

# PROJECT PORTAL AND DIGITAL BADGE OUTCOMES

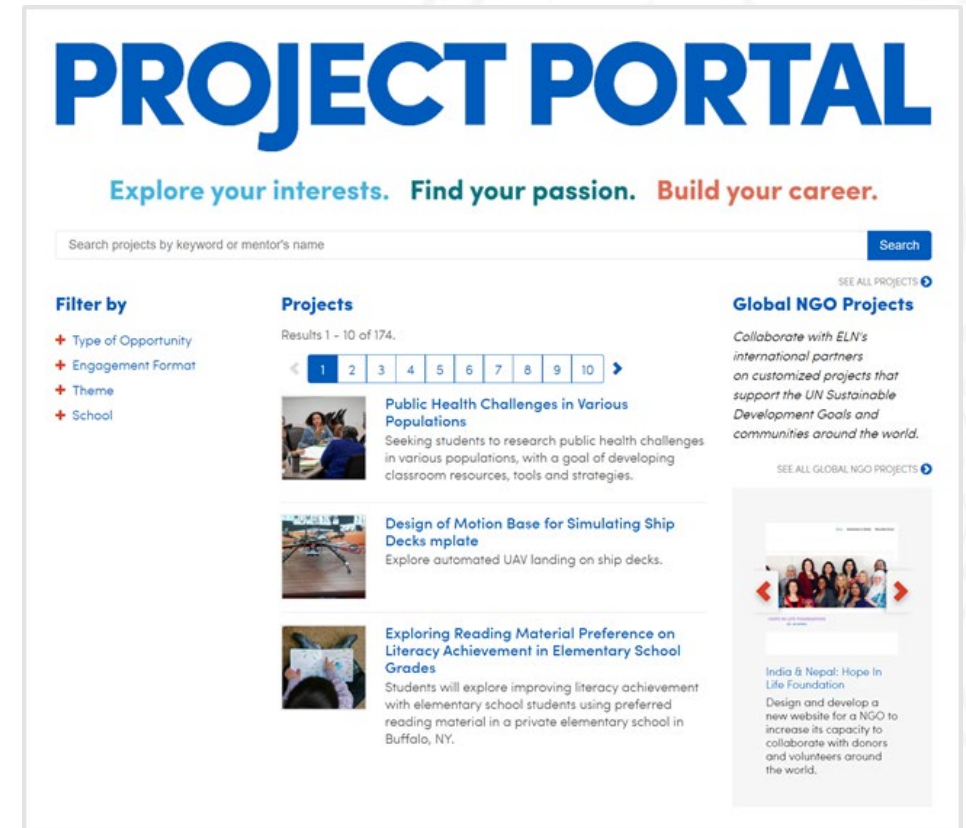
Experiential Learning Network

August 2021



# Project Portal Growth

- Doubled active projects in 2 years
  - August 2019: 97 projects
  - August 2021: 194 projects
- 127 new projects - 30 deactivated = net gain of 97 projects
  - ELN continuously ensures the Portal is up-to-date so students don't encounter unavailable/inactive projects.
- Global NGO projects
- Hybrid and remote engagement formats

