

Nonprofit Leadership and Philanthropy

Codirectors

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Undergraduate certificate: nonprofit leadership and philanthropy

Website: <https://nlp.uiowa.edu/>

Nonprofit organizations are for-purpose organizations that strengthen communities, advance social good, and improve lives locally, nationally, and globally. From supporting youth and aging populations to advancing health care, preserving the arts, and protecting the environment, nonprofit organizations lead some of the most complex and impactful work in society.

Today's nonprofit sector is professional, innovative, and dynamic. Successful nonprofit organizations require skilled leaders who understand strategy, finance, fundraising, communication, ethics, and community engagement. The Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Philanthropy prepares students to turn their passion into a career by building the knowledge and practical skills needed to lead and support mission-driven organizations.

The certificate also challenges common myths about nonprofit work. Nonprofit is a tax status, not a measure of impact or professionalism. Nonprofit professionals build meaningful careers, earn competitive salaries, and lead organizations that operate with the same level of complexity and accountability as for-profit enterprises.

Through a rigorous and applied curriculum, students explore leadership and governance, strategic planning, client and community programming, fundraising and philanthropy, marketing and communications, event planning, and legal and ethical responsibilities. Coursework integrates academic theory with real-world practice, offering students hands-on learning through partnerships with nonprofit organizations and community leaders.

Whether students plan to pursue a nonprofit career, serve on a board, lead community initiatives, or apply for-purpose thinking across sectors, the Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Philanthropy equips them with the skills, experience, and perspective to create meaningful and lasting impact.

All undergraduate students admitted to the University of Iowa can pursue this certificate. Courses are offered on campus and online, allowing distance and online students to earn the certificate.

The Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Philanthropy is administered by the [School of Journalism and Mass Communication](#) (College of Liberal Arts and Sciences) and the [Department of Management and Entrepreneurship](#) (Tippie College of Business). It is awarded by University College.