

2005 Lead America Archived Course Descriptions



Earn College Credit

L.LEA 195 - Global Business and Entrepreneurship

Overview: This conference is a ten-day immersion in Business and Entrepreneurship for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students get exposure to a broad array of current issues relating to many dimensions of the business world, from financial analysis to business ethics. In addition, students are taken through LeadAmerica's leadership curriculum, which is designed to help them enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by business professionals with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically graduate business students or undergraduate upperclassmen in business programs.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Business and Entrepreneurship conference.

Marketing	Product Development	Company Organization
Management	Financial Analysis	Sales Strategies
Forecasting	Operations	Presentation Skills
Venture Capital	Opportunity Evaluation	

Readings: Students will be given approximately 140 pages of college level background reading assignments in business, management, and ethics. In addition, they will be given approximately 25 additional pages of material to read for the simulation.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will develop a business plan for a product of service of their own devising. At the end of the program, teams will present their business plans to real venture capitalists for feedback.

Classroom Activities: In addition to lecture and discussion, students will:

- Set up and conduct a trade show
- Work with mentors from SCORE (Service Corps of Retires Executives)
- Meet with venture capitalists
- Simulate investing in peers' companies

Off-site experiences: In addition to field trips intended to expose students to the city in which the conference is held, conference participants take trips to some or all of the following: web-development laboratories, stock exchanges, and business offices. In addition, students attending conferences in the Washington, DC area visit Capitol Hill, where our Director of Government Relations will have arranged for appointments to meet with their senator and/or representative.



L. LEA 195 - Congressional Forum

Overview: This conference is a ten-day immersion in politics and government for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students get exposure to a broad array of current issues relating to many dimensions of politics and government, from congressional negotiation to presidential leadership. In addition, students are taken through LeadAmerica's leadership curriculum, which is designed to help them enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by experienced government officials with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically recent college graduates and undergraduate upperclassmen with political science backgrounds.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Congressional Forum conference.

Interest Groups	The Judiciary	Political Parties
Negotiation	Writing Legislation	The Executive Branch
The Constitution	Lobbyists	Mass Media
Caucuses	Floor Debate	Decorum

Readings: Students will be given approximately 80 pages of college level background reading assignments in political science and governmental policy. In addition, they will be given approximately 40 additional pages of material to read for the simulation.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will write legislation of their own and negotiate its passage through a model congress scenario.

Classroom Activities: In addition to lecture and discussion, students will:

- Simulate campaigns and elections
- Debate current issues in national security
- Practice careful and effective use of language
- Deliver speeches to the simulated Congress

Off-site experiences: In addition to field trips intended to expose students to the sights and culture of Washington, DC, conference participants take trips to the White House, Arlington Cemetery, the Smithsonian Institution, and Capitol Hill, where our Director of Government Relations will have arranged for appointments to meet with their senator and/or representative.



L.LEA 195 - Medicine and Healthcare

Overview: This conference is a ten-day immersion in Medicine and Healthcare for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students get exposure to a broad array of current issues relating to many dimensions of healthcare, from medical techniques to insurance policy. In addition, students are taken through LeadAmerica's leadership curriculum, which is designed to help them enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by college professors and doctors, with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically medical students and undergraduate upperclassmen.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Medicine and Healthcare conference.

Anatomy	Case Management	Critical Thinking
Public Health	Interview Skills	Neurology
Surgery	Medical History	Oncology
Radiology	Chemotherapy	College/Med School Admission
Nursing	Medical Ethics	Alternative Therapies
Insurance	Health Policy	Medical Research

Readings: Students will be given approximately 120 pages of college-level background reading assignments in medicine, medical policy, and ethics. In addition, they will be given approximately 40 additional pages of material to read for the simulation.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will interview, examine, diagnose, and treat a (simulated) patient with a serious, life threatening disease. Issues of insurance, cost, ethics, surgery, medication, patient quality of life, religion, and end of life will be encountered.

Classroom Activities: In addition to lecture and discussion, students will:

Scrub in and perform simulated surgery on animal organs

Meet with cancer survivors

Simulate the medical school admissions process

Perform a neurological exam

Receive simulated EMT training

Off-site experiences: In addition to field trips intended to expose students to the city in which the conference is held, conference participants take trips to some or all of the following: teaching hospitals, medical schools, and museums with medically-themed exhibits. In addition, students attending conferences in the Washington, DC area visit Capitol Hill, where our Director of Government Relations will have arranged for appointments to meet with their senator and/or representative.



Earn College Credit

L.LEA 195 - Crime Scene Investigation

Overview: This conference is a ten-day immersion in Crime Scene Investigation for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students get exposure to a broad array of current issues relating to many dimensions of forensic science, from fingerprinting to case management. In addition, students are taken through LeadAmerica's leadership curriculum, which is designed to help them enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by college professors and law enforcement professionals, with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically recent college graduates and undergraduate upperclassmen.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Crime Scene Investigation conference.