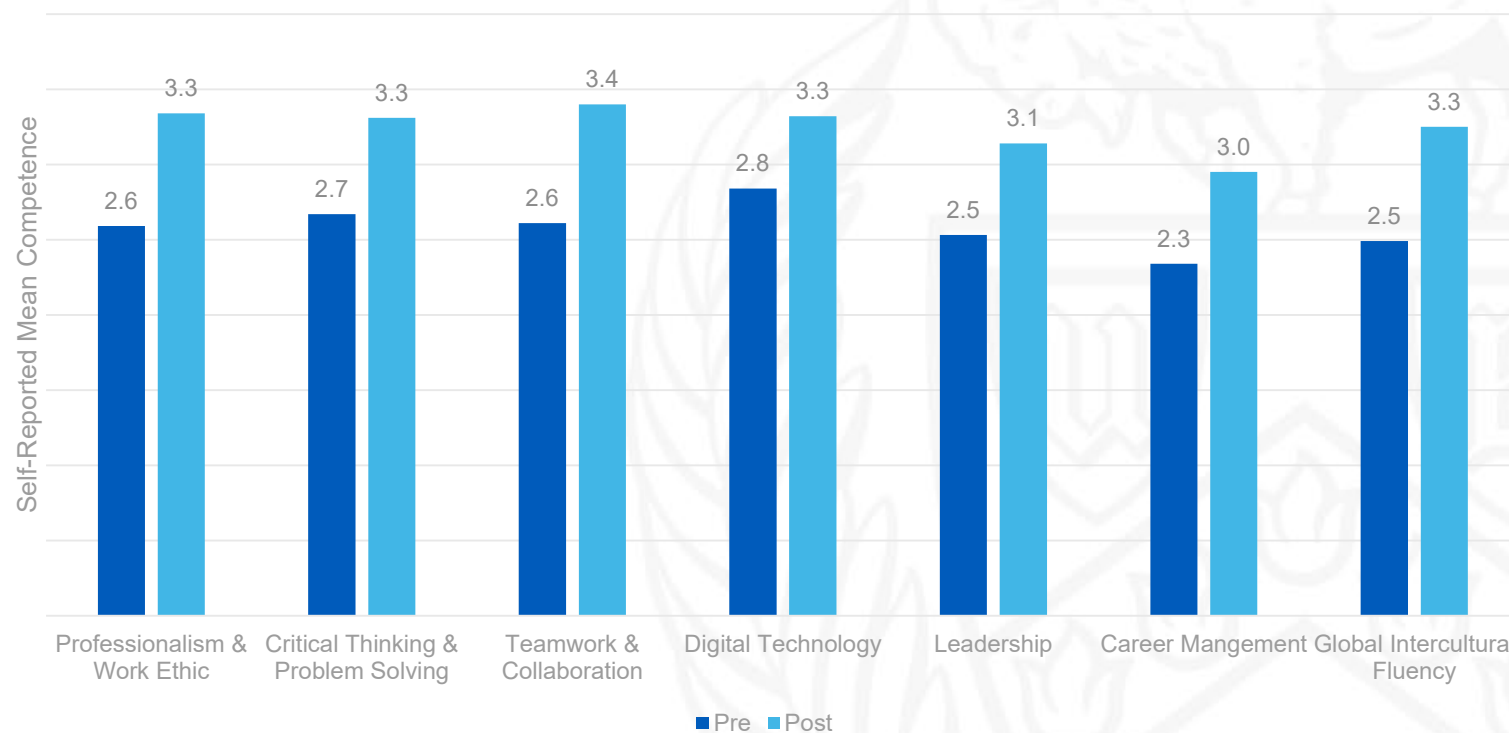


# ELN Digital Badges



# NACE Competency Growth

Significant pre-post growth was observed within each NACE competency ( $p < .01$ ).

