

Leadership opportunities for adult learners

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8:32 AM

Adult learners have many of the same opportunities for leadership as traditional students, you may just need to get creative and think outside of the box.

Where to start

- First, think about why you want the opportunity
 - Is it just to build your resume?
 - Explore a career field?
- What are you hoping to get out of the experience?
- How much time do you have to dedicate?
- What skills do you bring? How will you help them?

Departments, organizations, and people are usually happy to have extra hands and help you gain experience, but they usually appreciate when you have taken the time to consider the questions above. This enables you to approach with ideas so they don't need to look for something for you to do. It also shows that you take initiative and do your research.

Ideas at the U

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- look into getting involved with the Student Outreach and Immersion board (focus on non-trad students)
- start your own

University Student Apartments

Many non-traditional students live here. They have a Resident Council, but there are probably less-formal ways to get involved, perhaps as an intern or volunteer with the main office. If you are a resident in the University Student Apartments, you could think about ways to be a leader in your court for your community.

Some other departments to keep in mind:

[Hinckley Institute](#)

[Childcare and Family Resources](#)

[Veteran Support Center](#)

Student group for non-trads

Department-specific

[Bennion center](#)

Community

Are there associations you already have that you could build upon? If not, maybe there is something you've been wanting to make more time for or get more involved with and seeking out chances to lead would help jumpstart that.

Some ideas might be:

- Child's school
- Church

- Volunteering you already do or want to do
- Non-profits
- Hobbies (i.e. arts, sports, activities, government/politics, environment)

Ask around

The more you let people know that you are looking for leadership opportunities, the better your chances of getting one! They can keep you in mind when they hear of something and pass it along or help you brainstorm ideas depending on what you're looking for. Don't be afraid to ask a professor whose class you really enjoy. Someone in your department, such as your advisor, can also direct you and assist you with the research. Your fellow students may be aware of opportunities you hadn't considered, so it's good to chat with them, too.

Keep in mind

- Sharing what kind of time you can dedicate and what restrictions you might have (i.e. working Monday to Friday 8-5) shouldn't limit you. If anything, it'll help narrow down the perfect opportunity for you! In this case, maybe there is something you can do remotely or after business hours. Keep an open mind!
- It may take time to reach your leadership goal or a leadership position. It often takes proving yourself before being given more responsibilities, so work hard and don't give up!

Contact us

Still not sure where to start or what kind of experience you're looking for? A Student Success Advocate would be happy to chat - feel free to [call/text or email any of us](#).