



Top 10 F.A.Q.'s

What I Wish I Knew at 18 Leadership and Life Skills Course

Top Ten Frequently Asked Questions

1. What are the most distinctive aspects of this course? Why this versus others?

We believe the WIWIK@18 program is the definitive leadership and life skills course for schools committed to developing the next generation of well-rounded and empowered leaders. Among its distinctive qualities are: 1) its comprehensive **scope** that incorporates both personal leadership attributes and key life decision arenas, 2) its **vision** for an honorable and productive life along with desirable character and life preparation outcomes, 3) its innovative blend of reflective self-assessments and dynamic **collaboration** designed to simulate real world situations, and 4) the **wisdom** integrated throughout that offers practical, *before-the-fact* success pointers to apply in critical life decisions. We believe students will view this as one of the most valuable, relevant, and fun courses they will ever take.

2. Who is this course for?

This program can be implemented by schools, service organizations focusing on teens/young adults or parents, faith communities, and families.

3. What is the target age range?

Due to the subject matter, the course is best matched to high school juniors and seniors and first year college students. However, with minor modifications in subject matter emphasis, the course could be taught to students as young as eighth grade.

4. What is the most effective environment to implement the course?

We believe the course is ideally suited for settings that allow for small group interaction due to the collaborative aspects of the lessons. This would include large classes that can be divided into small groups and small-group programs.

5. Can this course be used in other settings (e.g., parent/child, counseling, one on one mentoring, family groups, rehabilitation programs)?

Absolutely! However, in one on one situations, it will be important for the adult to act as a “peer” during the discussions to promote open dialogue. This may present challenges to some parents, but it is essential to reap the maximum benefit of the course.

6. Can the course be adapted to shorter timeframes?

The WIWIK@18 program is designed as a 9- or 18-week course, but can easily be expanded via additional resources or contracted via selective focus on the most important subjects within the curriculum. Also, the course is arranged in such a manner that the subjects are not sequential, which allows facilitators to pick and choose among several different life success pointers. Finally, for advisory programs that commonly allow for 20-minute lessons, the sessions can be easily shortened by selecting a subset of the group discussion questions. The program is highly adaptable and flexible to meet the curricular demands of the institution.

7. What are my options if I’m facing tight budget constraints?

Ideally, students will be able to retain both the book and student guide upon completion of the course. This is because the book serves as a life coach and the student guide is a complement to the book. However, when budgets are highly constrained, schools have several options to lower cost: 1) utilize e-versions of the book and student guide (to be available shortly), 2) retain the book for future use while allowing the student to keep the guide, 3) solicit funding from community and business organizations or foundations who support leadership development, and 4) charge a curricular fee to the parents given that the book and guides are intended to be kept by the student.

8. What if I want to spend more time on specific topics?

The WIWIK@18 program is intentionally broad and rich in scope. However, depending on curricular desires, schools may wish to place greater emphasis on specific subject areas (e.g., career, financial literacy). This can be accomplished by supplementing these topics with additional resources or by simply expanding their time allocation at the expense of less critical subject areas.

9. Does the facilitator need to be a subject matter expert in topics such as finance or career selection?

Absolutely not! One of the competitive strengths of this program is that the student and leader guides are so self-explanatory and easy to implement that one needn’t be an expert in any particular topic area. That said, we recommend that schools consider bringing in industry experts to facilitate particular subject areas where possible to enrich the student experience.

10. Are you planning to offer a curriculum for Christian schools/organizations?

LifeSmart Publishing is developing a Christian edition of the course (specifically the student guide) for Christian-based schools, organizations, and ministries. The curriculum will consist of

the book, Christian edition of the student guide, and the leader's guide. We anticipate a release of this program in the fall of 2011.

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