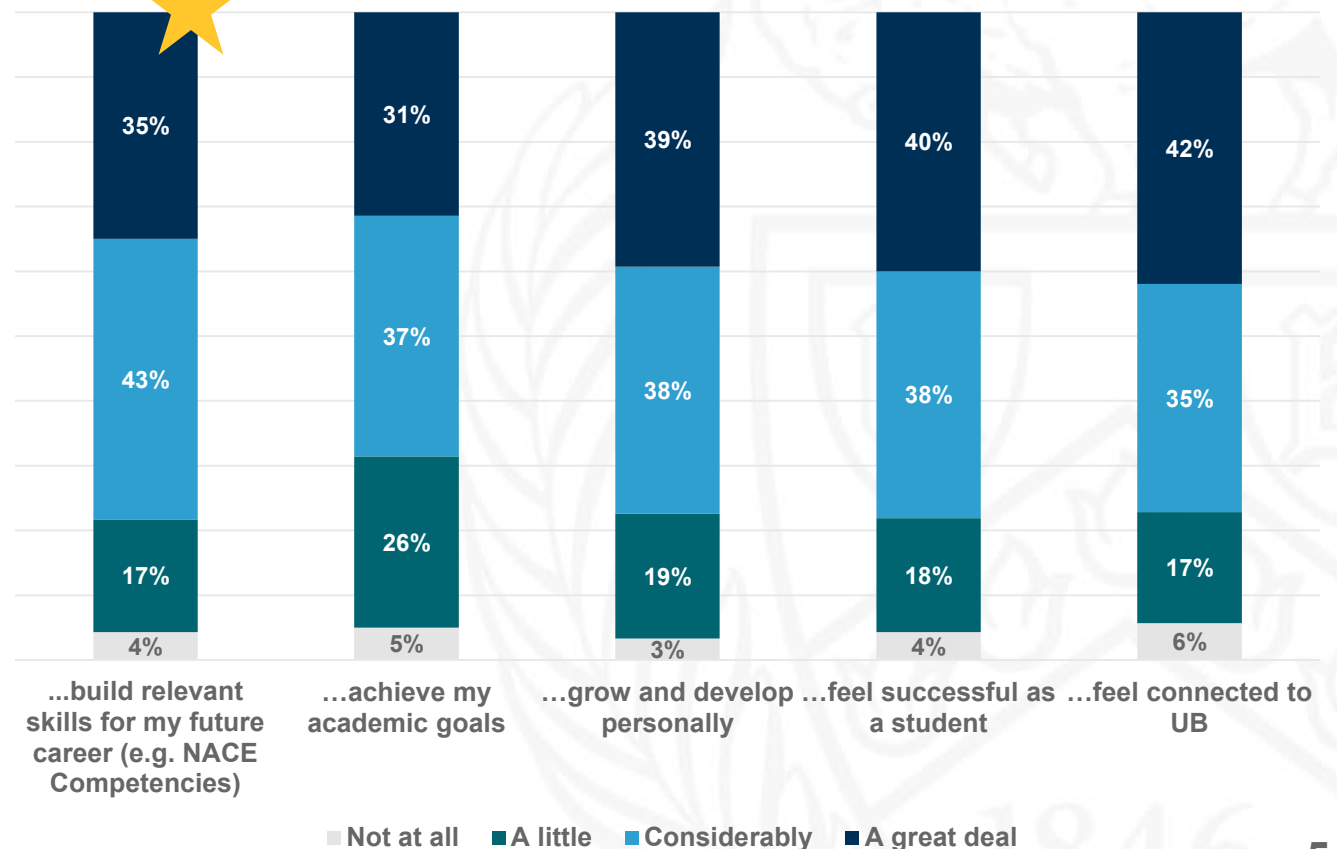


# Overall Project Experience

- Most students found the **project experience** to be helpful (to some degree) for succeeding academically now and preparing for future career success.

★ Over **three-quarters** of students felt their project experience helped them “considerably” or “a great deal” to **build skills for their future career**.

