Category: Assessment, Credit Pathway

Highlights

- Nationally accredited
- 19 years of educational experience in teaching this program
- 1m+ students have joined us so far; tens of thousands advancing in leadership development programming
- Over 20 higher education and career partners globally located
- Dedicated Education Team with over 25 years experience and who have a passion towards the development of leaders who build a better world

Overview

At NSLS, we teach to the future. We believe anyone and everyone can benefit from learning to act and think like a leader whether they are bound for education, employment or entrepreneurship. A true leader demonstrates self-initiative, displays confidence, handles problems or challenges with a creative and critical mindset and always drives towards making an impact in this world with real passion and positive cultural insight. We teach the leader who is always curious and driven to being resourceful and who uses courage to lead others who will build a better world.

The credit pathway at NSLS is a signature offering to complement the NSLS Steps to Induction and Foundations of Leadership or Advanced and Executive Leadership Certification Programs. These three credit-bearing programs work with the embedded certificate pathway embedded in these three programs. All of our programs prepare members for success in their higher education program or going into the workforce and career.

Each program offers a holistic approach to teaching and learning that focuses on leadership development, critical and creative problem-solving and making an impact in the world.

These pathways are for students looking to develop critical professional and personal skills through in-depth learning experiences. The programs focus on key learning outcomes: self-learning initiative, confidence in leadership, critical and creative problem-solving and making an impact.
Why the Credit Pathways?

Members who are self-initiating and want the best possible leadership development program as a showcase of their commitment to their success and career choose the credit pathway because it offers:

- A challenging program and curriculum that serves as a solid foundation and preparation for success in school, career or life and that connects all disciplines with personal or professional interests
- A student-centered approach to teaching online that is focused on developing students’ capacity towards deep learning and encourages critical and creative thinking in real-world situations
- A modern, forward-savvy education that uses creative challenges, collaborative projects, community development and impact in a real-world learning environment
- A focus on collaboration, building relationship currency, and community-building using technology as a resource to connect and build life-long relationships
- A learning that is governed by empathetic principles and teaching towards compassion for others, and understanding differences in culture and learning
- An openness to new perspectives and sense of greater self-confidence, resilience, and awareness through personalized instruction and learning
- A learning environment that values employability skills to build your resume and experience portfolio
- A transcript that showcases a comprehensive understanding of leadership and how to apply principles of leadership preparation to any situation or environment
- NSLS program alumni excel in education or career and often showcase their success of NSLS on the national stage

What makes the Credit Pathway at NSLS Unique?

Our unique approach has been developed to push the boundaries of traditional leadership development courses to deliver a unique learning experience that focuses on building a community of learners, making an impact, and deep learning along the way.

Accredited through Cognia, our programs have been shown to deliver peak performance results through our real-time, real-world project work as a vehicle to provide key employability and professional skills. Our credit pathways consist of five (5) unique learning modules, ensuring depth and range of learning topics. We encourage members to experience a variety of activities within this online environment that includes self-initiating coursework
and a self-directed research project, an experiential component to develop a commitment or engagement in a community development project, and involvement with a cohort of other members nationwide to share ideas and reflect on leadership development. The assessments within these pathways measure student understanding, writing, and creativity within problem-solving scenarios.

Why NSLS?

Our experience running programs began almost 20 years ago. Since 2001, we have been successfully educating thousands of leaders, young and old, to improve their leadership skills and to go on to get great jobs, join prestigious educational institutions or to start their entrepreneurial projects or companies. Some have gone on to begin non-profits, working in countries around the globe or raising children who have strong leadership skills. Our focus has always been on empowering individuals to become more and in helping to develop leaders who build a better world. We believe in our programs 100% and are excited to have achieved national accreditation status as we continuously improve and update our programming to keep them timely, relevant, and to give the most to our members and communities worldwide.

How the Credit Pathway Intersects with the Steps to Induction / Certificate Pathways?

The credit pathways are unique and designed to complement the certificate pathways. All pathways are connected and scaffolded in a way that allows for a “choose-your-own-adventure-learning-experience” as opposed to a prescribed curriculum. All programs are offered to all students, and we support students throughout both pathways. Our NSLS program alumni are well-equipped to engage, adapt, and succeed as they exit our program pathways with analytical, communication and presentation skills; research experience, excellent organization and management skills, and the ability to engage with an extensive range of communities in a way that showcases personal strengths and promotes the relationships with others to make an impact in the world. Employers and institutions around the globe can recruit our students knowing they have experienced a deep, high-quality, and consistent academic experience equivalent to top-notch programs worldwide.

