Welcome
The Graduate Leadership Certificate requires 12 credit hours, and is available completely online. This program provides an interdisciplinary approach to organizational leadership, allowing candidates to build the program around their academic or professional area of interest. Candidates of this program will enhance their understanding of leadership, theory and practice.

Students admitted to the Graduate School at WKU can elect to pursue the graduate certificate in Leadership Studies as a stand-alone program, or in conjunction with a master’s degree program, with advisor approval. The GRE is not required for entry into the Leadership Certificate program.

Benefits
- Enhanced career opportunities
- Special lectures and interaction with local and regional leaders
- Workshops and seminars
- Applied activities
- Leadership participation
- Professional experience
- Certificate becomes a permanent part of your academic transcript

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
Student Resource Portal:  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
Applicants to the graduate certificate program first need to be admitted to The Graduate School by completing the online graduate application at www.wku.edu/graduate. (NOTE: Select "Apply First Time Graduate & Transfer" if you have not taken graduate courses at WKU before. Select "Apply for Graduate Readmission" if you have previously taken WKU graduate courses or are currently enrolled in graduate courses at WKU.) Once you have submitted the online application, mail any required supporting materials to:

Western Kentucky University, Graduate School
1906 College Heights Blvd. #11010
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1010

Questions? Contact The Graduate School by email at graduate.school@wku.edu or by phone at (270) 745-2446. Approximately 10-14 days after all required admission documents have been submitted, you should receive a letter from the WKU Graduate School indicating your admission status.

Please note the following:

➢ To be eligible for any type of financial aid you must be admitted in good standing to a degree/certificate program.
➢ Current Master’s Degree Students: If you are currently pursuing a master's program at WKU and wish to add the certificate as an additional credential follow the steps below:
  o Apply online as a readmit student at www.wku.edu/graduate.
  o Email The Graduate School at graduate.school@wku.edu to notify them that you are adding the certificate as a second program of study and wish to keep your master's program listed as your primary program of study. While we understand that this is an extra step, we strongly recommend it, as it will help prevent any miscommunication regarding your primary program of study vs. your newly filed application.

Certificate Program Requirements

I. Introduction to Leadership Perspectives (3 credit hours)

• LEAD 500 - Effective Leadership Studies

II. Elective Courses (6 credit hours)

Students will complete one course in two of the following categories:

• Ethics and Social Responsibility
• Human Relations
• Critical Thinking and Empirical Assessment

III. Capstone (3 credit hours)

• LEAD 597

Total: 12 Credit Hours
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](http://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](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). Please refer to the Financial Aid Guide for additional information and complete instructions.

Please keep in mind, you 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](http://www.wku.edu/financialaid/sap.php).

Helpful Resources

- Orientation for Online Learners: [www.wku.edu/online/orientation](http://www.wku.edu/online/orientation)
- The Student Resource Portal: [www.wku.edu/online/srp](http://www.wku.edu/online/srp)
- The WKU Graduate School: [www.wku.edu/graduate](http://www.wku.edu/graduate)

Financial Aid and Scholarship Information

- Student Aid: Types of aid, who qualifies and how to apply: [https://studentaid.ed.gov](https://studentaid.ed.gov)

Career Resources and Average Salary Information

Resources to aid in finding a major 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](http://www.onetonline.org/find/career)
- Identifying A Career Based on Personal Interests: [https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/explore-careers)
- Choosing a Graduate Degree: [http://www.onlinemastersprograms.org/](http://www.onlinemastersprograms.org/)

Contact Information

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