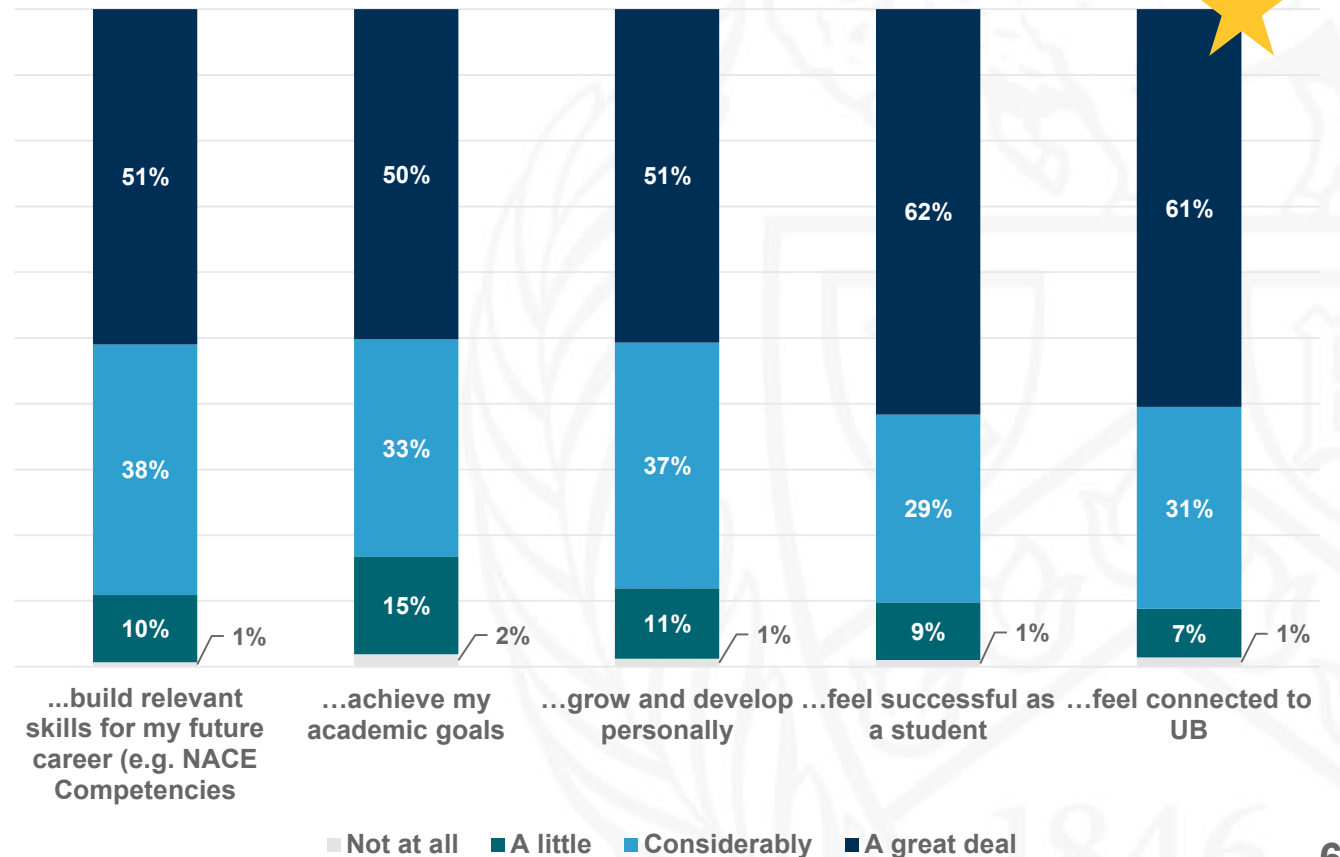
My project experience helped me...



# Project Mentor

- Most students found their **project mentor** to be helpful (to some degree).
- ★ Nearly **two-thirds** of the students felt their mentor helped them “a great deal” to **feel successful as a student** and **feel connected to UB**.

My project mentor helped me...



