

## Learning about Surveying from Peer groups

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### Abstract

Students often want to (or can) learn something better from their own peer groups. With this simple theory in mind, the Surveying and Mapping Science (SAMS) program at East Tennessee State University created new courses; SURV 1570 (Portfolio I) for mainly freshmen/sophomore and SURV 4570 (Portfolio II) for mainly seniors to accomplish the stated goal. This paper will discuss the various aspects of these courses from structures of courses to several years of feedback from students have taken the courses.

SURV 1570 is designed to give a broad orientation to a) the faculty, courses, and curriculum of the surveying program as well as what will be expected in SURV 4570 when they take. b) the broad nature of surveying a profession, much information related successful college life including scholarships, student and professional organizations, Co-op, summer employment, and career opportunities in surveying. c) speaking in a public setting, d) holding a meeting as part of a team with a shared goal.

On the other hand, SURV 4570 is designed to a) remind students that an educational degree is more than the sum of the parts as to be required to defend their education and explain why they deserve a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in Surveying and Mapping. b) give practice in oral communications and defending one's position as to an issue. c) administer the Fundamentals of Surveyors or Certified Surveying Technician exam, which is required as part of the BS in the SAMS. D) give practice in organizing and running an effective meeting.

After several years of offering these courses to the students in the SAMS, Student Assessment of Instruction has confirmed that majority of students have positive feedback toward to the courses.