



Ready to lead with purpose? Offered each spring and fall, the FOCUS Women In Leadership (WIL) program offers the opportunity to refine your personal, professional and civic leadership competencies, learn about the St. Louis community, and connect with other women from diverse backgrounds.

Along the way, you'll hone your facilitation, negotiation, and communication skills, explore issues facing our region, and tap into resources to become a more effective leader.

Alumnae leave the program with a deeper understanding of themselves and their goals, along with the knowledge, skills, resources and networks to bring those goals to life. You'll also join the network of more than 11,000 FOCUS alumni.

Who Should Apply

Women In Leadership is open to women of all ages with a desire to strengthen their leadership skills and effectiveness. Ideal candidates include mid-level managers, entrepreneurs and community leaders. Like all FOCUS programs, classes are selected to represent the diversity of the St. Louis region.

"To say my experience with Women In Leadership was life-changing is an understatement. I learned so much about myself and my hometown that I love so much."

- Andi Blaylock

WHAT TO EXPECT

Curriculum

Program days include a mix of speakers, interviews with regional leaders, small-group discussion, interactive exercises and reflection activities, led by FOCUS' experienced facilitators, subject-matter experts and regional leaders.

While program content is continually evolving to meet the needs of each class, the curriculum covers:

- Understanding Diversity, Equity & Inclusion
- Leveraging Your Strengths & Emotional Intelligence
- Personal Brand Management
- Negotiation Strategies
- Field Days - Exploring Leadership Across Sectors

Participants also engage in a small-group Capstone Project and a self-directed Personal Leadership Project.

Commitment

The Women In Leadership program consists of four seminars, held on Saturdays, and three Field Days, held on Thursdays. Seminars and Field Days give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in the region, explore different styles of leadership and talk with business, community and civic leaders.

Impact

In a survey of 2022-23 graduates:

- 96% gained strategies and tools to enhance their leadership competencies.
- 93% gained experience and training in negotiation strategies.
- 87% feel more comfortable networking as a result of the program.

“Through Women In Leadership I did more than expand my network — I stepped into a close-knit community of women leaders from all walks of life who are committed to celebrating my every win and supporting me through every challenge.”

– Shannon Durio



Application Process

Applications for the FOCUS Women In Leadership program can be found online at www.focus-stl.org. Two recommendations are required; a link to the form is available online.

Applicants will participate in a Saturday half-day interview and selection process.

The application deadline for our Fall 2024 class is Saturday, July 13, 2024.

You may also nominate an employee or colleague for the program online, and we will follow up to provide them with the application materials.

Program Cost

The tuition for the Women In Leadership program is \$2,500, which includes a complimentary FOCUS St. Louis membership during your time in the program.

Tuition is often covered in part or full by the participant's employer. Partial scholarship assistance is available to those with demonstrated financial need.

About FOCUS St. Louis

As a national leader in civic leadership education, FOCUS St. Louis provides diverse leaders with the civic awareness and powerful connections needed to be collaborative changemakers who advance a thriving region for all.

FOCUS offers a continuum of leadership programs to engage leaders at every stage of their journey, from high school students to senior executives. More than 11,000 individuals have completed our programs, and FOCUS alumni and members are leaders who make a difference.

FALL 2024 PROGRAM DATES

Program days run 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, July 13	Application Deadline
Saturday, Aug. 3	Selection Day
Thursday, Aug. 29	Meet & Greet (3-6 p.m.)
Saturday, Sept. 14	Seminar One
Thursday, Sept. 26	Field Day One
Saturday, Oct. 12	Seminar Two
Thursday, Oct. 24	Field Day Two
Saturday, Nov. 9	Seminar Three
Thursday, Nov. 21	Field Day Three
Saturday, Dec. 14	Seminar Four
May 2025	FOCUS Now Graduation

Thank You to Our Women In Leadership Supporters!



Foundation



For More Information

Visit www.focus-stl.org, attend the virtual Info Session on June 12, or contact Program Director Shalia Ford at (314) 657-4021 or shaliaf@focus-stl.org.