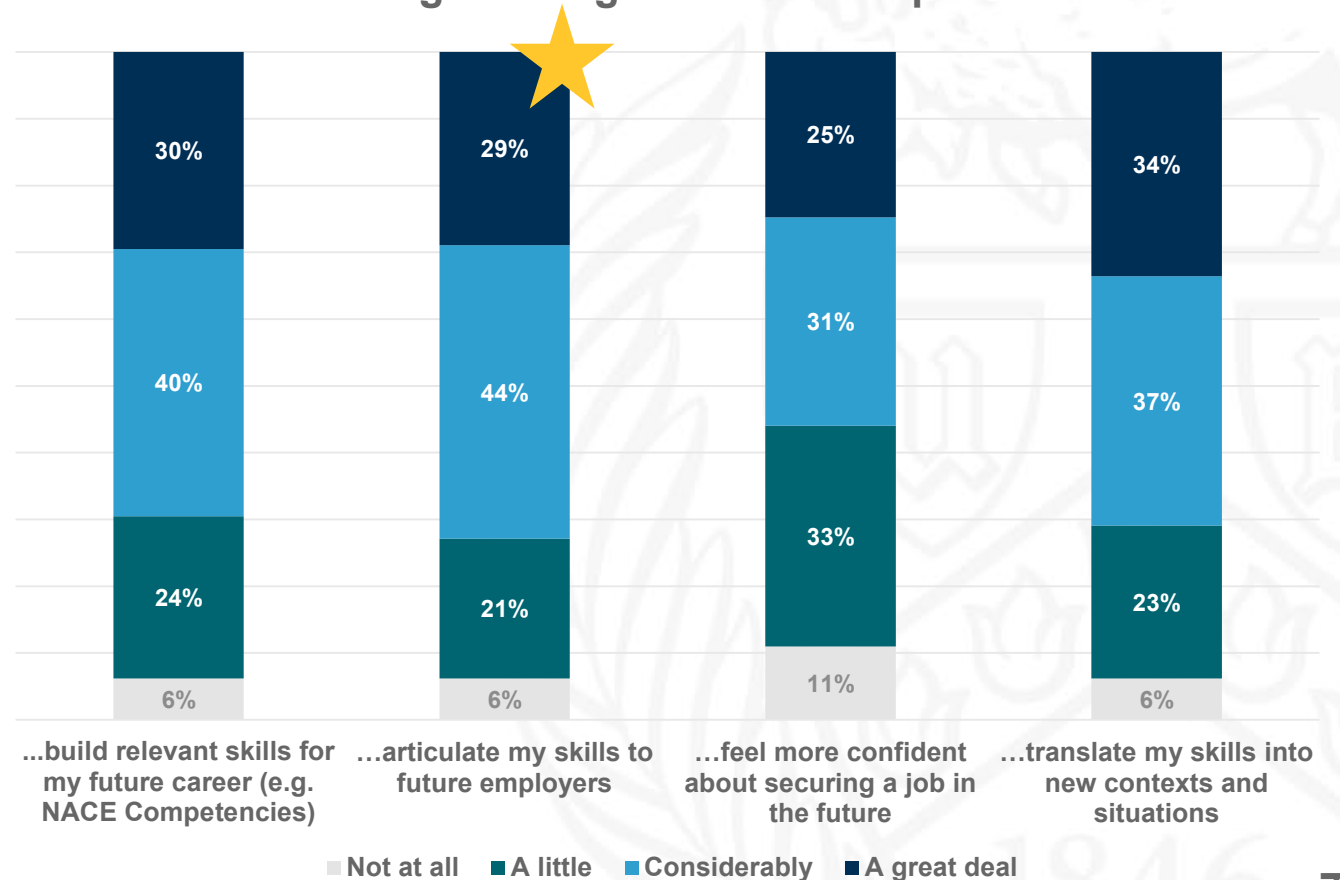
# Digital Badge Activities

- Most students felt the **digital badge activities** were helpful (to some degree) for developing career-relevant skills.

★ Nearly **three-quarters** of students felt the digital badge activities helped them “considerably” or “a great deal” to **articulate their skills to future employers**.

- Developing the skill of articulation was a key goal for the ELN Digital Badges.

The digital badge activities helped me...



# Most Transformational Aspects

Learning About Local Community (36%)	
Issues and/or possible strategies to address	49%
Assets and resources available	28%
Expanded perspective	8%
Learning about local community (general)	6%
Increased connection to Buffalo	6%
Ways to contribute	4%

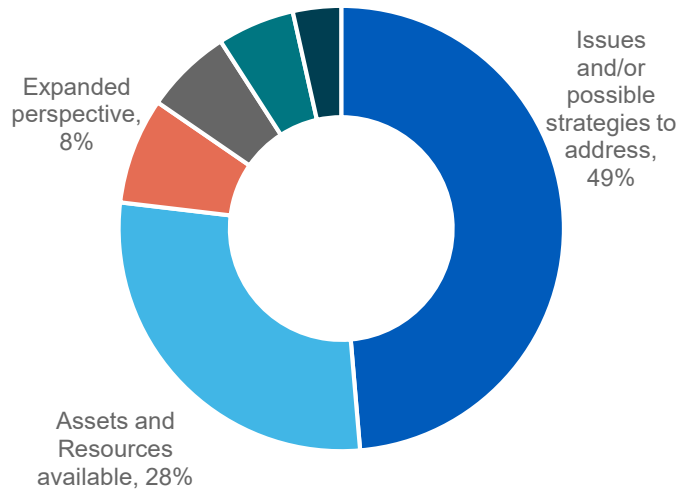
Collaborating/Connecting with Others (23%)	
Collaboration/teamwork (general)	30%
Working on group project	24%
Connecting with other UB students	11%
Discussions	10%
Working together to devise solutions	7%
Discussing divisive topics	6%
Working with mentors/TAs	5%
Collaboration and communication virtually	3%
Learning from others experience	3%
Peer feedback	1%

