

OUR VALUES

Integrity. To articulate a set of values is meaningless unless we commit to abiding by them and translating them into reality. We must live them. Embody them. Practice them. We believe that leaders must hold themselves to a higher standard of ethical practice and should be thoughtful, deliberate, and intentional about living the values they hold dear and espouse. What we do flows from who we are, and we must be clear in what we think, what we say, and what we do to make certain there is a congruence between all three of these dimensions of leadership practice. The core values of the Leadership Studies Minor are:

Care & Compassion. To LOVE. We believe leaders must have a passion for what they do, who they do it with (and for), and why it matters. We must care about our impact on others and the world around us. Among the LEAD faculty, this translates into our paramount care for students and their growth and development. Key truths: (1) “People contribute to what they’re connected to.” (2) “Achievement flows from connection.” And (3) “People don’t care how much you know unless they know how much you care.” Leaders are connected to their authentic selves and work to connect others to their best selves, to one another, and to a purpose that matters. This value requires we treat those around us with dignity and respect, even (and especially) those we might have differences with.

Awareness & Learning. To LEARN. Leaders are motivated to thoroughly understand themselves and situations, focusing outward and inward. We strive to be mindful and thoughtful at all times – of circumstances, of self, of others, and to think critically and deeply about the challenges we confront. Because leading is a lifelong endeavor relevant to every circumstance, we acknowledge that the LEAD minor provides both education for work and – more essentially - preparation for life. This value reinforces the Chapman mission (“To provide a personalized education of distinction that leads to inquiring, ethical & productive lives as global citizens”) by supporting our students to be alert, awake, curious life-long learners, committed to leading meaningful lives that make a difference ... beyond making a living. This encompasses SELF- and SOCIAL-AWARENESS. We devote significant amounts of class time to developing a strong awareness and understanding of Self, as well as teaching students to focus outward and recognize the reality of their circumstances, and what they can do to improve them.

Positive Action & Impact. TO LEAD. Ultimately, leadership is reflected in the positions one takes, not the position one holds. Leadership is action, not position. And the actions sometimes require the courage to act and step outside our comfort zones when it would be easier not to, especially in collaboration with like-minded colleagues. The intention behind the action matters as much as the action itself. Will it positively impact the situation and/or others? We believe that, fundamentally, leaders are bridge-builders between what does exist and what *can* exist.

Service to Others. TO SERVE. Leaders, in our view, ultimately value service above self, not to the exclusion of self, but to recognize that our well-being is inextricably tied to the well-being of others and that by serving others we enrich both them and ourselves ... and make a better -- a more just and more caring -- society/world.

Note that the 4 core values correspond to the “4 Pillars of Chapman” (Social, Intellectual, Physical & Spiritual) as well as the 4 basic human temperaments (Catalyst-heart, Theorist-mind, Improviser-body, Stabilizer-soul). Together, these reflect how the Leadership Studies Program prepares our students: “To love. To learn. To lead. To serve.”