



APPLICATION: INVST Community Leadership Program

All interested students must submit a completed application.
Please refer to the INVST website for application deadlines.

WHAT IS THE INVST COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PROGRAM?

We believe in the possibility of a just and sustainable world. We develop community leaders who engage in compassionate action as a lifetime commitment. The INVST Community Leadership Program is an academic program that admits up to 18 students each year in order to foster a small, interactive environment. INVST challenges CU undergraduate students through the interdisciplinary exploration of social and environmental change. The program combines practical skills training, meaningful community-based action and theory in a unique, participatory model. Students who successfully complete the INVST Community Leadership Program in its entirety will earn either the Certificate in the Study and Practice of Leadership or the Leadership Studies Minor from CU Boulder.

WHO MAY APPLY?

The INVST Community Leadership Program is open to CU Boulder undergraduates from all majors, departments and schools. You may be a freshman, sophomore, or junior when you apply, as long as you plan to be at CU Boulder for two consecutive years. There is no minimum GPA (grade point average) requirement, but we advise you that INVST is a challenging academic program. You are expected to maintain a strong GPA in your INVST courses and your other courses, throughout the two years of our program.

Inclusion Commitment:

We actively seek and support the participation of individuals and communities that reflect diversity of ability status, age, color, documentation status, ethnicity, gender, gender variance, life experience, national origin, political affiliation, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, and veteran status.

Commitment to Anti-Oppressive Education:

INVST Community Studies is committed to anti-oppressive education. We acknowledge the importance of **examining** not only how groups are oppressed but also how groups are privileged and how these two processes maintain social structures. We are dedicated to **challenging** dominant ideologies and systems, **centering** traditionally underrepresented voices, **questioning** the assumption that information is unbiased, and **critiquing** what is thought of as normal.

HOW IS THE PROGRAM STRUCTURED?

Climate Justice Summer: The first mandatory summer experience is focused on energy, power, extraction and environmental sustainability in the US Southwest. - 4 credits available

- Fall Year 1:
- INVS 3302/WGST 3302 Facilitating Peaceful Community Change (theory class) – 3 credits
 - Qualifies as LEAD applications course, toward Leadership Studies Minor (LSM)
 - INVS 3931 The Community Leadership Internship, Part 1 (skills class, with 6 hours in an internship) – 3- 6 credits
 - Replaces LEAD 1000 requirement, toward LSM
- Spring Year 1:
- INVS 3932 The Community Leadership Internship, Part 2 (skills class, with 6 hours in an internship) – 3- 6 credits.
 - Qualifies as LEAD applications course, toward LSM

Economic Justice Summer (July and August): The second mandatory summer experience gives students the opportunity to learn about immigration, documentation, labor justice and economic justice. We will travel to the US Midwest. - 4 credits available

- Fall Year 2: INVS 4402 Nonviolent Social Movements (theory class) – 3 credits
- Qualifies as LEAD foundations course, toward LSM
- INVS 4931 Community Leadership in Action, Part 1 (skills class, with 6 hours on community-based project) – 3-6 variable credits
- Qualifies as LEAD context course, toward LSM
- Spring Year 2: INVS 4932 Community Leadership in Action, Part 2 (skills class, with 6 hours on community-based project) – 3-6 variable credits
- Qualifies as LEAD context course, toward LSM

To complete the Leadership Studies Minor you must also take a 4-credit course, LEAD 4000, which is offered each semester. Without this course, you may still earn the Certificate in the Study and Practice of Leadership, for successfully completing each of the requirements above.

WHAT TIME COMMITMENTS ARE REQUIRED?

We ask you to carefully consider the time commitment required for the INVST Community Leadership Program. Participants are required to do six hours of community-based action per week, during each of four semesters. In addition, students in the INVST Community Leadership Program occasionally attend committee meetings and help with outreach, fundraising, curriculum design and staff hiring. If you would like to evaluate whether or not you have enough time to participate, the INVST staff at 303-492-6624 would be happy to discuss how your current activities might be incorporated with program requirements. It is possible, for those who would be unable to take on an unpaid internship, to choose a paid internship in the first year in INVST, as long as such an internship can be identified in the community.

