

# The Portrait of Our Ideal Graduate

## *Critical Thinking* | (Prov. 14:15; 1 Thess. 5:21)

- 1 The ability to skillfully conceptualize, analyze, synthesize, evaluate, and apply information. Involves identifying validity of facts and sources presented and reading critically.

## *Creativity* | (Ex. 35:31-32, 35; Rom. 12:2)

- 2 The ability to “think outside the box,” transcending traditional ideas, patterns, practices, or rules to formulate meaningful new ideas, patterns, practices, forms, methods, and interpretations. Involves looking at problems from fresh perspectives and developing innovative responses and/or solutions.

## *Problem Solving* | (Prov. 3:5-6; Phil 4:13; James 1:5)

- 3 The ability to conceptualize the “big picture,” examine the various pieces of a challenge or a problem, and develop a process to utilize relevant and available resources to reach workable solutions within a given situation or context.

## *Collaboration* | (Eccl. 4:9-12; Prov. 11:14; Rom. 15:1)

- 4 The ability to work together with others to achieve a common goal. Involves awareness of how to best use each individual's talent within the group.

## *Curiosity* | (Prov. 1:2-9; Acts 6:9-10; 1 Thess. 5:21)

- 5 Passion to go beyond what is already known and motivation to learn, or discover, additional facts or truths. Involves the ability and drive to ask critical and relevant questions and the skill to do research to gain new insights.

## *Literary Acumen* | (Eccl. 12:9-11)

- 6 The ability to be discerning and selective when it comes to enjoying books or other written materials. Involves developing a rich vocabulary and critical-reading skills.

## *Eloquence* | (Col. 4:6; Eph. 4:15, 25)

- 7 The ability to speak and write in an articulate manner on a wide range of topics, ideas, and emotions. The ability to organize and develop cogent and persuasive arguments. Involves identifying best communication methods and knowing the appropriate voice and platform to express one's ideas or views.

## *Tech Savvy* | (1 Cor. 10:31; Heb. 13:20-21)

- 8 The ability to learn and comfortably use academic technology strategically. Involves confidence with widely used programs, spreadsheets, presentation tools, and video conferencing technology.

## *Resilience* | (Phil. 4:13; Rom. 5:1-5; James 1:12)

- 9 The ability to face academic difficulties and challenges and dig deep to overcome them. Involves committing to a work ethic when under pressure and developing strategies to push forward—and doing both with honor and integrity.

## *Friendship* | (Prov. 27:17; Eccl. 4:9-12; Daniel 2:17-18)

- 10 The ability to get along and make friends with a wide variety of personalities and temperaments. Involves appreciating the value of living in community with others who represent a diverse group of people.

## *Emotional Intelligence* | (Prov. 9:7-8; Matt. 7:12; Gal. 6:1)

- 11 The ability to understand and manage one's own emotions and the emotions of others in a group setting in order to produce positive outcomes.

## *Spiritual Disciplines* | (Ps. 119:1-16; 1 Tim. 4:7-8)

- 12 The motivation, desire, and ability to practice such disciplines as meditation, prayer, study, simplicity, solitude, submission, service, worship, and celebration.

## *Compassion* | (John 13:34-35; Rom. 12:15; Eph. 4:32)

- 13 The ability to understand and empathize with other cultures and personal situations and to respond in love, kindness, and generosity. Involves a desire to alleviate others' suffering through action.

## *Stewardship* | (Matt. 25:14-30; 1 Cor. 4:1-2; James 1:17)

- 14 The ability to recognize that, as stewards, we are responsible to be faithful and will need to give an account for what we do with our resources.

## *Healthy Living* | (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; Eph. 2:10)

- 15 The recognition that, as believers, our bodies are not our own and that we are to take good care of them as if they are the temple of the Holy Spirit. Involves living a morally upright and ethical life through reliance on the power of the Holy Spirit.

## *Wise Decision Making* | (Prov. 3:5-6; Prov. 15:22; James 1:5)

- 16 The ability to make good choices and wise life decisions that glorify God and bless others.