

10 Ways Leadership Roles Will Help You Succeed After College

Learn how individuals who serve in leadership roles are poised to be successful in the workforce after completing college.

1. You'll gain confidence.

“With realization of one’s own potential & self confidence in one’s ability, one can build a better world.” ~Dalai Lama

2. You can develop communication skills.

Public speaking plays a major role in many careers today. As a student leader, you'll have to speak with confidence and poise to diverse groups about your organization's mission and goals. Diplomacy skills and persuasion tactics are applicable to almost any career. You can develop your communication skills by speaking at meetings and events, mentoring newer reps and doing more demos and field training.

3. You'll gain responsibility.

Student leaders aren't only responsible for themselves - they also have extended responsibilities that affect a wide range of people. Leaders of a group must not only make sure that tasks get done, but that all members of the organization are performing to the best of their abilities. This responsibility can be a lesson on how to hold ourselves and others accountable.

4. You can develop negotiation skills.

Helping reps learn to answer their own objections and solve their own excuses, is a core skill that develops negotiation skills. Of course, doing more and more appointments and working with customers to up-serve is some of the best training a student can get to prepare for any career in any field.

5. You'll be able to network.

Leaders may communicate with many more people than the average student typically interact with on a weekly basis. In a leadership role, one can become familiar with people from all walks of life and with proper networking efforts, other high-profile figures. Building relationships with these people can yield valuable personal and professional contacts.

6. You'll gain management skills.

A strong leader is one whose management skills become second nature. Practicing these skills in college can teach you how to use your personal talents for the overall advantage of your group. You'll likely make mistakes, but learning how to handle them now can better prepare you for the workforce.

7. You can hone problem-solving skills.

Student leaders have many obligations to meet while maintaining a full course load and attending to other personal responsibilities. It will take some creative problem-solving to get everything done and keep life in balance. Leadership experiences allow you to hone multitasking abilities that future job and life responsibilities demand.

8. You'll discover new talents.

While student leadership involves delegating work and holding others accountable, leaders also have to complete tasks on their own. Taking on new tasks can be challenging, but they can also awaken undiscovered talents that may prove useful in the future.

9. You'll be recognized.

The student leader often becomes the face of the group he or she represents. If a leader is involved and successful, people from different areas will begin recognize the leader, even when official business is not being conducted. Leaders are often approached with unique and engaging opportunities by other students, faculty members and business leaders. Leadership work may also lead to awards, which can add more distinction to your resume.

10. You'll improve your resume.

Employers recognize the responsibilities that student leaders take on, and they respect the initiative it shows. With leadership experience on your resume, you're more likely to get the attention of a hiring manager. A student leadership role is also a great talking point during interviews.

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