

LEARNING TO BE A LEADER DURING UNIVERSITY YEARS

“Leaders grow, they are not made”

Leadership is empowering others to meet a shared goal; the supporting and harnessing of human potential. Effective leadership is one key element in the success of a group and virtually anyone can learn to be an effective leader.

To handle daily life challenges, we need leadership skills to find opportunities in a difficult situation. Leadership skills are very helpful for students to achieve their dreams and goals. It teaches us what to learn, what needs to be followed, what is important in certain situations and time. It plays an important role in every aspect of a student's life who go through many stages in life for career development where they need leadership skills.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

In the modern world, students face many career-related challenges and employment problems. That is why they need leadership skills to accept challenges, solve problems and analyse career direction. Everyone possesses leadership skills, but not all use those skills. Leadership is a belief that says, I can do it and I have to do it. It secures unsecured paths, aid in developing good habits and good habits build many skills.

Leadership is about the art of motivating, influencing and directing people so they work together to achieve the goals of a team. It is important for students to experience leadership opportunities to learn the art of building relationships within teams, defining identities and achieving tasks effectively. It also provides an opportunity to learn to identify and display effective communication and interpersonal skills.

BENEFITS OF STUDENT/YOUTH LEADERSHIP

- ✓ Inspires students for learning and acquiring career development skills.
- ✓ Students can optimise habits, learning, execution, entertainment, and use of time. By doing this, they become focused and more productive to achieve specific goals.
- ✓ Enhances time management practices. Time management helps decide when to work on a certain task, how much time is required to achieve the goal and how to deal with procrastination.
- ✓ Develops awareness skills. Awareness helps students recognise their rights and duties. It is recommended that they should learn, know and get as much awareness about the world, think about the dreams, goals, and subjects so that they can participate in competitive exams, become eligible for jobs, become confident to start a business and various others things.
- ✓ Helps develop social skills. Almost all leaders are top quality communicators. They choose top quality content and methods to communicate about their goals and solutions with society.
- ✓ Enables students to become competitive, creative, qualitative, self-awarding and critical thinkers.

“THE PROCESS OF BECOMING A LEADER IS MUCH THE SAME AS THE PROCESS OF BECOMING AN INTEGRATED HUMAN BEING.”

IMPORTANCE OF LEADERSHIP SKILLS IN UNIVERSITY

The job of a good leader is to get the most out of others by demonstrating specific behaviours, attitudes and skills. These traits can help inspire and guide those following you to be willing to push themselves to get the most out of their potential. However, certain leadership skills and attributes are best developed before you get out into the professional world, and that is what makes a university the right place to develop these qualities. You can do so by:

Developing a Sense of Responsibility

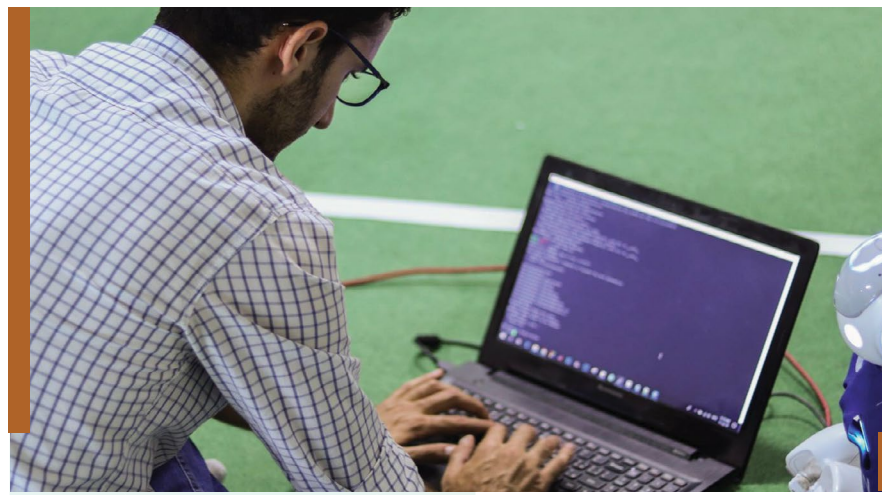
The central component of being a leader is to understand and accept the fact that you now have responsibilities that can affect a wide range of people; leaders must look into it that they are getting the best out of everyone in their group. Hence, if one group member fails to complete a task, it is the leader's responsibility to hold that person accountable while still finding a way for that task to be completed.