Developing Skills (17%)	
Communication	21%
Collaboration/teamwork/cooperation	18%
Professional skills	13%
Self-reflection	12%
Other specific skill(s)	10%
Leadership	9%
Critical thinking/problem solving	8%
Goal setting	3%
Having difficult conversations	3%
Work ethic	3%

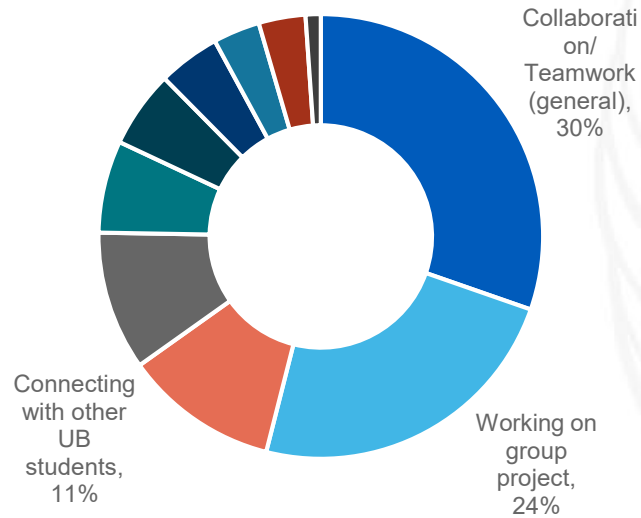


# Most Transformational Aspects

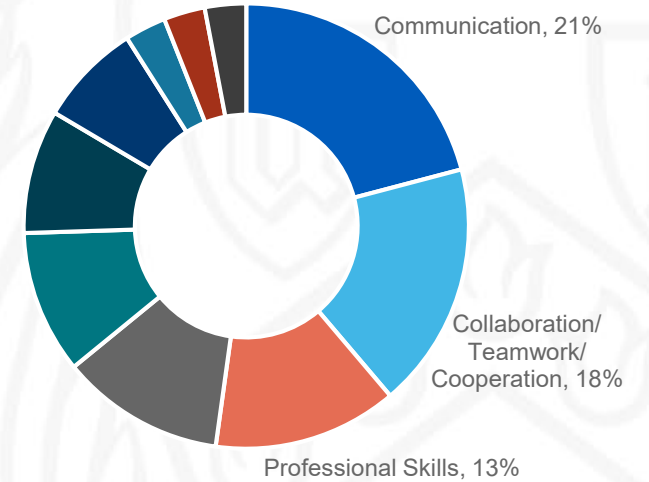
Learning About Local Community (36%)



Collaborating/Connecting with Others (23%)



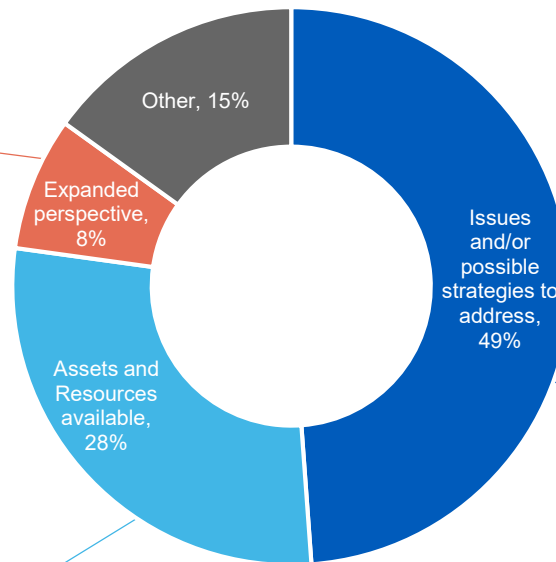
Developing Skills (17%)



# Most Transformational Aspect: Learning about the Local Community

“having my eyes opened to the inequality that exists in the community that I live in. I was unaware of this before this project and after participating, I have gained so much empathy for the world around me.”

“Researching and learning about assets within our city borders and hearing about the data and struggles transformed me as a person, and made me more interested in volunteering with them in the future.”

