

Liberal Arts: Connections with Careers

Strengths Developed Through the Study of Liberal Arts

- Capacity to see the world from the perspective of other individuals and cultures
- Solving conflicts between others
- Evaluating ideas and arguments of others
- Persuasively presenting coherent positions, verbally and in writing, in which our premises support our conclusions
- Clarifying and offering solutions to problems that contain or are essentially an ethical dilemma
- Determining whether evidence adequately supports an argument or conclusion
- Taking loosely related and diverse statements and determining relationships between them
- Understanding and applying the logic of scientific evidence
- Ability to analyze situations and render judgments regarding the justice of alternative solutions

A Sample of World of Work Roles Benefiting from these Strengths

• Management

- choosing and breaking down into a logical flow courses of action that will best meet the overall goals of the organization or one's unit
- making decisions about how to treat and reward employees for their actions
- offering recommendations to others in the organization regarding policy and action

• Research

- framing hypotheses and putting problems into manageable forms
- clear formulation of ideas and problems, selection of relevant data, and objective methods for assessing ideas and proposals
- developing a sense of the new directions suggested by the hypotheses and questions one encounters in doing research

• Marketing

- gathering data from consumers and determining their meaning
- recommending products and services in keeping with needs determined from market research
- presenting a persuasive rationale to consumers for utilizing products and services

• Writing

- evaluating others' written work and suggesting more effective means of presenting their ideas
- composing written pieces that report, analyze and/or present arguments for certain positions pertaining to national events, institutional concerns, the arts or the human condition in general

• Educating

- presenting information in a logical, articulate sequence
- presenting questions that stimulate others to delve more deeply and thoroughly into the meaning of what they are learning
- explaining relationships between different disciplines so as to clarify concepts

• Helping

- assisting those with personal difficulties in understanding the deeper cause of these problems and in formulating meaningful strategies to overcome them
- being sensitive to the differences between individuals and peoples, hence being open to alternative causes of individual problems and resourceful in arriving at individualized solutions to problems
- proposing soundly reasoned social programs aimed at improving living conditions for those in need
- making and helping others make decisions with moral implications, such as medical decisions

• Consulting

- assisting individuals and organizations in articulating and defining problems which hamper their organization's effectiveness
- analyzing data regarding organizational effectiveness and proposing logical solutions

