As a Shear Fellow, you will:

Learn how to influence and shape public policy

Practice leadership skills such as public speaking and networking

Build self-confidence by meeting with inspirational women leaders

The Leadership Academy’s unique curriculum includes a day trip to Jefferson City to meet with women elected officials and government leaders. Shear Fellows will also practice their networking skills at an evening event keynoted by a prominent woman in public life, and enjoy many opportunities to get to know a diverse group of exceptional student leaders with wide-ranging interests.

Past Shear Fellows Have…

- Held mock debates on the floor of the Missouri House of Representatives
- Had lunch at the Governor’s Mansion and Supreme Court with women elected officials, judges and other policy leaders
- Participated in skill-building workshops, small group sessions, and panel discussions
- Visited government agencies and private sector organizations that help shape public policy

Contact the Sue Shear Leadership Academy by calling (314) 516-6623 or by e-mail: lvoss@umsl.edu
Spend the week with women leaders, improve your leadership skills and make a difference in your career, your university, your community, and your life!

Demonstrated leadership skills and interest in public policy are the two prerequisites for successful participation in the program. Applicants should check to see if there are other criteria specific to their school.

All majors are encouraged to apply!

Past participants have included medical students, pre-law students, business, social work, education, engineering, and various liberal arts majors. There is no specific academic profile for the successful leadership participant.

Past Shear Fellows have gone on to:

- Work in the White House, at the United Nations, on Capitol Hill and in the Missouri Governor’s office
- Earn Fulbright and Truman Fellowships
- Excel in graduate and law school
- Make a difference in their communities
- Clerk for federal appellate and Supreme Court Justices

When is it?

The six-day residential program is held on the campus of the University of Missouri–St. Louis, typically during the last full week in May, concluding on the Friday before Memorial Day weekend.

What does it cost?

Participating campuses express their commitment to this program by partially underwriting the program costs, including housing and most meals. There will be no costs to Fellows other than incidental expenses incurred during their stay at the University of Missouri–St. Louis.

Learn more at our website: umsl.edu/sueshear characterandcitizenship.org

About the Sue Shear Leadership Academy

The Sue Shear Leadership Academy was originally sponsored by the Sue Shear Institute for Women in Public Life in 1998 and transitioned to UMSL’s College of Education (COE) in 2019. The Sue Shear Leadership Academy program was developed in partnership with the NEW Leadership™ National Network. NEW Leadership™ is a national non-partisan program developed by the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP) at Rutgers University to educate the next generation of women for public leadership. Participants gain leadership skills as they are exposed to new ideas and opportunities and consider their future careers. Students develop leadership skills, discover new ideas and opportunities, and consider how they can incorporate public leadership into their future plans.

“This has shown me that you don’t have to be ‘political’ to influence public policy...I can make changes!”

- Monique Maxey
Southeast Missouri State University

This is a non-partisan, educational program and is open to participants regardless of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, age, disability, and status as a military veteran.

The Sue Shear Leadership Academy is supported by UMSL’s College of Education.