



MANRRS 2026 Leadership Academy Workshop Titles and Descriptions

1:10 PM – 2:00 PM

Workshop I (Career Readiness)

- **Workshop 1A- The Job Search Toolkit: Resume & Interview Essentials**
 - This workshop will cover resume formatting, tailoring application materials to specific opportunities, and translating academic, research, leadership, and work experiences into impactful accomplishments. Students will also learn how to answer behavioral interview questions using the STAR method (Situation, Task, Action, Result), practice professional interview etiquette, and participate in mock interview exercises with real-time feedback. By the end of the workshop, attendees will have stronger application materials, increased interview confidence, and practical strategies to stand out throughout the hiring process.
- **Workshop 1B : UG- Career Mapping: Designing Your Path with Purpose**
 - This workshop will guide students through setting short- and long-term career goals, identifying experiences that strengthen their professional profile, and building an action plan for internships, networking, leadership, and professional development. By the end of the workshop, attendees will have a personalized career roadmap and practical strategies for navigating their transition from college to career.
- **Workshop 1C: UG - Graduate School Bootcamp**
 - Graduate school looks different for everyone. In “Graduate School Bootcamp,” attendees will learn the vast differences between graduate schools and programs. Overarching tips to success will be given, and attendees will have the opportunity to talk to graduate students about their experiences and thoughts on schooling. By the workshop’s end, members will have a greater understanding of graduate school and the steps that not only take them to school, but also through it.

2:10 PM – 3:00 PM

Workshop II (Soft Skills)

- **Workshop 2A: UG - The Professional Presence Playbook**
- Professional success is shaped not only by technical ability, but also by how individuals carry themselves in professional spaces. In “The Professional Presence Playbook,” attendees will learn how to build a strong, authentic presence that communicates

confidence and credibility in academic and workplace settings. This workshop will explore key elements of professional presence, including nonverbal communication, first impressions, communication style, and how to navigate professional environments such as interviews, conferences, meetings, and internships. Students will also engage in interactive activities designed to strengthen their confidence, improve self-awareness, and refine how they present themselves in high-stakes situations. By the end of the workshop, participants will have practical strategies to communicate with clarity, carry themselves professionally, and make a strong impression in any professional setting.

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- **Workshop 2B: UG - The “Power Skills Lab: Why 'Soft' Skills are the New Hard Currency**

- In “The Power Skills Lab,” attendees will explore the essential interpersonal and professional skills that employers consistently identify as critical for career success. Through interactive exercises and real-world scenarios, students will examine skills such as communication, teamwork, adaptability, emotional intelligence, and problem-solving, and how these directly impact performance in internships, jobs, and leadership roles. Participants will also reflect on their own strengths and areas for growth while practicing how to apply these “power skills” in professional settings such as meetings, group projects, and networking opportunities. By the end of the workshop, attendees will better understand how to intentionally develop and leverage these skills as a competitive advantage in their careers.

- **Workshop 2C: UG - The Cultural Compass: Learn How to Navigate Professional Workspaces**

This workshop will explore key factors that shape workplace culture, including communication norms, leadership styles, inclusion, expectations, and organizational values. Through guided discussion and real-world case studies, students will learn how to ask intentional questions during interviews, recognize positive and negative workplace signals, and advocate for themselves in professional settings. By the end of the workshop, attendees will feel more confident assessing employer fit and holding organizations accountable to the values and commitments they present.

8:30 AM – 9:20 AM **Workshop III (Finance)**

- **Workshop 3A- UG; From Offer to Financial Freedom**

- This workshop will guide students through understanding the components of a compensation package, including salary, bonuses, benefits, retirement plans, insurance, and other workplace perks. Participants will also explore budgeting strategies, saving and investing basics, credit management, and financial planning for life after graduation. Through interactive activities and real-world scenarios, students will practice evaluating job offers and making informed financial decisions. By the end of the workshop, attendees will have the knowledge and confidence to advocate for their worth, manage their finances responsibly, and build a strong financial foundation as they transition into their careers.

