Objective: Make civic and personal judgments that are informed, responsible, and ethical

Overall EIU students assume leadership positions in school and athletic capacities, and less in church and community capacities. Freshmen lead at a higher rate than seniors in school and athletics and in church and community, though the difference of participation is less drastic.

EIU freshmen participated more in co-curricular and volunteer work (including volunteerism and non-profit service), and did so more consistently, than EIU seniors.

A majority of EIU students (F90%/S74% strongly agree and agree) believed that citizens should respect their government’s decision, but seniors (91%) more than freshmen (67%) believed that citizens should actively question government decisions. EIU students apparently consider the seemingly contradictory actions of “respect” and “active questioning” of government to be duties of citizens, in addition to other citizen duties such as paying taxes, voting and obeying the law.

EIU Seniors stayed informed about local, state, national and international events more than freshmen, and did so more frequently. How? Always/Frequently combined:
- computer or other electronic devices (Fr37%/Sr45%)
- daily newspaper (Fr7%/Sr19%)
- TV news (Fr36%/Sr48%)
- TV news entertainment show (Fr35%/Sr38%)

Yet, most EIU students do not take steps to remain informed (Fr60%/Sr54%).

Freshmen seemed more optimistic in their plans to engage in certain learning opportunities than did seniors. Many freshmen, but few seniors, planned to study abroad (Fr51%/Sr7%); do service learning (Fr60%/Sr26%); participate in alternative spring break (Fr32%/Sr6%); do undergraduate research (Fr37%/16%), or participate in national student exchange (Fr17%/Sr1%). While 60% of EIU freshmen planned to do service learning or volunteerism, NSSE data indicated that “some” classes contained a service learning component while only 6% Fr to 10% Sr believed that most classes incorporated service learning.