Recognition of the Credit Pathways

Each pathway member is assessed in accordance with high standards of assessment and learning. Students complete assignments, activities, and provide written assessments throughout each course and module. The Education Team grades these assignments and assessments and final marks are graded on a scale. The
NSLS is committed to assessments that check for meaningful engagement and deeper learning of leadership – not only by reading articles or listening to leadership podcasts or checking for completion or attendance.

The Education Team at NSLS has developed many excellent resources for students, Advisors, Chapter Leaders, and universities or employers to understand the value of a leadership transcript and the NSLS pathways program. We always keep in mind that in the United States, no central body governs university admissions or employee hiring and credit reciprocity policies. While this may be troublesome for acceptance of credits, it also allows for a rich and diverse landscape for approval that is unique to each student and their major or employment status. The work, then, of recognition of our transcripts is completed through the student using our tools and resources as strong support. In the end, this is a learning moment that we embrace to build student voice, confidence and empowerment. Moreover, credit or not, our programs are created to prepare students for the future of school and/or work and to meet the demands in the next century that showcases their academic strengths, passion for learning, and engagement in communities worldwide.

**How does the Credit Pathway Work for Reciprocity?**

Our credits work similarly to other organizations where the credit from one institution carries with you to the next. Each educational institution or career organization makes its own decisions regarding the acceptance of credit, but in general, as an accredited organization, there is strong reciprocity.

Your selected program of study or career pathway may dictate what type of reciprocity you will receive, but often, even if your credit recommendations are not applicable, you may be able to use them as elective or supplemental credit. Grades are often not factored into transfer credits as part of your overall grade point average (GPA).

In working with NCCRS (National College Credit Recommendation Service), students should follow these steps:

**Step One:** Check out the NCCRS Online Directory to determine if your school or institution is a cooperating partner with NCCRS (http://www.nationalccrs.org/colleges-universities).

Please note: NCCRS cannot evaluate courses unless contracted to do so by the organization offering the learning; NCCRS does not evaluate individual student transcripts for college credit equivalencies.

**Step Two:** Complete a Transcript Request Form on the Member Dashboard in your NSLS account. NCCRS does NOT issue transcripts.

**Step Three:** Upon application to a college/university, meet with an academic advisor and review your transcript. Ask about their PLA (prior learning assessment) process or policies. Tell them about the NCCRS Online directory should they need detailed information about the course and credit recommendation.

**Step Four:** If you encounter problems with your transfer credit request, please submit a Request for Assistance Form so NCCRS can advocate on your behalf (http://www.nationalccrs.org/content/request-assistance-obtaining).
What does your Transcript look like?

You earn a verifiable and industry-trusted Course Transcript once you complete the course. You can highlight them on your resume, CV, LinkedIn profile or your website through our digital badges.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Description</th>
<th>Credits Attempted</th>
<th>Credits Earned</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Quality Points</th>
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<td>Advanced Leadership Certification</td>
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<td>1.00</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Term GPA: PASS**

**End of Unofficial Transcript***
Credit Pathway IQ 2020

How do the Courses Work?

Our pathways are developed for students who are driven, curious, open-minded, and looking for an extra success challenge. Our pathways provide a collection of unique learning experiences and lessons or activities, real-world problems, and projects that build towards a more intensive community service project. Our credit pathways combine self-initiated learning, cohort collaboration, and peer to peer learning that promotes networking and community building across all our chapters and environments worldwide.

The key differences between the credit-pathway and the certificate-pathways are the depth and instruction levels. Students watch videos, upload assignments, share in readings, complete activities and learn deeply in consort with our certificate curriculum. Each course has a Course Outline/Syllabus.

- Modules and lessons become available to students in full once enrolled
- Modules are open for 36 weeks to complete
- Students have permanent access to the course materials, answers, and their learning community for the entire duration
  
  Estimated time to complete each 1.0 course: 30 hours spread out over the 36 weeks + the completion of the steps to induction (certificate pathway)
- You can move at your own pace through the courses and you can complete your coursework anywhere, but the best pathway is in sync with your steps to induction

Please get in touch with us

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