

Survey Says...



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Common Pitfalls of Student Leaders & How to Address Them

Learning outcomes for today

- Reflect on where you are in your student leadership experience
- Identify common pitfalls often seen in student leaders
- Identify ways to address these pitfalls and learn about other resources that can help you be more successful



Who am I?

Why the heck are you listening to me?

- Student employee
 - Intramural official/office assistant/supervisor
- Student leader
 - Club officer/president
- Supervisor
 - Supervised students at 3 different institutions
- Adviser
 - Coached sport club team
 - Professional staff supporting 65+ sport clubs



Now, who are you?

- Give me some perspective who I am talking to
 - Name
 - Institution
 - Organization/Position/Role



Now, let's take some time to think...

- What is a student leader?

Student Leader



The grid contains six images:

- Top Left:** A young boy in a suit sitting at a desk with a sign that says "THE BOSS".
- Top Middle:** Three students looking at a smartphone with expressions of surprise and excitement.
- Top Right:** Uncle Sam pointing forward with the text "WE WANT YOU!" below him.
- Bottom Left:** Two men in a celebratory pose, one holding a large stack of money.
- Bottom Middle:** A man in a suit waving to a large crowd at an outdoor event.
- Bottom Right:** A woman sitting at a desk, looking stressed with her hand on her forehead.

What my parents think I do

What my classmates think I do

What my advisors think I do

What SGA thinks I do

What I think I do

What I actually do

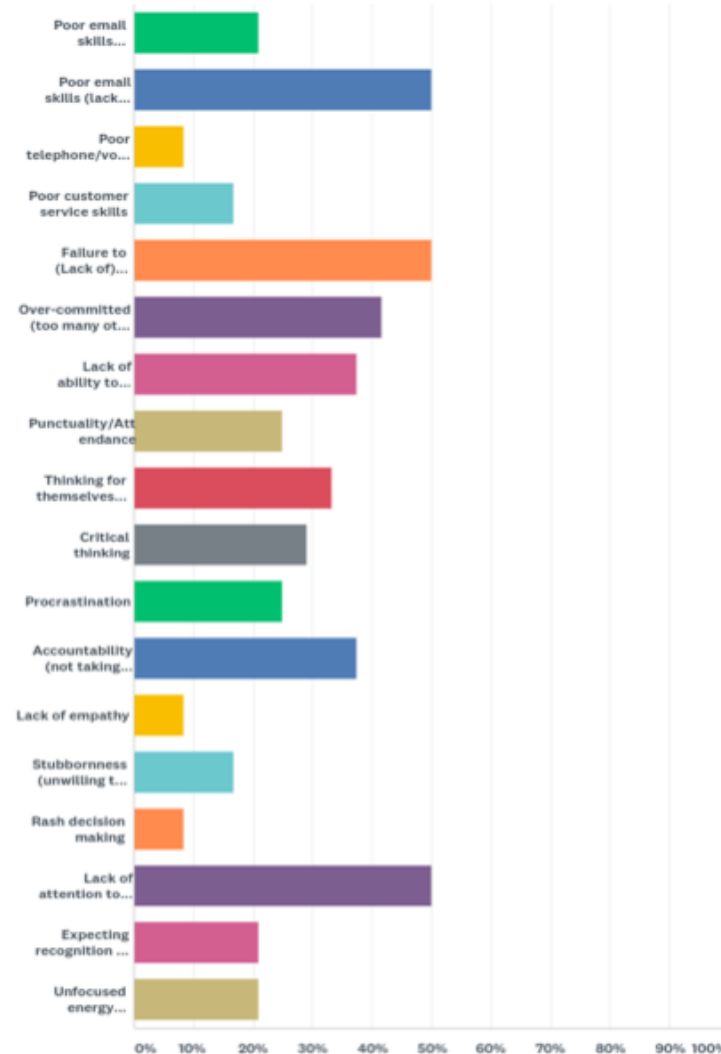
brought to you by  wiggio

Now, let's take some time to think...

- What is a student leader?
- Why are you a student leader?
- What makes a successful student leader?
- What do you think are some pitfalls of student leaders?



Q1 Please click up to 5 of the most common (and frustrating) issues/traits/pitfalls you see when working with our student leaders



I asked a variety of student affairs professionals and they said...



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Lack of Attention to Detail

- Slow down
 - Be patient – do it right the first time
- Think it through
 - all the way – past the 1st step
- Anticipate what might happen
 - If this...then this...
- Read your emails/websites/policies
 - Listen in meetings



Lack of/Delayed Response to Emails

- Acknowledge it has been received/you are working on it
 - “Let me ask...”
 - “I’ll get back to you by Friday”
 - “I have to check on that, I’ll get back with you”
- Give yourself a deadline
 - This holds you accountable & keeps us off your back



Failure to/Lack of Follow-through

- If you say it...do it
 - Or own up and ask for help
- Deadlines
 - Set them for yourself & tell others
 - Keeps you accountable
- Its okay to need help/fail
 - We can't help if we don't know you need it



Over Committed

- Those that often volunteer...always volunteer
 - You don't have to be involved with everything
- Learn how to delegate
 - And who to delegate to
 - And what can be delegated
- Know your schedule
 - Don't overbook yourself
 - Know your busy times



Some other concerns...

- Lack of ability to prioritize tasks/time
 - Who needs it-when do they need it – how big is it
- Accountability – not taking ownership
 - “My B”-“I’m sorry”-“I need help”
 - Its okay to fail...I do it every day before 9am
- Thinking for themselves – asking Qs before thinking about it
 - Where can you find it – who else might know
 - Think 1st – anticipate responses



Some other things we want you to know...

- Ask for help, you don't have to know everything
- Find a mentor for your professional & personal development
- **Take ownership for your work & be open to constructive feedback**
- Being busy doesn't mean you are a better leader
- Commit & follow-through with your best effort – and when you can't, admit it, communicate that & ask for help
- *Don't be afraid to make tough decisions – that is when you learn the most*



Do you know who do go to for help?

- Leadership & Service Center
 - Coaching appointments
 - PDCP
 - Leadership ASsessment
 - Emerging Leaders
 - So much more!
- Your boss/supervisor at work
 - Not just a paycheck to us



Who else?

- Your adviser
 - Academic or organizational
- Your U101 instructor
 - Or any professor/instructor/TA
- Student Success Center
 - Success consultation
 - Writing & communication
- Career Center
 - Decide it – Experience it – Live it



What feedback do you have for us?

- It's only fair...
- What frustrates you about us?
- How can we better help you?
- Be honest 😊



Questions?

- What else can I answer?
- What else can I clarify?
- How else can I help?



As **Gamecocks**,
our impact has
No Limits.



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