UNLV | LIFELONG LEARNING

Nonprofit Leadership Certificate

Program Description:

Current as of: 5, November, 2026

The Nonprofit Leadership Certificate helps mission-driven professionals manage teams, boards, and resources effectively. Learners explore nonprofit governance, fundraising, and compliance while emphasizing community impact.

Program Requirements:

To earn the **Nonprofit Leadership Certificate**, you must successfully complete the 9 required courses, including Foundational Instruction. Applied Learning Lab and Mastery Projects are highly recommended but not required to receive the certificate. **Microcredentials** are earned concurrently with the certificate. Pending completion of all course elements, students will receive up to 3 microcredentials; please see the listing below:

Nonprofit Management Fundamentals Microcredential

- (NP3200) Introduction to Nonprofit Management
- (NP3203) Organizational Governance
- (NP3206) Compliance & Reporting

Revenue & Grants Microcredential

- (NP3209) Fundraising Fundamentals
- (GR1166) Writing Competitive Proposals
- (NP3211) Nonprofit Finance & Budgeting

Leadership & Impact Microcredential

- (NP3175) Board & Volunteer Leadership
- (NP3178) Measuring Program Outcomes
- (NP3116) Ethics in Nonprofit Management

Foundational Instruction:
The essential concepts and theoretical building blocks. Delivered in person, with remote access available via UNLVgo (Canvas) for flexibility.

Proficiency Lab:
Hands-on, practitioner-led application. This session is strictly in person to facilitate collaborative learning and skill-building.

Mastery Project:
Final assessment and demonstration of competency. Delivered either in person or online, depending on the specific course requirements.

Course Descriptions:

Nonprofit Management Fundamentals Microcredential

Introduction to Nonprofit Management:
This foundational course explores the history, legal structure, and core operational differences of the nonprofit sector versus private business. Participants will establish a fundamental understanding of how to align mission, programs, and strategy for community impact.

Organizational Governance:
Learners examine the principles of effective nonprofit governance, focusing on the roles, responsibilities, and legal duties of the board of directors. The course covers best practices in board recruitment, engagement, and the critical board-staff partnership.

Compliance & Reporting:
This course demystifies the essential financial and regulatory compliance requirements unique to nonprofits, including managing state registration and understanding the Form 990. Participants gain practical skills in transparent recordkeeping and internal controls necessary to maintain public trust.

Revenue & Grants Microcredential

Fundraising Fundamentals:
This course introduces learners to the core principles and practices of ethical and effective fundraising. Using the AFP Fundraising Fundamentals framework, donor-centered communication, annual and major gift strategies, data-driven decision-making, stewardship, and the essential components of a comprehensive development program are covered by this course. Learners will build practical skills to expand private revenue, strengthen donor relationships, and create sustainable fundraising pipelines for their organizations and communities.

Writing Competitive Proposals:
This hands-on course covers the entire proposal writing process, from crafting compelling executive summaries to articulating clear problem/solution statements. Learners will gain mastery of the language and structure necessary to meet strict funder requirements and secure resources.

Nonprofit Finance & Budgeting:
This financial course provides leaders with the skills to read nonprofit financial statements, manage cash flow, and develop program-specific budgets. Emphasis is placed on expense allocation, ensuring financial health, and translating budgets into clear narratives for stakeholders.

Leadership & Impact Microcredential

Board & Volunteer Leadership:
This course focuses on optimizing the human capital of a nonprofit through effective volunteer and board management. Participants will develop strategies for recruitment, training, motivation, and retention to maximize organizational capacity.

Measuring Program Outcomes:
Learners master the use of logic models and performance indicators (KPIs) to measure program impact and meet funder accountability demands. The course focuses on writing clear, factual final reports that summarize achievements and justify the use of funds.

Ethics in Nonprofit Management:
This course explores the ethical responsibilities of nonprofit and fundraising leaders. Through the lens of the AFP Code of Ethical Standards and real-world nonprofit challenges, learners examine complex issues involving conflicts of interest, donor intent, stewardship, resource management, DEI, AI use, and organizational accountability. Participants will practice applying structured ethical decision-making frameworks to navigate dilemmas, build public trust, and strengthen organizational culture.