

2009 Commonwealth Leadership Institute

Logistical Questions and Answers

THE INSTITUTE

1) What is the purpose of the Commonwealth Leadership Institute?

The Institute offers Virginia high school rising seniors the opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills, earn college credit, and make an important contribution to their school and community during their senior year.

2) How do I apply?

To apply, please print out an application found on this website, or visit your high school principal's office. Once your application is completed, it should be turned in to your principal, and he or she will inform you if you have been selected for their nomination.

3) What is the cost and are there any scholarships available?

\$1,750 is the total cost for tuition (3 college credits), room, board, books, and activities. One SCA Scholarship is available; please contact Dr. Michael Newman at cmnewman@vassp.org for details. All students are encouraged to seek assistance from their high school and/or various community organizations for financial support.

THE ACADEMIC COURSE

1) Does this course count toward college graduation?

You will be taking a full three-credit hour course at the college level from an accredited public university, Christopher Newport University. This course would readily be accepted as a general elective at reputable colleges and universities.

2) What will I be studying in this class?

LDSP 195, Civic Leadership, is an introduction to basic principles of leadership studies, including leadership characteristics, followership, and group dynamics. We also examine the meaning of the "American Dream," the role of leadership in American society, and the need for effective civic engagement.

3) Do I have to buy any textbooks for this course?

The two class textbooks ("Finding Your Voice" by L.R. Matusak and "Emotionally Intelligent Leadership" by M.L. Shankman and S.J. Allen) will be provided to you at no additional charge.

4) Who will be teaching the course?

The course will be taught by faculty members from the Joseph W. Luter, III College of Business and Leadership. These professors are scholars in the fields of American Studies, Economics, Leadership Studies, Organizational Behavior and Psychology. Collectively, they bring a wealth of experience from corporate and government organizations in addition to their substantial scholarly accomplishments.

5) How will the course be graded?

Two professors from the Leadership and American Studies Department will be the instructors of record for the Civic Leadership course. They will participate throughout the course in both classroom instruction and leadership labs. These professors will also administer tests, evaluate participation grades, and grade the final paper.

6) How will the course be structured?

Each day will be divided into two components: the classroom instruction component and the leadership lab. Classroom instruction will consist of two 75 minutes sessions with a break between the two. Leadership labs will consist of a 2-3 hour leadership activity that is designed to further augment the classroom instruction. Students will go off-campus to participate in a challenging rope-tower exercise facilitated by experts, in addition to a kayaking experience.

THE PROGRAM and LOGISTICS

1) What will I be doing outside of class?

Strategic leadership labs will be conducted in various locations around campus and will provide students the opportunity to put leadership theory into practice. These labs will be facilitated by upper-class CNU Leadership students, and will include team building and problem solving challenges. The facilitators will also guide small group reflection discussions and provide support as Institute students process what they are learning.

2) Where will I stay during the Institute?

All students will stay two to a room in CNU's state of the art, Potomac River Residence Hall. Males will reside in Potomac North, females in Potomac South, which are two separate buildings.

3) Where will we eat during the Institute?

All meals will be enjoyed at Regatta's, a first-class dining facility conveniently located in the new David Student Union at the center of CNU's campus. All meals are buffet style "all you can eat", and the food is delicious!

4) Will there be time to do homework and study outside of class?

The opportune time to complete homework and study for the mid-term and final exam will be after dinner on most evenings. Students will be free to determine how to best use that time, and the campus will be open for both study and leisure.

5) What will I be able to do for fun?

How about living on a beautiful college campus for two weeks, developing close friendships with high school students from across Virginia, and strengthening your skills and passion for leadership? If that's not enough to convince you, also know that the campus will be open to you, with its state-of-the-art athletic facilities, library, student union, coffee shops, and café's.

6) What will I need to bring?

Students selected to attend the Institute will be provided with a packing list and other necessary information.

7) Where can I get more information?

For more information, or to speak with someone about the Institute, please contact Jennifer Green, Administrative Coordinator, at (757) 594-8907 or jennifer.green@cnu.edu.