

## **The Intentional Learner**

The Greater Expectations National Panel recommends that college graduates be prepared to adapt to new environments, integrate knowledge from different sources, and continue learning throughout their lives. To thrive in a complex world, these intentional learners should also become *empowered* through the mastery of intellectual and practical skills; *informed* by knowledge about the natural and social worlds and about forms of inquiry basic to these studies; and *responsible* for their personal actions and for civic values.

***The empowered learner.*** The intellectual and practical skills that students need are extensive, sophisticated, and expanding with the explosion of new technologies. As they progress through grades K-12 and the undergraduate years, and at successively more challenging levels, students should learn to

- effectively communicate orally, visually, in writing, and in a second language;
- understand and employ quantitative and qualitative analysis to solve problems;
- interpret and evaluate information from a variety of sources;
- understand and work within complex systems and with diverse groups;
- demonstrate intellectual agility and the ability to manage change;
- transform information into knowledge and knowledge into judgment and action.

***The informed learner.*** While intellectual and practical skills are essential, so is a deeper understanding of the world students inherit, as human beings and as contributing citizens. This knowledge extends beyond core concepts to include ways of investigating human society and the natural world. Both in school and college, students should have sustained opportunities to learn about

- the human imagination, expression, and the products of many cultures;
- the interrelations within and among global and cross-cultural communities;
- means of modeling the natural, social, and technical worlds;
- the values and histories underlying U.S. democracy.

***The responsible learner.*** The integrity of a democratic society depends on citizens' sense of social responsibility and ethical judgment. To develop these qualities, education should foster

- intellectual honesty;
- responsibility for society's moral health and for social justice;
- active participation as a citizen of a diverse democracy;
- discernment of the ethical consequences of decisions and actions;
- deep understanding of one's self and respect for the complex identities of others, their histories, and their cultures.