WHAT IS THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS?

Our early consideration/early admission deadline is in November. Please see website for the exact date. All those who apply by this deadline will be contacted by the INVST Administrative Assistant who will schedule an interview with you in the two weeks after we receive your application. An interview will be conducted, where INVST staff, current students and alumni can learn more about each applicant. There is no need to be anxious about this interview! It is simply an opportunity for us to get to know you better! Casual attire may be worn. After the interview, each applicant will receive an admission response letter from INVST staff by the middle of December. The INVST experience for admitted students will begin in April.

Our FINAL application deadline is in March. Please see website for the exact date. In order to be in the class following your application year, all students must apply by this time. Every person who applies by this date will be contacted by the INVST Administrative Assistant who will schedule an interview with you in the two weeks after we receive your application. An interview will be conducted, where INVST staff, current students and alumni can learn more about each applicant. There is no need to be anxious about this interview! It is simply an opportunity for us to get to know you better! Casual attire may be worn. Each applicant will then receive an admission response letter by early April.

For those who are admitted into the INVST Community Leadership Program, our first meeting will be early in April, the exact date, time and location will be provided. This gathering is mandatory for all in-coming INVST students. If you are out of state or out of the country, this is the only reason you will be exempt from attending the first session. Dinner will be provided during that time period. Please keep in touch with us until then by replying to any emails from INVST staff, and please keep this evening open in your schedule.

WHERE SHOULD THE APPLICATION BE RETURNED?

Please complete and submit your application. **If you have any questions about the application or interview processes, contact invst@colorado.edu** or visit us at our office at 1201 17th Street, Suite # 11 (but please note: our office is not accessible for those who are differently abled as we have a staircase. Please call us at 303 492 6624 and we would be more than happy to set up a meeting in an alternate location.)

Final application deadline: See website

WHAT ARE THE FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS?

While there are financial obligations, please do not let them prevent you from applying to INVST! We grant scholarships and offer support to all those in need. The *Summer Program Activity Fee* is paid by each student: \$1,500 per person is due on June 1, 2021 to cover the costs of the Climate Justice Summer, and \$1,500 per person is due in June 2022 to cover the costs of the Economic Justice Summer. Through a combination of

money raised through this fee, and money raised by students, staff, and INVST board members, *all* expenses including travel, room and board, instruction, accommodation and homestays are included.

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WHAT ARE THE FINANCIAL AID OPTIONS?

Please do not let the financial obligations associated with INVST prevent you from applying! We endeavor to provide financial assistance to students who do not have the means -- either as individuals or with the support of their families -- to pay the Summer Program Activity Fees. **If you are accepted into the program and you qualify for financial assistance (by turning in your FAFSA), you will receive notification about the scholarship(s) you have been awarded, along with your acceptance letter.** In order to ensure inclusive and diverse involvement across socio-economic lines, we provide the following support. Please contact the Program Director (303-492-8045) for more information about any of the following financial aid options:

Summer Program Activity Fee Scholarship: Scholarships range from partial to full coverage of the Summer Program Activity Fees, based on funding availability and a sliding scale for eligibility. Students must apply for support from the INVST CLP and they will be notified of the scholarship amount in their acceptance letter. ** If they are eligible for federal aid, students MUST submit their most current FAFSA with their application to be considered for a scholarship.

Summer Need-Based Work Study: Students who qualify for need-based work study assistance may be able to work during the summer in the INVST office before the Summer experience. Submit a FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1, through the Office of Financial Aid to apply for summer and academic year work study awards.

Summer Program Activity Fee Work Exchange: Some students may work off portions of the Summer Program Activity Fee by assisting in the administrative office at an exchange rate that equates each hour of work to \$10.00, discounted off the fee. The total amount a student is eligible to work is based on the sliding scale. A contract must be completed for work exchange through the INVST CLP, in advance of the SPAF deadline of June 1.

