What are companies looking for today in MBA graduates? Research with businesses and other organizations consistently ranks leadership ability and awareness among the top characteristics sought by recruiters. That’s why all first year full time MBA students at Mason are required to take the Leadership Development Experience course (“LDE”). LDE is designed to help you grow and develop as a leader by blending the best of interactive classroom discussion/debate and experiential learning opportunities. The goal of LDE—and high leadership performance—is fundamentally to inspire and energize you to “Be the Difference.” It’s about striving for excellence in yourself and those around you. At Mason we believe that students who take ownership and make a full commitment to this leadership journey will build a foundation that can transform them into the compelling individual organizations are seeking.

Students will be exposed to relevant and practical information and approaches to developing their leadership awareness and leadership ability through the use of through the use of:

+ Leadership assessment tools; case studies and simulation exercises
+ Business leaders as guest speakers in class
+ Selected readings and discussions of “Newsmakers in Business”
+ Writing of personal reflection papers

The bottom line is a course that will deliver a high impact, sustainable learning experience designed to build your “personal brand” as a leader.

The framework for LDE is a new Leadership Competency Model uniquely developed by the Raymond A. Mason School of Business to prepare you for various leadership roles in your career. The course is structured around the model’s eleven competencies together with the related behaviors that define each competency. This organized approach lends focus to each class and challenges you to explore your strengths, develop your skills and position you for the different types of leadership opportunities you’ll encounter throughout your career.
YOUR EXECUTIVE COACH

A unique highlight of LDE at Mason is your personal leadership coach. You will be assigned a coach chosen from our volunteer Executive Partner organization of experienced executives and proven leaders. Your coach will challenge and guide you in developing your leadership potential. Your coach will work closely with you on various leadership development assignments; coach you in how to effectively deliver and receive feedback from others; and be a “sounding board”. He/she is committed to your success. No other school has this truly exceptional resource—not one.

BECOME A LEADER

Personal commitment to becoming an effective leader is where it all starts at Mason. Our long experience in offering a leadership course has shown that students get the most benefit when they commit to a plan to grow and develop their leadership awareness and ability. Becoming a valuable and recognized leader in an organization demands critical thinking, problem solving skills, teamwork and collaboration, and strong communication skills. Organizations want people who can make things happen and who have a bias for achieving results.

Mason’s Leadership Development Experience is designed to explore those very competencies and in turn give students the power to tap into their full potential as leaders. Our single goal at Mason is to bring this all together so students can “Be the Difference” in their careers.

To “Be the Difference” requires a solid foundation in leadership skills—a foundation that will make students the compelling individuals and leaders in demand by businesses today. Mason offers an unparalleled leadership experience that is among the most comprehensive and engaging programs in the country.

With LDE at Mason you’ll gain sustainable leadership knowledge and valuable tools to draw on throughout your career. You will:

+ Develop an understanding of who you are as a leader
+ Learn to present yourself in a compelling way
+ Discover and compare different leadership styles
+ Learn how to unlock the value of the feedback process
+ Identify, apply, and analyze leadership behaviors and opportunities

We invite you to learn more about what Mason’s Leadership Development Experience can do to make you stand out from the crowd.