



Leadership Academy Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ Overview

Please keep in mind that these details will also be sent via email or posted in Basecamp. This document serves as a helpful resource for addressing any questions you or your colleagues may have regarding the First Scholars Leadership Academy. The questions are categorized by topic areas and updated regularly as new information becomes available.

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General Information

Why am I being asked to attend the Leadership Academy?

Because senior leader engagement is essential to the work of institutional transformation for first-generation student success, the First Scholars Leadership Academy provides a dedicated space for leaders to connect over strategic priorities and resources, learn from Network colleagues, and become fully immersed in the First Scholars experience. The Leadership Academy will center leadership as critical partners in advancing first-generation efforts and will allow institutions to leave with strategic priorities for continuous improvement implementation.

The Leadership Academy will also support an ongoing experience for presidents and senior leaders across the experience including quarterly progress updates, leadership meetings, a Leadership Hub, invitations to special events, and an annual president's meeting.

Who should attend the First Scholars Leadership Academy?

We ask that institutions make every effort to have their president or chancellor attend. Additionally, we also ask that institutions prioritize members of their First Scholars Leadership Team, including at least one Primary Contact, one cabinet-level leader, and an Institutional Research representative (or equivalent). We understand scheduling conflicts may prevent certain individuals from attending; Expert Guides are happy to discuss further.

What costs are covered by the Center for First-generation Student Success?

The Center will provide four nights' hotel stay for up to FIVE members of your First Scholars Leadership Team, plus your president or chancellor. The Center will work directly with you to book and manage your hotel reservation.

Additionally, Leadership Academy participants will receive a registration code to access a locked-in early registration rate for the conference.

Can additional colleagues attend Leadership Academy (at our own expense)?

Our facilities for Leadership Academy are limited and we are not able to accommodate additional attendees beyond those invited from each institution. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact your Expert Guide.

Is the First Scholars Leadership Academy required?

Yes, all Cohort Five institutions are required to attend the Leadership Academy. Institutions have flexibility in determining who will attend, and our team is happy to work with you.

Travel/Transportation

When should I plan on arriving/departing?

The Leadership Academy will begin the morning of Saturday, June 22, 2024; however, attendees will likely travel to Anaheim and check into their hotel on Friday, June 21, 2024. All Leadership Academy attendees will need to be present for the full day on Saturday, June 22, 2024.

The Leadership Academy extends throughout the conference and will end on Tuesday, June 25, 2024. It is expected that attendees check out of the hotel on this date.

Please note that if attendees wish to arrive sooner and/or depart later than June 21-25, 2024, they are responsible for all planning, booking, and costs associated.

Can I book my Flight/Train?

Attendees are responsible for booking their own travel. We recommend you wait to book travel until your participant information has been shared with the Center. You can find the Participation Form [here](#).

As the closest airport, we recommend flying into John Wayne International Airport (SNA) whenever possible. Additional airports include LAX, Ontario International Airport (ONT), and Long Beach Airport (LGB).

When booking travel, please consider the Leadership Academy and conference schedules to ensure time to travel to and from the airport/station.

What if I have already made travel arrangements to attend the NASPA Conferences on Student Success in Higher Education?

All travel arrangements—aside from hotel accommodations—are the responsibility of attendees. You will be able to use the Participation Form to indicate whether you would like the Center to organize your hotel accommodations.

Will there be a shuttle from the airport to the hotel?

Attendees are responsible for booking and planning their own travel to and from the airport and their hotel. We encourage you to carpool when possible and tip your drivers. There will NOT be a shuttle service.

Driving to Anaheim/hotel parking

Hotel parking is included for attendees and will be applied to the hotel room and paid for directly by the Center. Please indicate the need for hotel parking in your Participation Form.

Hotel

What hotel are we staying in?

Leadership Academy and the conference will be held at the [Anaheim Hilton Hotel](#). While we do have a hotel room block within Anaheim Hilton, some of our Leadership Academy attendees may be placed in nearby hotels.

I already have a hotel room booked. Should I change/cancel it?

The Center will only cover the cost of hotel rooms booked and managed internally. If you wish to book your own hotel, you will be responsible for all associated costs. Either way, please indicate this in your Participation Form.

