



## DIAMOND GRADUATE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP XPERIENCE THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON

Founded in January 2020, the Diamond Graduate Women's Leadership Xperience was created to offer graduate and doctoral women personal and professional opportunities to develop while at UA. "Over 4 years ago, I had a vision about developing a program to encourage and coach women to develop their leadership skills. In my own experience as an executive in financial services, I had only a handful true mentors and advocates, and I benefited from them tremendously. I wanted the program to bring together a host of resources, and to be challenging, stimulating, nurturing and fun." - Founder, Carina Diamond, CEO and Founder, Stella Secunda Partners; Executive in Residence and Director, Diversitas, The University of Akron

**All currently enrolled women-identifying graduate students are eligible, regardless of major or background. Participants incur no expense for this program through the generous support of Carina Diamond. By joining, participants will:**

- develop advanced professional, leadership, interview, and communication skills
- build confidence and resilience in a supportive atmosphere
- receive one-on-one career coaching and mentorship from respected senior women
- engage in valuable networking with high-level industry professionals
- learn of diverse employment opportunities
- cultivate rewarding relationships with like-minded colleagues in fun settings
- earn a signed certificate of completion and award of accomplishment

### APPLICATION PROCESS

**APPLY NOW**   
[BIT.LY/DIAMONDXPERIENCE24](https://bit.ly/diamondxperience24)



Applicants must be a currently enrolled degree-seeking graduate student in good academic standing at The University of Akron and identify as a woman.

#### **Application Period:**

- Application opens: Nov. 6, 2023
- Application deadline: Dec. 11, 2023 at 9 a.m.
- Interview schedules: Dec. 14, 2023 | Notification of decision: Jan. 12, 2024

**Questions? Email [leadership@uakron.edu](mailto:leadership@uakron.edu)**



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## STRUCTURE



The program runs January – December 2024 (Spring 2024, Summer 2024, Fall 2024) and features a hybrid assortment of:

- **Professional Development Seminars**
  - Students will have the opportunity to select from five (of eight) scheduled professional development seminars. These seminars are designed to introduce graduate women leaders to specialized topics meant to provide this cohort an edge. Seminars will feature community women in leadership roles, relatable faculty-led topics, empathy-directed interviewing skills, advanced communication, and leadership.
  - Seminars are scheduled on weekday evenings (in-person) and Friday mornings/afternoons (virtual).
- **Leadership Development Groups**
  - The larger cohort will be divided into smaller interdisciplinary groups who will receive a workbook with select leadership topics to guide discussion. The group will determine its own one-hour meeting time. The groups must meet six times in spring and continue with optional sessions in the fall semester.
- **Mentoring/Coaching**
  - Each student will be assigned a mentor/coach who is a leader in the community. The purpose of this mentor/mentee relationship will be to provide one-on-one guidance, coaching, as well as a source for networking in related fields. The meeting times/locations of these arrangements will be determined exclusively by the mentor/mentee.
- **Ceremonies & Retreats**
  - These events are designed to introduce cohort members to one another, develop a team, provide points of connection to community/university leadership through networking opportunities, as well as celebrate the accomplishments of program participants.
    - Monday, January 22, 2024 – Welcome Reception
    - Saturday, May 18, 2024 – Spring Retreat
    - Monday, September 9, 2024 – Fall Welcome Reception
    - Friday, December 6, 2024 – Closing Celebration Dinner
- **Community Impact Mini-Project (optional)**
  - This project is action-oriented and focuses on a specific social issue that benefits both The University of Akron and Northeast Ohio communities. Students determine their focus area and receive funding for program elements.
- **Conferences (optional)**
  - All participants will have the option to select a professional conference to attend with direct sponsorship from the program

**Approximate total time commitment: 38-40 hours\***