

Nonprofit Leadership

This is a 4-year major which will prepare students for leadership positions in the nonprofit sector. The curriculum combines multiple ministry courses with business courses and includes an internship. Students have the choice of one of three concentrations: Intercultural Studies, Urban Studies, or Ministry.

What Type of Work are Related to this Degree?

- Administration
- Management
- Public relations
- Fund raising/development
- Research
- City or county boards or management
- Grant writing
- Direct service
- Ministry development
- Finance or budget analysis
- Community affairs
- Program development or program direction
- Emergency services management
- Camp or missions trip
- Administration and leadership

Who Employs People with this Degree?

- Local and national nonprofit agencies
- Foundations
- Churches and parachurch ministries
- Humanitarian aid organizations
- Charitable organizations
- Trade or professional associations
- Special interest groups
- Labor unions
- Libraries
- Museums
- Historic sites
- Historical societies
- Research organizations and think tanks
- Educational institutions

More information at ONETonline.org

General Strategies for Success:

- Obtain leadership roles in relevant campus and community organizations.
- In addition to grant writing coursework, try to obtain actual practice in grant writing.
- Demonstrate knowledge and experience in a specialty area (e.g. public health, environment, urban issues).
- Research organizations' values to find a good fit with yours. It is critical that you are knowledgeable about and committed to the work you're going to do.
- Investigate term of service or service corps positions as a way to gain entry into the field. Internships and experiences are crucial.
- Consider earning a graduate degree for more job opportunities and advancement.
- Build a strong personal network through informal contacts. Political connections are helpful for appointed positions. Most agencies respond to professional connections.
- Explore application to government internship programs specifically for college students, such as the Pathways Program at the federal level.
- Plan on following a flexible career path to higher positions. Many people begin on the clerical or entry level in order to gain experience and network.
- Many students of nonprofit administration intend to stay within the nonprofit sector, using their degree to prepare for and transition into leadership positions at organizations of all sizes as staff or board members, and perhaps even founding their own nonprofits.

Professional Associations

Minnesota Council of Nonprofits
 Alliance for Nonprofit Management
 American Association for Budget and Program Analysis (AABPA)
 American Public Works Association (APWA)
 National Council of Nonprofit Associations (NCNA)
 Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action
 Christian Community Development Association
 National Association of Church Business Administration
 Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD)
 Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP)

This information represents possible occupations and strategies for careers with this major. As with any job or career, there may be additional qualifications or experience needed. For more information and options, make an appointment with Career & Leadership Development or check out our online resources on our website or on myUNW, Career & Leadership Development tab.