



Leadership Studies

jepson.richmond.edu

Introduction to the School

The first institution of its kind in the world, the Jepson School of Leadership Studies helps students gain a rich understanding of leadership, enabling them to become active, thoughtful, and effective participants in the world and lead lives of consequence.

Students examine leadership as it was, as it is, and as it should be and develop conceptual tools that support the exercise of leadership in a variety of settings. The Jepson School faculty draws upon multiple academic lenses, such as anthropology, economics, education, history, literature, philosophy, political science, psychology, sociology, and religion, to educate students for and about leadership.

The rigorous, sequenced curriculum integrates the disciplinary perspectives on leadership. The introductory courses — Leadership and the Humanities and Leadership and the Social Sciences — give students the historical and empirical foundations to ground their study of leadership. Leadership Ethics serves as the capstone course in the academic program. Advanced courses allow students to look at leadership as a historical, social/organizational, and ethical phenomenon and to focus on an area of interest, such as the psychology of leadership, gender and leadership, international leadership, and leadership in a diverse society.

Courses with experiential components — especially Justice and Civil Society and the Jepson Internship — allow students to apply knowledge outside the classroom. Majors are awarded a Bachelor of Arts in Leadership Studies.

Through its core liberal arts academic program, the Jepson School explores leadership as a process and relationship among people. The School helps students realize their distinctive leadership capacities and apply their learning for the good of society.

Admission Procedures

Students apply to the School during the fall semester of their second year.

Jepson School Students

Jepson School students bring diverse interests to the learning community. They are active in student government, fraternities, sororities, the arts, athletics, and clubs and serve as leaders in organizations on and off campus.

Jepson School Community

The Jepson School's environment is one of open doors, personal attention, trust, and respect. Classes are interactive and rich in discussion. Students frequently work in groups and learn through interaction and one-on-one mentoring. Students, faculty, and staff form close-knit intellectual and social bonds. They work together and draw upon shared experiences to understand leadership, to conduct research, and — ultimately — to make a better world. As a result of these relationships, alumni stay connected to the School and to one another.

The Jepson School sponsors events on and off campus and is a respected center for debate and discussion of issues related to leadership. The Jepson Leadership Forum and the Gary L. McDowell Institute bring renowned speakers to campus. The McDowell Institute also hosts a fellows program for students interested in exploring politics, governance, and the economy from perspectives across the political spectrum.

Local and national leaders share their expertise with students through a leader-in-residence program. Through the Zuzana Simoniova Cmelikova Visiting Scholar Program in Leadership and Ethics, the School hosts international scholars to teach courses and share global perspectives on leadership.

The Jepson Student Government Association represents the School's student body and plays an integral role in academic and student affairs. Students enjoy educational and social functions with peers, alumni, faculty, and staff. Many students say that their peer relationships within the School are their most meaningful on campus.

Alumni and Careers

Some 2,000 Jepson School graduates form an intimate and accessible global alumni network. Alumni successfully pursue careers ranging from business to nonprofits, medicine, education, politics, government, and law.

Many alumni go straight to top graduate schools, while others seek more education later. The Jepson Scholars Program provides funding for one to four graduating seniors to pursue one-year master's programs at the University of Oxford.

Jepson School graduates are cognizant of their responsibility to their professions, organizations, and communities — a commitment that stays with them throughout their lives.

Recruiters and graduate schools alike consistently cite Jepson graduates for strength in the areas they value most, including communication, critical thinking, ethical understanding, social responsibility, interpersonal ability, leadership understanding, self-managed learning, presentation skills, and teamwork.

Jepson students participate in the annual Jepson EDGE Institute, an interactive program organized and led by Jepson alumni to give students a professional advantage in the workplace.

Required Courses for the Major

- Leadership and the Humanities
- Leadership and the Social Sciences
- Justice and Civil Society
- Critical Thinking and Methods of Inquiry
- Quantitative Social Science
- Theories and Models of Leadership
- Leadership Ethics
- Internship
- Four advanced electives

Sampling of Advanced Courses

Historical

- Folk Music and Protest Thought
- Killers and Cults: Leadership Gone Awry
- Native Diplomacy: Treaties and Federal Indian Law
- Native Peoples and the U.S. Supreme Court
- Reimagining Richmond: History, Power, and Politics in the Former Capital of the Confederacy

Social/Organizational

- Capitalism, Community Wealth Building, and the Future of Democracy
- Education and Equity
- How Populist Narratives Threaten Regional Stability
- Leadership in a Diverse Society
- Leadership on Stage and Screen
- Sex, Leadership, and the Evolution of Human Societies

Ethical

- Competition, Cooperation, and Choice
- Ethical Decision Making — Health Care
- The Ethics of Influence
- Leadership in International Contexts
- Living a Life of Consequence
- Sex, Power, and Politics

Research Opportunities

Jepson students have the opportunity to work together with faculty members to conduct research on a variety of topics and gain insight into leadership as a basic part of the human condition. They often find practical applications for their work. Opportunities include independent study, collaborative study, directed study, senior thesis, and senior honors thesis. Grants are available for students to conduct full-time or part-time research.

Recent Internships

- AlphaSights
- American Public Health Association
- Barclays
- Bloomingdales
- BNY Mellon
- Burlington
- CitiBank
- Conservacion Amazonica
- Dow Jones
- J.Crew
- J.P. Morgan
- Maryland State Dental Association Foundation
- MKTG Sports and Entertainment
- 1708 Gallery
- Sotheby's International Realty
- University of Pennsylvania Genetics Department
- UnitedHealthcare
- USA Track and Field
- U.S. Department of Defense
- View Arts
- Virginia Department of Health Professionals
- Virginia Governor's Fellows Program
- Virginia Supportive Housing

Graduate School Acceptances

- American University
- California Institute of the Arts
- Case Western Reserve University
- College of William and Mary
- Columbia University
- Duke University
- Emory University
- Georgetown University
- Harvard University
- Johns Hopkins University
- The London School of Economics
- New York University
- Pratt Institute
- Princeton University
- Stanford University
- Trinity College
- University of Chicago
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Oxford
- University of Pennsylvania
- University of Virginia
- Vanderbilt University
- Wake Forest University
- Yale University

Jepson School Faculty

The School's distinguished, interdisciplinary faculty use innovative teaching practices in small classes to address questions of leadership. Faculty members apply their academic disciplines to the study of leadership. They hold doctorates in American history, anthropology, economics, English literature, education theory and policy, history, political philosophy, political science, philosophy, social psychology, and sociology.

