Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Why should I choose LEAD?
A: In LEAD, we like to think we have the best of all worlds. Our students study and practice leadership, which gives them knowledge and skills to make impactful changes in their communities, families, and classes. We also have opportunities through our requirements for community service and offer pathway opportunities in study abroad, innovation, research, peer leadership, internships, and service. Our students are involved across campus and in the communities—ask around, you probably know them 😊

Q: What are the requirements once you’re in the LEAD program?
A: All LEADers must maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA, live in GBRC, enroll and complete the 10-credit course curriculum, complete at least 40 hours of community service and 40 hours of leadership participation over 2 years, complete a LEAD pathway, and create and submit a leadership e-portfolio.

Q: Do I have to live in the Grace and Broad Residence Center to be a part of LEAD?
A: Yes. All students who are in LEAD are required to live in our residence hall. The only exception are for RAs who live in other buildings as part of their position.

Q: Can I bring in any roommate to live with me or does my roommate have to be a part of LEAD?
A: Due to the program being a living-learning program, we place students in rooms together who are in the program. You can create a roommate group on the housing application only if they are also members of LEAD. Otherwise, you will be randomly placed in an apartment with other LEAD students.
Q: Is the LEAD program only for specific majors?
A: Not at all! Our LEADers come from all different backgrounds, levels of leadership experience, and from all majors. We work hard in the classroom and co-curricular activities to reflect and connect leadership learning back to all majors and industries.

Q: Is a 10-credit course load manageable for me to take above my normal classes?
A: Yes, we find that all of our students have no problem adding the additional LEAD courses to their schedule. For most semesters, it’s only an additional 1-credit class to add.

Q: How can I fit the required courses into my schedule?
A: There is a bonus of being in LEAD—you get to register early! We work with our students to register early and get into our classes. However, we also allow independent study for classes under extreme circumstances.

Q: Is there an additional cost to be in LEAD?
A: There is no cost to be in LEAD and we provide all programming, lectures, and events for free to our students. There is a cost to live residentially in GBRC and for the additional credits, but that is not a fee instituted by the program.

Q: I don't know if I want to apply now, can I wait another year?
A: Sure! As long as you can commit 2 years in the program, you are welcome to apply any time.

Q: How do I apply?
A: Visit lead.vcu.edu and click on the “Apply” link on the bottom of any page on the website. You will be asked to complete several essays and fill out demographic information.