veteran's benefits) the first step is to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Please refer to the Financial Aid Guide for additional information and complete instructions.

Please keep in mind, students must maintain satisfactory academic progress to continue to qualify for financial aid. For additional information on receiving, and keeping your financial aid, please refer to the WKU Financial Aid website to review the complete policy on Satisfactory Academic Progress at http://www.wku.edu/financialaid/sap.php.

Financial Aid and Scholarship Resources

- WKU Scholarship Information, including scholarships for transfer students: http://www.wku.edu/scholarship/
- WKU Financial Aid Information: http://www.wku.edu/financialaid/
- Student Aid: Types of aid, who qualifies and how to apply: https://studentaid.ed.gov

Career Resources and Average Salary Information

Resources to aid in finding a degree that's right for you, as well as the most current information regarding average salary, job outlook and the most common positions within the field, may be found on the websites below:

- Find Occupations, Salary Information and Job Outlook: http://www.onetonline.org/find/career
- Major and Career Search: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/majors-careers
- Identifying A Career Based on Personal Interests: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers
- What Can I do with this major: http://www.wku.edu/career/wcidwtmajor.php
Contact Information

Program Advisor: Dr. John Baker  
Email: john.baker1@wku.edu  
Phone: (270) 745-5149  
Website: www.wku.edu/leadership/graduate/masters.php

WKU Online Support: Carol Taylor  
Email: learn.online@wku.edu  
Phone: (270) 745-5173  
Toll-Free: (888) 4WKUWEB / (888) 495-8932