

**Women's Leadership Initiative**  
**College of Health & Human Development**  
**Pennsylvania State University**  
**Application Directions (2009)**  
[www.hhdev.psu.edu/wli](http://www.hhdev.psu.edu/wli)

The goals of the Women's Leadership Initiative (WLI) are to:

- create opportunities for women students to observe, interact with, and learn from outstanding established leaders.
- facilitate the process of developing philosophies, skills and individualized plans for becoming tomorrow's leaders.

Students will participate in a 12-month interdisciplinary program that includes **weekend workshops and seminars**.

Successful applicants must have a minimum accumulative GPA of 2.75 and be:

- in residence on the University Park campus during the fall and spring semesters of their **junior year**. (Nursing students may be studying in Hershey but must attend all sessions. No student may be studying abroad during either semester.)
- willing to be involved with the incoming WLI class in a few events after their WLI year.

**To Apply:**

1. Provide the information requested below and respond to the items that follow.
2. Students will be selected for the program based on their prior academic and leadership experience, the extent to which they will benefit from the WLI experience, and the extent to which they can contribute to the learning of the whole WLI group. Please note that the essay portion of the application is most important in the selection decision. Successful leadership requires outstanding thinking and communication skills, therefore please focus on articulating your thoughts clearly and concisely.
3. Request a recommendation from a faculty member or academic advisor familiar with your leadership interests. This correspondence should be sent directly to WLI on organizational letterhead or e-mailed from a business address.
4. Attach your current résumé.
5. You may attach one additional letter from a supervisor of employment or volunteer experience (preferably on letterhead).
6. Candidates may be called for a personal interview.

**Application checklist:**

1. Completed form (see page 2).
2. Answers to four questions (page 2). Please type answers.
3. Essay on leadership (page 3). Please type answers.
4. Résumé.
5. One letter of reference (sent directly to WLI).
6. Second letter of reference, attached to application (optional).

Your completed application must be received by **5:00 pm on March 1, 2009**. Return applications to:

Mail: Ms. Pam Baier  
Women's Leadership Initiative  
201 Henderson Building  
University Park, PA 16802-6501

E-mail: [pab38@psu.edu](mailto:pab38@psu.edu)

In-person: S-159 Henderson Building South (8-11 a.m.) OR 102 Henderson Building (8 a.m.-5 p.m.)

Questions? Please contact:

Dr. Abigail Diehl, 863-2207 or [abbyd@psu.edu](mailto:abbyd@psu.edu) or Ms. Pamela Baier, 863-0536 or [pab38@psu.edu](mailto:pab38@psu.edu)

You will be notified in mid-April of the Selection Committee's decision.

**Women's Leadership Initiative  
College of Health & Human Development  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Application Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Prefer to be called \_\_\_\_\_

2007-08 Local Address \_\_\_\_\_

2007-08 Local Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ PSU E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Address \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Summer Address \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Date of Graduation (month/year) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Major(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Minor(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated # of credit hours completed by end of Summer 2008 \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended other colleges or universities? If yes, name(s) of institution (s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

If applicable, # credit hours completed prior to transfer to PSU \_\_\_\_\_

**Please answer each of the following four questions with one concise paragraph:**

1. What are your professional interests?
2. What are your personal interests?
3. What do you plan as your first professional position following graduation?
4. Where do you see yourself professionally in five years and what knowledge, skills, and experiences do you need to gain to help you achieve this career goal?

**Essay Portion: Please respond to the following items.**

**Limit your response to 500 words for the total of the five items. It should be ONE essay.**

**Count your words and put the number at the end of the essay.**

**Please note that the essay portion of the application is most important in the selection decision.**

1. Identify a woman in a leadership position (current or past and not a relative) and outline specific ways she has influenced your learning about and/or experiences with leadership.
2. Describe a special characteristic you have that will make you a good leader.
3. Provide one concrete example showing how your participation in an organization or activity (e.g., student organization, work experience, community service, or class project) made a difference in the achievement of goals.
4. Discuss benefits you hope to gain from your participation in the WLI.
5. Describe any unique experiences or personal background characteristics you have that, when shared with other students, will enrich the group's thinking about leadership.