The overall purpose of this course is to encourage you to carefully analyze your responsibilities and commitments in the context of leadership for purposeful change. The course is more than the study of leadership; it is designed to help you develop your own leadership potential. It will explore the transition process as a first-year student and how intentional leadership experiences can support you through this process. The class will involve activities to enhance personal development and the practice of leadership.

Throughout this course, we will engage in provocative and challenging dialogue intended to facilitate your acclimation to college and prepare you to become community leaders on and off campus in any role you may serve. Students work with upper-class mentors and in small groups to simultaneously help you adjust to campus life and develop your leadership skills.

This course encompasses both traditional classroom learning and experiential learning. Your ability to “experience leadership” will occur by working in small groups to plan and administer a service project.

“\[quote\]
At the time I thought I could hone some skills of leadership, plus through the class I can practice my communication skills. I gained something much more valuable than just the leadership skills I thought I would gain from this class. This class focused on self-reflection and what I have done in my first University leadership experiences and beyond. Through these reflections I was finally able to find, deep down, what and who I want to become in the future. *It is the most valuable thing I learned in this class.*” Yue Qi ’19

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**Course Description**

The **Rising Leader Class (RLC)** was created to give incoming freshman chances to learn leadership skills in a variety of ways: through workshops, events, meetings and from successful upperclassmen mentors. Once in this program (check you out, fancy huh?!), you will be put into a small group with other Rising Leaders and given an upper-class mentor (they’re super cool, we promise!). You will also complete projects, readings, and workshops designed to help your leadership skills explode. Some of the work is individual, some guided in your small group with your mentor, and others in a large group with instructors. RLC allows you to build relationships (dare I say friendships!) with your top-tier peers. Want to learn what it truly can mean to be a leader in a fun, interactive, 2-credit class? This is your chance!

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**Curriculum**

**Learning Objectives**

1. Develop leadership skills and knowledge through:
   - Skill-based workshops
   - Collaboration and teamwork
   - Leadership theory and models
2. Heighten self-awareness in order to strengthen one’s understanding of their leadership abilities through:
   - Self-reflection and critical thinking
   - Mentor relationships
   - Practical experience
   - Discovering one’s passion and talents
3. Develop value and belief system through:
   - Civic engagement
   - Interactive diversity and cross-cultural experiences

**Community Building**

**Peer groups:** Small groups consisting of six to ten students will meet three times each semester. These groups will be conducive to meaningful discussions and participatory activities, and led by an upperclassman Peer Mentor.

**Facilitators and advisors:** Upper-class students will serve as primary facilitators to the peer groups and serve as program advisors, while guided by the Graduate Assistant for Leadership Programs. Staff and faculty to be invited for certain workshops depending on topic.

**Experiential Learning**

- Peer group activities—peer group meetings will involve activities and discussions based on student and group experiences.
- Active part in a student organization, and/or nonprofit organization.

**Education and Training**

- Leadership forums specifically for RLC participants will provide perspectives on leadership from practicing leaders.
- Workshops and activities:
  - Workshops introduce students to many issues related to leadership and service.
  - Slingshot to Success and Get Involved programs
  - Leadership conference
  - Self-Study and Reflection through