

Appendix: Characteristics and Hallmarks

The **Teaching and Learning Task Force** worked to identify characteristics of successful students and hallmarks of KU graduates. The resulting list reflects a thoughtful conversation and a desire to engage others at KU in this discussion. The intent is to encourage reflection and stimulate action on the part of students, faculty, and the whole KU community. Specifically, it may prompt departments and individual faculty members to address this topic, and may help them align their curriculum and teaching with characteristics and hallmarks of their own.

Candidates for admission to the University of Kansas should exhibit:

- **Active intellectual capacity and curiosity**, reflected in standardized test scores, previous classroom performance, evidence of critical thinking skills, a broad foundation of knowledge, and a passion for learning;
- **Honesty, self-awareness**, and adherence to ethical norms in the face of ambiguity and peer pressure;
- **Leadership ability**, demonstrated by active group involvement, adaptable problem-solving under stress, thoughtful engagement in civic affairs, the ability to form a community, and experience in service learning;
- **Eagerness to learn and share knowledge**, based on personal and professional maturity, goal-setting, a willingness to take responsibility for academic success, and the recognition that learning is the enterprise of a lifetime;
- **Excellent communications skills** (written, verbal, technological) that support the application of knowledge in the campus, workplace, and community;
- **Global awareness and breadth of thinking**, shown by an appreciation for other cultures, openness to new ideas and alternative ways of thinking, curiosity, tolerance, and respect for the opinions of others; and
- **Creativity and understanding** in conducting research, analyzing results, presenting findings, and responding to criticism.

Graduates of the University of Kansas should exhibit greater:

- Capacity and eagerness to engage in **research and creative activity**, and to **learn independently** for a lifetime;
- **Civic engagement**, characterized by community service and involvement;
- **Breadth of knowledge** that is interdisciplinary and integrated, with depth in areas of special interest;
- **Global awareness and appreciation of cultural diversity**, based on personal experience and classroom exposure;
- **Vocational focus**, derived from faculty mentoring, awareness of professional options, and a sense of purpose;
- **Personal and professional maturity and integrity**, and the ability to make and pursue appropriate long-term goals;
- **Communications and interpersonal skills**, rooted in critical thinking, objective analysis, and articulate expression; and

- **Loyalty to KU**, and respect for the purposes of higher education, reflected by an ongoing affinity to the institution.

In order for students to attain the hallmarks of a KU education, the university provides its students with opportunities to:

- Pursue studies of their choice in an atmosphere of **free academic inquiry**;
- Make use of a wide range of student **support services**, regardless of ability;
- Utilize appropriate **academic facilities**, e.g., libraries, other databases, safe classrooms and labs, campus housing, cultural centers, and recreational space;
- Encounter **excellent faculty** whose focus is on teaching and learning;
- Connect academic pursuits with **vocational and service-learning** interests;
- Receive a degree in an appropriate period of **time**, with as small a **financial burden** as possible;
- Conduct **research** and **creative activity** under the critical guidance of **faculty mentors**;
- Experience a **campus community** that reflects the **diversity** of the world around them; and
- **Exceed** their own expectations.