

## A Short Note on the Attributes of a Liberally Educated Person

The work of the Curricular Essentials Committee was guided by the belief that any serious discussion of the curriculum must start from the fact that the Kenyon's core purpose is to produce liberally educated persons. A Kenyon education should thus provide its graduates with the attributes necessary to engage with the world as free-thinking, autonomous individuals tempered by the capacity for critical (self)-reflection and moral discernment. In particular, the committee believed that the overarching purpose of Kenyon's curriculum should be to develop over the four years of a student's course of study four essential qualities of mind.

First, the ability to think about the world clearly, rigorously and logically is fundamental to free inquiry. A Kenyon education should thus provide its students the intellectual abilities necessary to acquire, analyze, interpret, and communicate information and ideas critically.

Second, the natural and social worlds are complex, multifaceted, and interconnected. A Kenyon education should thus provide its students with a coherent breadth and depth of knowledge across the range of human experience.

Third, dogmas, ideologies, and even one's own ungrounded beliefs about the nature of truth are corrosive to free-thinking. A Kenyon education should thus endow its students with a liberal worldview informed by openness to inquiry and reasoned argument.

Fourth, no person is an island. A Kenyon education should thus foster within its students a sense of moral and civic engagement with the broader communities in which they live.

In considering these attributes of a liberally educated person and their relationship to the curriculum, it is important to keep at least two points in mind. The purpose of curricular structures is to ensure that all students at Kenyon develop these attributes of mind over the course of their undergraduate careers. Second, these attributes develop in a person over time. Kenyon's curriculum should thus embody an arc of learning that treats liberal education and the development of these attributes as an ongoing process that continues not only during the student's four years of study but after graduation as well.