You have two options:

1. You may choose to keep your current booking. You will be responsible for managing and paying all costs associated with this booking;
2. You may cancel your current booking (be sure to check for any charges or penalties associated with cancellation) and have the Center book on your behalf.

How is the hotel room being booked?

The Center is currently securing rooms blocks for First Scholars Leadership Academy attendees. Reservations will be made for attendees based on the travel dates indicated on your attendee form.

Anyone wishing to stay additional nights (either before or after Leadership Academy) must coordinate and pay for this on their own. The Center will not be able to extend hotel stays beyond the four nights.

Is there parking at the hotel?

Hotel parking is included for attendees staying at one of our conference hotels; this will be applied to the hotel room and paid for directly by the Center. Attendees choosing to stay elsewhere will not have their parking costs covered. Please indicate the need for hotel parking in your Participation Form.

Can I extend my stay?

Anyone wishing to stay additional nights (either before or after Leadership Academy) must coordinate and pay for this on their own after we have shared your hotel confirmation with you. The Center will not be able to extend hotel stays beyond the four nights on your behalf.

Conference Registration

Do Leadership Academy attendees need to attend any specific pre-conference workshops?

While we are still finalizing the full details of the schedule, we can confirm that Leadership Academy participants will attend sessions on the morning of Sunday, June 23, 2024. We will send along additional information and instructions when the details are finalized.

Do I need to attend the NASPA Conferences on Student Success in Higher Education? Or can I just attend Leadership Academy?

The Leadership Academy extends throughout the entire conference, so we strongly encourage all Leadership Academy participants to stay for the entirety of the conference. The provided four nights' hotel stay will span the conference schedule (June 22-25, 2024).

Do I need to register for the NASPA Conferences on Student Success in Higher Education?

Yes, Leadership Academy attendees need to register for the conference. We will provide a registration code and set of instructions that are specific to Leadership Academy participants to all attendees who complete the Leadership Academy Participation Form. This code will allow attendees to lock in the early registration rate.

What if I have already registered for the NASPA Conferences on Student Success in Higher Education and/or pre-conference workshops?

Please connect with your Expert Guide and we will be in touch with any additional information we may need.

I would like to register for the NASPA Conferences on Student Success in Higher Education. Should I do that now or wait?

Please complete the Participation Form. Once we have received this, we will send you instructions on registering for the conference using a unique registration code.



Schedule

Is there an agenda for Leadership Academy?

Yes, you can find the [schedule here](#). Additional details and information will be added as it is finalized.

Participation

How do I register for the Leadership Academy?

Leadership Academy attendees register their intention to attend by completing the [Participation Form](#). This form will serve as your registration for Leadership Academy.

Participants attending the conference will need to register separately for the conference. You will be provided a unique registration code to complete registration.

My president/chancellor is unable to attend. Are we still able to participate in First Scholars?

We ask that you make your best effort to have them join the Leadership Academy. However, we understand your president or chancellor may not be available to attend. In this case, it is all the more important that at least two cabinet-level leaders attend and there is a communication plan in place for keeping the president or chancellor apprised of First Scholars progress. The inability of your president or chancellor to attend does not preclude your institution from engaging in the full First Scholars experience.

I'm a Primary Contact and I can't attend the Leadership Academy—what should I do?

Please work with your Leadership Team. We require Leadership Teams to have two Primary Contacts for this very reason! If possible, have at least one Primary Contact attend. Otherwise, please work with your First Scholars Leadership Team to identify who can best attend and report back information after the event. Your Expert Guide can also offer support after the Leadership Academy to discuss what was missed.

Will there be a virtual option for the Leadership Academy?

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide a virtual option to attend the First Scholars Leadership Academy. The Academy will feature a number of interactive and breakout sessions that are not conducive to virtual participation.

What else do I need to know?

For now, please focus on identifying your Leadership Team attendees and completing your Participation Form. We are working diligently to finalize plans and will communicate frequently. We will release more schedule details as soon as possible, too. Thank you for your patience! Please email FirstScholarsNetwork@naspa.org with any additional questions.