



**The Leadership Alliance**  
**Undergraduate Virtual Professional Development Series**  
**Summer 2024 Syllabus**

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**Program Overview**

The Leadership Alliance's Virtual Professional Development (VPD) program is a series of summer workshops and webinars designed to promote interest and preparation for a career in research. VPD is the result of a collaborative effort that leverages the expertise of Alliance researchers and program administrators to share and demystify the research career pathway. The Leadership Alliance VPD provides a robust networking and professional development experience that supports students in preparing for and navigating undergraduate research, applying to graduate school, considering different research career pathways, and more!

Through your participation in the VPD program you will:

- Learn about the overall research process and explore foundations of research in a variety of fields
- Learn about the diversity of research career pathways
- Hear about the personal journeys of underrepresented doctoral scholars who are at the forefront of research in academia, industry, non-profits, and government
- Build and develop research communication skills
- Expand your network through engagement with faculty, administrators, students, alumni, and other future research colleagues
- Meet deans and administrators from Leadership Alliance member institutions to learn more about graduate school and the graduate school application process
- Interact with current and former graduate students to learn more about the graduate school experience
- Learn about graduate school funding structures and opportunities
- Gain confidence in yourself as a researcher and an agent of change

## Learning Objectives

By the end of the program, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the basic components and requirements of a research career
2. Be aware of potential next steps in their journey towards a career in research
3. Expand their professional, academic, and peer networks
4. Be aware of graduate school programs at multiple research institutions

## Program Format

The Leadership Alliance VPD program will integrate virtual workshops, presentations, and recruitment events. Program activities will be synchronous and asynchronous, with all program components housed in a Google Classroom that will be accessible by all program participants and contain all program materials as they are released. Participants will be invited to all professional development series events and are encouraged to participate as their schedule allows. Students will complete a post-survey reflecting on their enrollment and participation to help The Leadership Alliance determine program impact and explore potential ways to improve and expand upon the program in coming years.

## Digital Badge/Certificate of Completion

Virtual Professional Development participants who complete the following requirements will receive a digital badge/certificate of completion administered through [Credly.com](https://www.credly.com).

### To receive the digital badge/certificate you must:

- Attend or view at least 3 of the 6 professional development workshops and answer the follow-up questions via Google Form for these 3 workshops\*
- Visit at least 4 institutions at the virtual graduate school recruitment events
- Submit a question for at least one "Conversation with a Doctoral Scholar" \*\*
- Register for TLA Connect - the Leadership Alliance's professional networking site
- Complete a post-survey that will be emailed to you at the conclusion of the program

*\*The program coordinator will post a Google Form with a related question in the Google Classroom after each workshop. Participants must complete the form for at least three workshops to meet the badging requirements.*

*\*\*Questions can be submitted prior to the event via a Google Form posted to the Google Classroom or during the event via a Zoom Q&A box.*

### **It is YOUR responsibility to keep track of your participation throughout the program**

[the workshops you attend/watch, the recruitment events you attend, the Doctoral Scholars you ask questions of (even if questions are not answered)]

You will receive a Google Form at the end of the program where you will share your participation information to receive your digital badge and certificate. You MUST complete the form to receive these.

Upon receipt of your digital badge, you will be able to upload it to various platforms (LinkedIn, etc), print it as a certificate, and share it with prospective employers and graduate institutions.

## SUMMER 2024 VIRTUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES SCHEDULE

Video and written resources to supplement the scheduled programming can be accessed via the Leadership Alliance Virtual Professional Development Google Classroom. Registered participants will be invited to join the classroom via email.

### ZOOM LINKS FOR ALL EVENTS WILL BE POSTED IN THE GOOGLE CLASSROOM

*Links will be posted in the "Classwork" tab the week prior to the event and in the stream the day of the event.*

***Schedule is subject to change to accommodate speakers.***

*All events will be recorded and shared for asynchronous viewing.*

*Students will be able to attend all recruitment events held on any given day.*

<b>Week 1: You are a Researcher!</b>			
Mon. June 3	1:00 pm EDT	Networking	Conversation with a Doctoral Scholar 1
Wed. June 5	1:00 pm EDT	Workshop	Workshop 1 - Showing Up as Your Best Authentic, Professional Self
Thurs. June 6	4:00 pm EDT	Grad School Recruiting	Recruitment Sessions
Fri. June 7	3:00 pm EDT	Grad School Recruiting	Recruitment Sessions
<b>Week 2: Structure of Universities</b>			
Mon. June 10	1:00 pm EDT	Networking	Conversation with a Doctoral Scholar 2
Wed. June 12	1:00 pm EDT	Workshop	Workshop 2 – Understanding Universities
Thurs. June 13	4:00 pm EDT	Grad School Recruiting	Recruitment Sessions
Fri. June 14	3:00 pm EDT	Grad School Recruiting	Recruitment Sessions
<b>Week 3: Celebrating Juneteenth</b>			
Mon. June 17	1:00 pm EDT	Networking	Conversation with a Doctoral Scholar 3
Wed. June 19	NA	NA	Juneteenth Holiday - No Programming
Thurs. June 20	4:00 pm EDT	Grad School Recruiting	Recruitment Sessions
Fri. June 21	3:00 pm EDT	Grad School Recruiting	Recruitment Sessions
<b>Week 4: Next Steps in Your Research Pathway</b>			
Mon. June 24	1:00 pm EDT	Networking	Conversation with a Doctoral Scholar 4

Wed. June 26	1:00 pm EDT	Workshop	Workshop 3 - Choosing a Path After Undergrad
Thurs. June 27	4:00 pm EDT	Grad School Recruiting	Recruitment Sessions
Fri. June 28	3:00 pm EDT	Grad School Recruiting	Recruitment Sessions
<b>Week 5: The Road to Graduate School</b>			
Mon. July 1	1:00 pm EDT	Workshop	Workshop 4 - Applying to Graduate School
Wed. July 3	NA	NA	Independence Day Holiday - No Programming
Thurs. July 4	NA	NA	Independence Day Holiday - No Programming
Fri. July 5	3:00 pm EDT	Grad School Recruiting	Recruitment Sessions
<b>Week 6: PhD Career Path Options</b>			
Mon. July 8	1:00 pm EDT	Networking	Conversation with a Doctoral Scholar 5
Wed. July 10	1:00 pm EDT	Workshop	Workshop 5 - Academia and Other Options: What can you do with a PhD?
Thurs. July 11	4:00 pm EDT	Grad School Recruiting	Recruitment Sessions
Fri. July 12	3:00 pm EDT	Grad School Recruiting	Recruitment Sessions
<b>Week 7: The Impact of Research</b>			
Mon. July 15	1:00 pm EDT	Networking	Conversation with a Doctoral Scholar 6
Wed. July 17	1:00 pm EDT	Workshop	Workshop 6 - Research in the World
Thurs. July 18	4:00 pm EDT	Grad School Recruiting	Recruitment Sessions
Fri. July 19	3:00 pm EDT	Grad School Recruiting	Recruitment Sessions