- **Workshop 3B- UG: Building Wealth Early: Investing for Beginners**

- This workshop will introduce key concepts such as compound interest, retirement accounts, index funds, diversification, and investment risk. Participants will also

learn how to evaluate different investment options, avoid common misconceptions, and develop strategies for building wealth over time. By the end of the workshop, attendees will have the confidence to begin their investing journey and make informed financial decisions for their future.

- **Workshop 3C: UG - The Geography of Opportunity: Where Your Career Can Take You**
 - The ability to adapt to new environments and seek opportunities beyond familiar surroundings is crucial for professional growth. This workshop, hosted by MANRRS, aims to empower students and professionals to embrace geographical flexibility and explore career and internship opportunities away from home.

9:30 AM - 10:20 AM

Workshop Session IV (Leadership Development)

- **Workshop 4A: UG - Lead Through Complexity: Building Influence When You Don't Have Authority (Sophomores/Juniors)**
 - This workshop will introduce common leadership frameworks and help students identify their own natural leadership tendencies through reflection and interactive assessments. Participants will examine how different styles show up in group settings, internships, and organizational leadership roles, as well as how to adapt their approach in different situations. Through case studies and group activities, students will practice applying their leadership style in real-world scenarios. By the end of the workshop, attendees will have a clearer understanding of their leadership identity and how to use it effectively in academic, professional, and organizational settings.
- **Workshop 4B: UG - The Collaboration Equation: How High-Performing Teams Actually Work**
 - In this workshop, students have the opportunity to understand conflict management and resolution. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from panelists about their personal experiences working on teams with conflict and how they overcame these situations. Additionally, a leadership assessment will be offered, allowing individuals to understand the type of leader they are and the role their style plays in a greater team dynamic. The goal of this workshop is to offer an understanding of how to lead and manage conflict productively and progressively.
- **Workshop 4C: UG - Beyond the Campus: Leading Through Community Engagement**
 - Professional members will have the opportunity to engage in community discussion and find ways to engage students on their campus with MANRRS in the current climate. Following a light discussion, members can complete a SWOT analysis and discuss the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats they see being posed. Attendees will gain an understanding of what tools they have available to them to increase engagement and what they can attempt to gain as the year progresses.

Saturday 10:30–11:30 AM

MANRRS AI Solutions Labs

"Where Future Agricultural Leaders Solve Tomorrow's Workforce Challenges"

Participants work in small teams using AI tools (ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot, Gemini, Claude, etc.) to solve authentic agriculture and workforce challenges before presenting their solutions.

Workshop 5A: Building the Future Food System Case Study (Sophomores & Juniors)

AI Solutions Lab:

A rural county is losing agricultural workers while local farms struggle to recruit young professionals.

Your team has one hour to design an AI-supported recruitment campaign.

Teams use AI to:

- Identify recruiting challenges
- Develop social media messaging
- Design outreach events
- Create a recruiting flyer
- Prepare a 3-minute pitch

Workshop 5B: From Candidate to Consultant Case Study (Seniors)

AI Solutions Lab:

A Fortune 500 agriculture company has hired you to improve their college recruiting strategy.

Using AI, your consulting team must build:

- Campus recruiting strategy
- Internship pipeline
- Employer branding campaign
- Student engagement plan
- Executive recommendation

Workshop 5C: Graduate Students - Research to Real-World Impact Case Study

AI Solutions Lab:

You have developed groundbreaking agricultural research.

Your challenge: Use AI to translate your research into something industry leaders will understand.

Develop:

- Executive summary
- Grant abstract
- Investor pitch
- Policy brief
- LinkedIn article

Workshop 4D: Professionals - Leading AI Transformation Case Study

AI Solutions Lab:

Your organization wants every employee using AI within 12 months.

You have been selected to lead the initiative.

Using AI, build:

- AI adoption roadmap
- Employee training plan
- Governance policy
- Ethical guidelines
- Executive implementation strategy