Case Management	Ballistics	Interviewing
Deductive Reasoning	Facial Recognition	Profiling
Odontology	Rules of Evidence	Evidence Collection
Crime Scene Modeling	Crime Scene Photography	Forgery
Fingerprinting	Footprints	Forensic Entomology
Polygraphy	Gunpowder Residue	Toxicology
Hair & Fiber Analysis	Soil Analysis	DNA Analysis
Forensic Anthropology	Autopsies	Blood Spatter

Readings: Students will be given approximately 60 pages of college level background reading assignments in crime scene analysis and law. In addition, they will be given approximately 20 additional pages of material to read for the simulation.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will collect and analyze evidence from a simulated crime scene using the techniques they learn in the classroom. At the end of the program, teams will present their findings at an inquest.

Classroom Activities: In addition to lecture and discussion, students will:

- Be on call to perform nighttime analysis of crime scenes
- Collect and study insect larvae to determine time of death
- Take tire track casts with dental stone
- Use computer software to reconstruct facial features
- Create a 3-D computer model of a crime scene
- Analyze and debate inaccuracies in TV portrayals of crime scene analysis

Off-site experiences: In addition to field trips intended to expose students to the city in which the conference is held, conference participants take trips to some or all of the following: crime laboratories, famous crime scenes, and museums with forensic-themed exhibits.



Earn College Credit

L.LEA 195 - Engineering, Science, & Robotics

Overview: This conference is a ten-day immersion in Engineering, Science, and Robotics for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students get exposure to a broad array of current issues relating to many dimensions of science and engineering, from soldering to project management. In addition, students are taken through LeadAmerica's leadership curriculum, which is designed to help them enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by college professors and law enforcement professionals, with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically recent college graduates and undergraduate upperclassmen.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Engineering, Science, & Robotics conference.

Project Management	Payload Delivery	Remote Sensing
Nanotechnology	Transhumanism	Rocket Construction
Hohman Transfer Orbits	Systems Engineering	Mathematical Modeling
Extreme Environments	Motor Design and Control	Soldering
Biochemical Analysis	History of Technology	

Readings: Students will be given approximately 80 pages of college level background reading assignments in science and engineering. In addition, they will be given approximately 20 additional pages of material to read for the simulation.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will design, manage, and partially construct a planetary lander intended for an unmanned space mission.

Classroom Activities: In addition to lecture and discussion, students will:

- Build and launch a rocket to deliver their payload
- Compete in engineering and design challenges
- Meet with a Jet Propulsion Laboratory project manager
- Use computer software to test designs under extreme conditions
- Explore the ethical issues raised by rapidly developing technologies
- Make stone tools and other early adaptive technologies

Off-site experiences: In addition to field trips intended to expose students to the city in which the conference is held, conference participants take trips to some or all of the following: Museums, research laboratories, science and engineering schools.



Earn College Credit

L.LEA 195 - GirlsLead

Overview: This conference is a six-day immersion in Leadership and Women’s Studies for high-performing female high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students learn to enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by professional leadership trainers with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically recent college graduates and undergraduate upperclassmen from a variety of backgrounds with strong leadership background and skills.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the GirlsLead conference.

Women’s History	Constitutional Law	Mommy Tracks and Glass Ceilings
Leadership Traits & Skills	Women in Politics	Global Gender Issues
Women in Science	21 st Century Challenges	Media Analysis

Readings: Students will be given approximately 75 pages of college level background reading assignments on leadership traits, skills, and practices.

Classroom Activities: Students who participate in the conference will:

- Present a Supreme Court case before a tribunal of real judges
- Create a Convention for 21st Century Women with female Members of Congress
- Experience a high ropes course with Deaf facilitators
- Develop a marketing campaign for advancing women’s issues
- Network with female business leaders

Off-site experiences: In addition to field trips intended to expose students to the city in which the conference is held, conference participants in the Washington, DC area visit Capitol Hill, where our Director of Government Relations will have arranged for appointments to meet with their senator and/or representative. Additional trips may include: Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of Women in the Arts, Arlington National Cemetery.



L.LEA 195 - Intelligence, Diplomacy, & National Security

Overview: This conference is a ten-day immersion in Intelligence, Diplomacy, and National Security for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students get exposure to a broad array of current issues relating to many dimensions of national security. In addition, students are taken through LeadAmerica’s leadership curriculum, which is designed to help them enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by experienced teachers and government officials with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically recent college graduates and undergraduate upperclassmen with background in defense and intelligence.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Intelligence, Diplomacy, and National Security conference.

Terrorism	Global issues	Threats to Democracy
Critical Thinking	U.S. Foreign Policy	National Decision Making
Intelligence Agencies	Governmental Organization	The United Nations
Political Parties and Interest Groups	Foreign Policy and Warfare	The U.S. Military

Readings: Students will be given approximately 60 pages of college level background reading assignments in defense, intelligence, and national security. In addition, they will be given approximately 50 additional pages of material to read for the simulation.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will take part in a United Nations and U.S. national security simulation. They will play the roles of national and international intelligence and policy agencies to deal with an international crisis.

