

## What is leadership?

- “Leadership is **deep engagement in an area of interest** – not necessarily an officer in an organization,” said Deb Shaver, director of admission at Smith College. “Rather than the president of the student government, I love the student who has been the chair of the dance clean up committee for a few years. Who wants that job? And yet, she consistently gets a few students who will stay late after the dance to clean up the detritus left by classmates. That, to me, is leadership. No accolades but lots of commitment and follow through.”
- “A leader is someone who **shoulders responsibility for larger group decisions**. A leader is also someone who **inspires others to act, holds forth broad ethical and inclusive principles** and organizes the time and energy of all people to a purposeful and successful diverse community of living,” said Paul Thiboutot, vice president and dean of admission at Carleton College.
- “A leader is someone **who influences others to make a difference**. A leader can be loud and bright but a leader can also be quiet and soft – if he or she inspires, excites, and motivates others, I would call that leadership,” said Kelliann Dietel, admissions counselor at Lafayette College.
- “Someone with **highly developed emotional intelligence who is a mentor, a decision maker (through collaboration and consultation), and an ethical role model**,” said Beverly Moore, associate dean at Kenyon College.
- Vice President for Undergraduate Enrollment at University of Notre Dame Don Bishop said, “A leader is someone who **notices what is not being accomplished that should be worked on and improved . . . not for their own gain** but for the benefit of the group or a special subgroup that has less resources and needs help. A leader also organizes others to assist her/him in this effort.”
- “A leader is a **great listener who can motivate others to be thoughtful and effective**,” Syracuse University Director of Admission Peter Hagan said. “Too often we are stuck assessing leadership roles and have a harder time identifying leadership qualities.”
- “A leader is someone who supports and **encourages those around them**; communicates big picture goals clearly and effectively; and **continually builds relationships to advance the mission of the team**. Someone who tempers action with wisdom and balances humility and confidence,” said Rick Clark, director of undergraduate admission at Georgia Tech.