Building Confidence

You will never be able to succeed as a leader without a healthy belief in yourself and your abilities. A university enables you to develop your confidence. Whether it is in student management, managing a project, starting a new club, organising team rallies, or putting together various social activities for students. Leading a campus organisation will help develop the confidence you will need for the professional world once you graduate.

Learning to Network

The ability to communicate is an essential characteristic of being a leader, and when you are in a university, you will have endless opportunities to interact with everyone from other students, campus administrators and leaders of other groups to even high-level figures off-campus. This will provide excellent opportunities to practice your networking skills. These relationships may even last for a very long time.



Sharpening Your Problem-Solving Skills

Life predominantly poses one problem after the other, and as a leader in the professional world, you are often entrusted responsibility of guiding your group members through an almost endless series of challenges. Fortunately, the university life provides excellent opportunities for students to refine their problem-solving skills, while enhancing their ability to multi-task before they step into the professional world.

Learning to Inspire

Taking on leadership roles in the university, you will have the opportunity to persuasively speak in front of a variety of people and groups. This will in return build the composure and self-assuredness you need as a leader in the life after your graduation. In addition, you can build your communication skills and confidence by giving speeches at university events, assisting incoming freshmen, working as a broadcaster for university sporting events etc.

Learning to Manage

Leadership is not just about inspiring. The ability to manage a group; oversee operational procedures; devise budgets; figure out what should take precedence over other things; and what is crucial to being an inspiring leader.

Discovering Your Capability

People have set of ideas about what they can or cannot do until they are suddenly pressed to push their mental or physical boundaries. By taking on student leaderships roles, leaders will often be put in positions where they have to step in and take care of certain types of tasks that they have never had to deal with before. For example, you might have to perform accounting functions for your group or perhaps be in charge of coming up with creative ideas used to promote your organisation. So while it can sometimes be a bit awkward at first to do something you have never had to do before, it can be immensely rewarding to discover new talents that you can take with you into your professional future.

Muscling Up Your Resume

With academic leadership experience, you will be showing your potential future employers something that can be applied more tangibly to the real world than just a grade point. After all, most companies are looking for people they think can one day advance to managerial positions, and by demonstrating what you have already developed during university years, you have a greater chance of catching a hiring manager's eye during an interview.

Learning the Art of Negotiation

The concept of negotiation comes in many forms, and when leading a group or organisation, it is essential to be able to make those involved feel respected and important. Thus, by taking on projects in university where a good amount of individual collaboration is involved, you gain a foothold on the ability to prioritise the different issues between people that come up, and consequently know when to strike some sort of compromise.

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Becoming Familiar with Being Recognised

If you are going to be a leader in the professional world, you must know how to handle being a known face, someone who others will recognise as a leader and approach with various issues or opportunities. Thus, by being a leader in university, you will condition yourself to the pressures of being at the top of the pyramid, which will have you much better prepared for when you get to be running the show in the real world.

Knowing Your Strengths

In order to be a good leader, you need to know your strengths. Knowing your character strengths enable you to select environments that allow you to express and develop them. For example, if you have a passion for writing and working in a team setting, consider becoming a leader on your university's newspaper staff.

Gaining Experience

You may encompass all the attributes that a good leader should have, but if you do not have experience in the area in which you would like to become a leader, then you will not be viewed as a knowledgeable leader among other students. For example, if you want to become the Editor-in-Chief of a student newspaper, you will have to start at the bottom and gain experience.

Working Well with People

For being a good leader at university, one needs to be able to work well with other people. Good leaders show superior interpersonal skills. To demonstrate your interpersonal skills, you should go around your campus and meet new people. Talk with them about university issues and listen to what they have to say. This will help you establish a sense of trust among your peers.

Willing to take Action

Leaders create a vision, set goals that represent that vision, and develop plans that lead to their goals. Do not just talk about what you want to do once you have a leadership position on campus; take action to get it accomplished.

Being Optimistic

Leaders must be optimistic. When faced with a setback, optimists do not give in to feelings of helplessness. They maintain their focus. Whatever area of interest you have at your university, always remain optimistic in any situation that comes your way. This will show other individuals that you can be counted on in times of need.

Student leadership opportunities ought to be a regular feature at any university, as they give students a chance to lead fellow students from different backgrounds and with different beliefs and values. Students need leaders who they can identify themselves with and count on. When considering a leadership role, make sure you are equipped to handle whatever comes your way.