Classroom Activities: In addition to lecture and discussion, students will:

- Experience a briefing on national security and defense at the Pentagon
- Study a single country or agency in depth so accurate role-play can occur
- Write and deliver speeches on national security and foreign policy
- Produce visual aids to accompany speeches

Off-site experiences: In addition to field trips intended to expose students to the sights and culture of Washington, DC, conference participants take trips to the Pentagon, the International Spy Museum, the State Department, Foreign Embassies, Arlington Cemetery, and Capitol Hill, where our Director of Government Relations will have arranged for appointments to meet with their senator and/or representative.



Earn College Credit

L.LEA 195 - Junior War College

Overview: This conference is a ten-day immersion in military history and strategy for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students get exposure to a broad array of current issues relating to many dimensions of military science, from battlefield logistics to tactical planning. In addition, students are taken through LeadAmerica's leadership curriculum, which is designed to help them enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by college professors and former military personnel with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically graduated or upperclass Cadets from the Citadel and the Virginia Military Institute.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Junior War College conference.

Strategic Thinking
The Marshall Plan
Vietnam
Operations Orders

Mission Analysis
Modern Strategy
George Washington

Napoleonic Warfare
The Middle East
21st Century Warfare

Readings: Students will be given approximately 120 pages of college level background reading assignments in medicine, medical policy, and ethics. In addition, they will be given approximately 40 additional pages of material to read for the simulation.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will study a 20th century battle and prepare their responses as military leaders. At the end of the program, students will submit their operations orders and simulate the course of the battle to its conclusion.

Classroom Activities: In addition to lecture and discussion, students will:

Experience an unclassified CENTCOM briefing
Go through two Leadership Reaction Courses

- Marine Obstacle Course
- Vertical Entry Platform Jump
- POW Escape
- VMI Obstacle Course
- Leadership Problem Solving

Tour a Civil War battlefield site with a historical guide
Visit the Marshall Library and Archives

Off-site experiences: Conference participants take trips to: The Pentagon, New Market Battlefield, WWII Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, the VMI Museum. In addition, students will visit Capitol Hill, where our Director of Government Relations will have arranged for appointments to meet with their senator and/or representative.



Earn College Credit

L.LEA 195 - Law and Trial Advocacy

Overview: This conference is a ten-day immersion in Law and Trial Advocacy for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students get exposure to a broad array of current issues relating to many dimensions of law, from courtroom techniques to legal ethics. In addition, students are taken through LeadAmerica's leadership curriculum, which is designed to help them enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by college law professors with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically undergraduate upperclassmen with Mock Trial experience.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Medicine and Healthcare conference.

Criminal Courts	Opening Statements	Direct and Cross Examination
Problem Solving	Legal Ethics	Experts and Witnesses
Objections	Jury Selection	Presentation Skills
Courtroom Decorum	Life as a Lawyer	Closing Arguments

Readings: Students will be given approximately 60 pages of college level background reading assignments in medicine, medical policy, and ethics. In addition, they will be given approximately 20 additional pages of material to read for the simulation.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will prepare a case for trial. At the end of the conference, they will go off site to real courtrooms and try their case.

Classroom Activities: In addition to lecture and discussion, students will:

Rehearse and train for trial

Off-site experiences: Students take field trips intended to expose them to the city in which the conference is held. In addition, students attending conferences in the Washington, DC area visit Capitol Hill, where our Director of Government Relations will have arranged for appointments to meet with their senator and/or representative.



Earn College Credit

L.LEA 195 - Leadership University

Overview: This conference is a six-day immersion in Leadership for high-performing high school students. Through classroom teaching, guest speakers, interactive small-group work, and a final simulation, students learn to enhance their abilities to lead in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Students who complete the course earn one college credit from Loras College (a second credit is optional). Teaching is performed by professional leadership trainers with the assistance of Team Leaders, who are typically recent college graduates and undergraduate upperclassmen from a variety of backgrounds with strong leadership background and skills.

Course Content: The following topics will be covered in the Leadership University conference.

Defining expectations	Developing trust	Leadership styles
Leadership traits	Self-Management	Running effective meetings
Maximizing potential	Team building	Communication skills
Attitude shaping	Crisis management	Goal Setting

Readings: Students will be given approximately 50 pages of college level background reading assignments on leadership traits, skills, and practices.

Simulation: Throughout the course of the program, students will build their leadership skills in order to be tested with a simulated crisis that calls on them to use all of their acquired skills.

Classroom Activities: Students who participate in the conference will:

- Undergo extensive leadership training using dynamic, interactive activities
- Perform a community service project
- Experience a high ropes course with Deaf facilitators
- Develop a personal plan to extend leadership into their personal lives
- Write a personal and group journal to record and analyze leadership practices
- Extensively assess personal choices and habits to improve self-management

Off-site experiences: In addition to field trips intended to expose students to the city in which the conference is held, conference participants in the Washington, DC area visit Capitol Hill, where our Director of Government Relations will have arranged for appointments to meet with their senator and/or representative.