The Hart Center at SMU-Lyle takes the leadership and professional development of our students as seriously as their technical education. Our process starts with the Hart Leadership Assessment, a benchmark tool that reveals a student’s leadership strengths and identifies areas for growth. Leadership coaches help students analyze results and create personal development plans, which are updated and refined throughout a student’s academic experience. Through student leadership positions, co-op work experiences, and internship opportunities available at SMU and in Dallas-Fort Worth’s thriving business environment, students practice skills and challenge themselves continually to reach their leadership and professional goals. The Hart Center prepares Lyle students for the real business of engineering, giving students the tools they need for the college to career transition and encouraging lifelong personal and professional growth.

The Hart Leadership Framework

Our guide to leadership and professional development emphasizes these essential elements of leadership growth: Personal, Relational, Functional, and Contextual.

Today’s engineers will be called upon not only to excel in their fields and be persuasive, but also to interpret their expertise in both business and public settings, contribute their talents to civic issues, and consider the ethical dimensions of problems and solutions.

~Linda Hart, founder of Hart Center for Engineering Leadership

For more information, please visit: http://www.smu.edu/Lyle/Centers/HartCenter
Or contact us: thehartcenter@lyle.smu.edu
With the Hart Center’s guidance, Lyle students have a distinct advantage in the job market:

84% report securing jobs 90 days post-graduation

Salaries are on average 10% over the National Association of Colleges and Employers’ average typically reported (starting average salary of $70K vs. NACE average of $63K)

72% of graduating seniors complete 1-3 internships or co-ops

LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Our approach to leadership and professional development includes three key elements:

Assessment: The Hart Center Assessment Portfolio is a set of evaluations, for individuals or teams, taken at strategic points in a student’s academic career to make sure they are consistently making and reaching their leadership and professional development goals.

Challenge: The Hart Center encourages students to engage in activities to build on current strengths and fortify areas needing improvement. We expose students to many opportunities to practice and grow as a leader throughout a long and successful career, including:

- Class Enrichment
- Community Engagement Projects
- Student Clubs/Organizations
- Hart Center Workshops and Events
- Co-ops & Internships
- Mentor Program

Students can expand their knowledge base with a variety of resources available from the Hart Center, including workbooks, guides, a leadership book lending library, business writing samples and job sourcing links.

Support: The Hart Center provides a range of student support as needed, including individual and team coaching, as well as career guidance, to help students strengthen their leadership style, reach personal development goals, and be a more productive team member.

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

The Hart Center is an invaluable resource for both Lyle students and employers in the career engagement process. Students can:

- Make connections for a variety of student interactions and employment needs, including mentor relationships, co-ops, internships and full-time positions.
- Interact with employers in both formal and informal settings — from semi-annual events such as Engineering Mock Interview Day, Engineering Resumania, Interview Prep 101, Engineering Connections Career Fair — to professional development workshops and customized recruitment events.
- Receive strategic career guidance and advice on job search tactics, post-offer negotiation, and transition opportunities.