

Recent studies show that many college students are taking the easiest classes, doing the least amounts of work possible, and breezing through to their degree. However, student affairs research has shown that students who are actively engaged at their schools tend to have much higher satisfaction and success rates in college. The student's enrolled in The College of Education and Social Services' Independent Study in Student Leadership course are choosing the latter with the hope to pursue a project that develops skills in leadership. This course is unique, because the projects have the potential to impact so many different people. Enrollment in this course provides students with many different opportunities to take on a leadership role in the community whether it is through service or research.

The projects range from promoting local skiing to planning youth summits, with costume production, internships with non-profits, work at art galleries and much more falling in between. Students become actively engaged not only in their own work, but also in one another's projects. The nature of the course promotes involvement in all sorts of activities on campus and in and around Burlington. The course requires participants to take responsibility for their own success, by creating and following through with the project of their choosing.