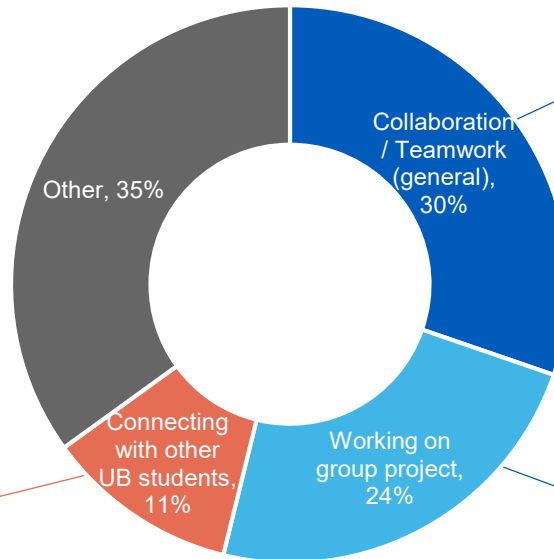


“...discussing issues in the community and then actually seeing the impact of things we were discussing. It puts our place in society into perspective and motivates me to want to make a change.”

“...learning about the redlining and injustice in my city opened my eyes to how my city is not always the “City of Good Neighbors,” but actually needs improvement. However, learning what I can do and what is already being done to fix this inspired me to help be a part of this positive change.”

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Most Transformational Aspect: Collaborating/Connecting with Others

“Being in a pandemic and learning online has generally led me to a massive burnout. However, this class wasn't a burden but rather refreshing. It allowed me to meet peers that shared the same ambitions as me, but have uniquely different approaches of carrying out their goals. The experience broadened my perspectives and helped me feel closer to the Buffalo community.”

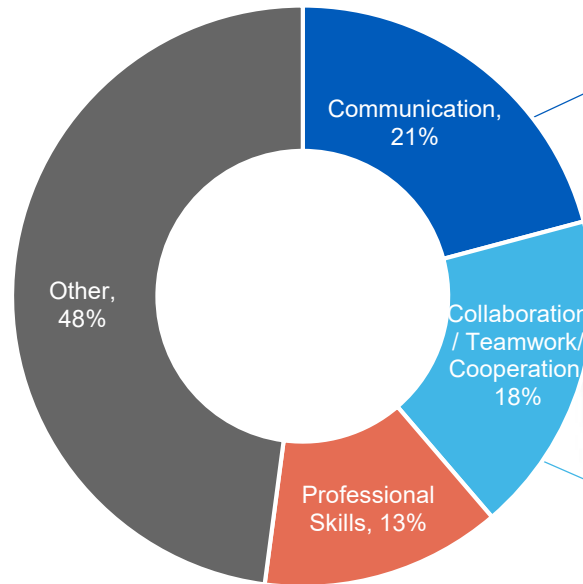


“...learning to grow from and listen to differing viewpoints. A large part of this project centered around healthy, productive debate and this aspect opened me up to new perspectives, allowed me to reflect on my own biases and ultimately, construct better view points.”

“Creating the final presentation with my group [...] helped me become a more effective team member, which is something that I will be able to use when I get older and have a job in engineering.”

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Most Transformational Aspect: Developing Skills

“...learning how to develop myself as a professional individual. The articles we read helped me to better understand the culture and diversity of Buffalo, and the discussions we had helped me to improve my conversational skills, while understanding how to have difficult conversations.”



“...the video describing how to communicate your achievements well was the most useful part of the [digital badge activities], and I intend to use that in the future.”

“...further developing my teamwork skills. This project motivated me to build connections with my team members and pushed me to compromise as well.”

# Who found the experience most transformational?

1. Females rated the experience as more transformational than males ( $p < .01$ ).
2. Black/African American students rated the experience as more transformational than white students ( $p < .05$ ).
3. Non-honors students rated the experience as more transformational than honors students ( $p < .01$ ).
4. International students tended to rate the experience as more transformational than domestic students ( $p < .01$ ).
5. Students with global-community-focused projects rated the experience as more transformational than students with local-community-focused projects ( $p < .01$ ).