



# School of Public Affairs Leadership Program

## Certificate in Advanced Leadership Studies

### LEADERSHIP PROGRAM COURSES

#### First Semesters: Emerging Leaders Sequence

The “emerging leaders” sequence in SPA 361 and SPA 362 will take students on a two-year journey from the theory to the practice of leadership.

#### SPA 361: Laboratory in Leadership Development I

SPA 361 is the first step in our two year “emerging leaders” sequence for the SPA leadership program. It features weekly class meetings and small group work on a “leadership in public affairs” social action research project. Students also attend workshops across campus. In the fall, the lab will start with an analysis of the key theories of leadership, and inquire about the relation between leadership, freedom and virtue. In the spring, the lab will build on strengths-based approaches to leadership, and help students learn how to develop their personal leadership skills and research methods.

#### SPA 362: Laboratory in Leadership Development II

SPA 362 is the second step in our two year “emerging leaders” sequence. One focus of the fall term is the on how leadership is understood in a differing cultural contexts. It will also examine the role of decision-making in public affairs. The spring term of SPA 362 examines the principles of human perception, judgment, and decision-making, with particular focus on the legal system. In addition, students will complete a year-long experience as an academic researcher: students choose a leadership problem in public affairs, conduct research, learn, and design their own social action project to help correct the problem.

The mission of SPA's interdisciplinary 15-credit, six semester **certificate program in Advanced Leadership Studies** is to provide students with the leadership knowledge, skills and experiences needed to lead creative and generous lives in public affairs, with intelligence and compassion.

The program is designed to prepare students for real-life leadership experiences, both on campus and in the larger global community. Each student will have the opportunity to document their growth as a leader in their own SPA Leadership Portfolio.





Leadership students visit the Pentagon to learn from leaders of national defense.

## Final Semesters: Advanced Practice and Study of Leadership

The final two semesters of the program train students in the advanced practice and study of leadership.

### SPA 391: Internship: Leadership

In the fifth semester of the program, students will complete an approved internship with interest groups, congressional offices, or government agencies. Through weekly seminars students study organizational behavior and leadership theory in conjunction with an internship, thus allowing them to see theory put into practice.

### SPA 460: Political & Organizational Leadership

Examines major theories and research in public leadership, with emphasis on American political and administrative institutions. Case studies of leaders and leadership in complex public organizations. Relative impact of personality and organizational factors in leadership development. Emphasis on students' awareness of their own leadership style and development potential. Usually Offered: spring.

### SPA Leadership Portfolio

The SPA Leadership Portfolio provides students with an opportunity to reflect on their curricular and co-curricular experiences in the leadership program in order to earn a deeper understanding of how to lead in public affairs. Students design and build a leadership portfolio throughout their coursework. This will help them learn leadership skill sets that can be quantified, including resume preparation, preparing a letter of introduction, research skills, public speaking, planning, and time-management. The portfolio will allow students to look back on progress, develop a comprehensive set of practical tools for leadership practice, gain a greater self-understanding about being a leader, and enhance knowledge of leadership ethics. The leadership portfolio serves as a virtual résumé after they graduate.

## AT A GLANCE

» Washington, D.C. is a "leadership laboratory" for the program.

» Leadership students design and execute Leadership in Public Affairs social action projects, addressing pressing social issues.

» Incoming leadership students are matched with a student mentors.

» Two dedicated faculty members for the program -- Director and Faculty Advisor.

» Community-building initiatives throughout the course of the program.

» Application opens in the spring.

## QUESTIONS?

### CONTACT

Justin Williams,  
Assistant Director of Undergraduate  
Recruitment & Retention

### PHONE

202-885-6200

### EMAIL

[aupublicaffairs@american.edu](mailto:aupublicaffairs@american.edu)

### TWITTER

@AUjwilliams