Summer Program Activity Fee Interest-Free Payment Plan: Some students may delay payment of the Summer Program Activity Fee. Repayment amounts and eligibility are decided on a case-by-case basis, in advance of the SPAF deadline of June 1.

The Jim Downton Community Leadership Scholarship of \$2,000 towards CU Boulder tuition will be awarded to two students in the incoming INVST class. This scholarship will be granted to those who demonstrate need and are residents of the state of Colorado.

Everyone admitted is expected to complete the entire 2-year program, but especially those who receive financial aid from INVST. If you fail to complete the program in its entirety, you may be asked to return the funding that you were granted.

**No one will be turned away from INVST for lack of funds.
Financial aid is available for all those who demonstrate need!**

APPLICATION - Please submit to invst@colorado.edu

For more information, contact Annie Miller at invst@colorado.edu.

INVST Program Application General Information			
Full Name		Date of Birth (optional)	
Student Number			
Student Mailing Address			
Student E-Mail Address			
Phone Number(s)			
Gender Pronouns		Race (optional)	
Parents' Names & Mailing Address(es) (optional)			
Parents' E-Mail Addresses and Phone Numbers (optional)			

University Information	
Major(s)/Minor(s)	
Academic Honors Received	
Anticipated Graduation Date from CU Boulder	

Do you have Privacy Status with FERPA (the Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act)? YES ☐ NO ☐ DON'T KNOW ☐

Academic or Professional References			
Name	E-Mail Address	Phone	Nature of Relationship

References should be able to speak about 1) your willingness to make a substantial, two-year commitment to our academic program; 2) your experience with or interest in leadership, community-based action or social/environmental change. If possible, please submit letters of recommendation from each of the references listed above.

Personal Statement

✓ Please attach a typed, 2-3 page essay responding to the following questions:

- Tell us about your background (your family, where you grew up, why you chose CU Boulder).
- What interests you or motivates you to apply to the INVST Program?

- c. What will you contribute or bring to the INVST community?
- d. What do you hope to gain from your two-year experience in the INVST Program?

Please note that all applications will be reviewed by a small selection team consisting of students, staff, and alumni.

If you want to be considered for financial assistance, you must also attach one of the following:

- ✓ A copy of your current (2020 or 2021) completed financial aid application (FAFSA) if you want to be considered for any type of financial assistance listed on page 2. Please note, if you and your family are able to pay the Summer Program Activity Fees of \$1,500 per summer in full, there is no need to submit a FAFSA.
- ✓ If you want to be considered for any type of financial assistance listed on pages 2-3 and you do *not* receive funds from your family to attend CU, please submit a completed financial need packet, available from our web site.
- ✓ If you are a Dreamer or a DACA-mented student who is ineligible for federal aid, please don't let that stop you from applying to INVST. We will strive to secure funding to make it possible for you to participate.

Verification of Understanding

Please verify your understanding of the following statement by writing your initials in the box provided.

I have read the application information and procedures above. I understand that the design of the INVST Program requires up to 5 hours of classes each week with accompanying coursework, in addition to 6 hours of community-based action each week, and participation in leadership training activities such as Directors' Committee, admissions and fundraising. I understand that this means I could be spending up to 15 hours on INVST-related activities in any given week. In addition, I understand that the two Justice Summers, the INVST internship, and the Community SOL (Serving/Organizing/Leading) Project are all mandatory. If accepted, I intend to be on the CU Boulder campus for two consecutive years, in order to participate in all aspects of the two-year INVST Program.

Interview Availability

Since we will conduct an in-person interview with all applicants who apply to INVST, please list your availability on Mondays through Fridays to come in and meet with us on campus, between the hours of 8 am – 8 pm:

Signature

I hereby certify that, to the best of my knowledge, the information offered in this application is true and complete. I understand that if the information I provide to INVST Community Studies is found to be other than true and complete, it is sufficient cause for dismissal from the program. Additionally, I consent to the release of materials relevant to an admissions decision by INVST Community Studies staff and community members.

Applicant's Signature

Date

FINAL Application Deadline: See website for final deadline