Master's of Organizational Leadership: LDR 597 Project Description and Program Assessment

Description
LDR 597 Applied Leadership Project
Students propose, design, organize, and carry out a service-oriented community/campus enterprise. This project could comprise a fundraiser, a conference, a series of workshops, or other service project designed to demonstrate the application of student learning and benefit the broader community. All projects must be approved by the Program Director.

Before Starting the Project
Prior to registering for LDR 597, the Master's student will meet the Program Director to discuss possible projects. After selecting a project, the student will draft a 4-6 page Project Proposal that will detail the project's goals, structure, and steps to completion. The student will also select a member of the Leadership faculty who will serve as the Faculty Project Advisor. The Project Proposal will need to be approved by the Faculty Project Advisor and the Program Director prior to the start of LDR 597.

Project Policies and Rules
     1. Students must be in good academic standing in order to register for LDR 597.
     2. If the student does not submit the project proposal prior to the start of LDR 597, the student will be administratively dropped from the course.
     3. Students will meet weekly with the Faculty Project Advisor and complete all assignments as directed by the Advisor as part of the course. The Advisor will provide students with a rough syllabus and calendar for LDR 597 by the first course meeting.
     4. While the focus of the project may relate to the student's occupation, it cannot be part of a student's regular work duties.
     5. If a student fails the LDR 597 course, the student will have one other opportunity to complete the class in a subsequent semester. After two failures, the student will be dismissed from the program.
     6. LDR 597 may be completed in any semester but must be completed as a full-semester long project. It may not be completed as an 8-week course without the express, written permission of the Program Director.
     7. Students must submit all materials for LDR 597 to both the Faculty Project Advisor as well as the Program Director by the date outlined by the Faculty Project Advisor. Failure to submit those materials may cause a delay in graduation or even failure in the course.

Project and Program Assessment
Towards the end of the LDR 597 class, the student will be asked to thoughtfully consider a self-evaluation/assessment of the project.
     The program goals ask that students completing the Master's in Organizational Leadership will demonstrate that they can
- find innovative answers to novel problems and challenges;
- deploy effective strategies to facilitate change and manage conflict;
- communicate openly and broadly to different groups of people;
- inspire individuals to work together toward a shared vision for a better future.

Students will thus be asked to complete the following:

A. Identify two novel problems and challenges that arose during your project and describe how you overcame these challenges. Please relate your answer directly back to concepts or ideas you learned in at least two of your Master's classes.

B. Leaders must be able to manage conflict and facilitate change. Identify a situation from your project development where it was necessary for you to step in as a leader to manage conflict or to address situational change. Please relate your answer directly back to concepts or ideas you learned in at least tone of your Master's classes.

C. Communication is an important part of Leadership. Drawing from concepts you learned in at least two program courses, talk about the most important communication strategies you used during your project.

D. Sharing your vision with others is key to being a good leader. Drawing on a concept or idea you learned in one of your Master's classes, talk about how you successfully shared your project vision with others and motivated them to help you achieve that aim.

The project Faculty Project Advisor and Program Director will then assess this response on the following scale:

Exit assessment evaluation scale (on a basis of 1-4)
1 – the student does not demonstrate an understanding of the goal in any measurable way
2 – the student demonstrates a basic understanding of the goal, but there are still severe deficiencies present in her demonstration of the course goal
3 – the student demonstrates a strong understanding of the goal, but is still missing one or two key components in mastering the goal
4 – the student demonstrates a full understanding of the goal per the course's level and objectives

Aa. Has the student demonstrated an understanding of how to identify and overcome problems?

Bb. Has the student demonstrated an understanding of conflict management and how to facilitate change?

Cc. Has the student demonstrated an understanding of communication strategies and how to effectively apply them?

Dd. Has the student demonstrated an understanding of how to share their vision and motivate others as part of achieving a shared goal?

This assessment will be used to grade the Master's project and assess student learning in the program.