



# **You have questions**

A guide to learning at  
Denison University

# WHAT WE DO

## The Mission

Denison University's primary purpose is to **inspire** and **educate** you to become an **autonomous thinker**, **discerning moral agent**, and **active citizen** of a democratic society. As it has for generations of alumni, your Denison education will help you achieve a lifetime of personal and professional success, but also something unexpected and essential: the knowledge, the ability, the vision, and the resolve to bring coherence to a complex world.

**But here's the thing: there's no single way of getting there.** In fact, the possibilities are virtually limitless. Denison provides you with the tools, support, and opportunities for you to achieve. But the key is for you to own this experience, to apply all your strengths and talents, and discover some new ones along the way. Read on to learn how....

# HOW WE DO IT

Learning = Academics + Experience + Community

The best way to think about a Denison education is in three parts, each distinctive but all overlapping, and often in unexpected ways.

The primary component is, of course, **Academics**. You pretty much need that diploma to show you've passed the test. A lot of tests, actually. Tough ones. Even more critical is the way the tests (and research projects and works of art and so on) are shaped: across the breadth of the liberal arts and sciences and in the depth of the majors and minors.

**Experience** has a double meaning. It is the overall experience of a Denison education, naturally, but it also reflects all those learning moments that make up your education. They'll come from both inside and outside the classrooms, labs, and studios—some even from other parts of the world.

Because we all live, learn, work, and play on and around the Hill, we're in this together. We are members of a campus **Community**, representing a broad range of histories, experiences, beliefs, ambitions, and identities. The more we respect and learn how to live with one another (even when we don't agree), the more we contribute to and learn from one another and the whole. And the better we all are... now and in life after Denison.



# HOW WILL YOU DO IT?

Where you start will not be where you end.

You've chosen a type of education that will help you understand the world around you. It will deepen the type of person you are and the type of person you'll become. It will forge your keys to a fulfilling and successful life (however you might define success). But how you achieve that will depend on how you explore other questions along the way.

**In other words, how will you....**

## 1 **Ask questions?**

The secret to education is not just finding the answers; it begins with a sense of wonder and learning how to ask the right questions. Often, that will involve questioning what you think you already know.

## 2 **Manage your time?**

There's a lot going on here, both inside and outside the classroom. How you divide your time between work and play will be critical to your achievement.

## 3 **Follow your heart?**

You already know a good deal about what you like and don't like, but you will discover more. Chances are, some of those interests are or will become passions. What role will they play in your chosen life?

## 4 **Be creative?**

Creativity is required in every academic discipline. You'll draw ideas and insights from all kinds of sources. But how will you shape those influences into your own innovative thought and action?

## 5 **Respect others?**

Civility is a cornerstone of our community, and we celebrate the diversity of individuals, even when we don't agree with their ideas or actions. But it's not just about others; it's also about your future. Seeing things from another person's point of view can be difficult, but that ability will be important for your success in every aspect of your life.

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## **Take risks?**

You won't grow unless you stretch beyond your comfort zone. The trick, however, is to take risks in smart fashion, and learn how to persevere when the risks fall short.

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## **Maintain your integrity?**

In pursuing risks, or striving for achievement, you may be tempted to cut corners. How will you use ethics and honesty to shape your life?

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## **Show courage?**

The road ahead will be tough at times, and you will face fearful moments inside and outside the classroom. How will you face those fears?

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## **Take care of yourself?**

You'll be tested mentally, emotionally, and physically. What do you need to do in order to flourish in this environment?

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## **Enjoy this?**

College is supposed to be hard work, of course. But it's also supposed to be fun and fulfilling. Do what makes you happy, healthy, and moving toward a promising future.



**Here are a  
few answers  
and more  
questions**

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...and remember, it's okay to ask questions. Start with your faculty advisor.



ask questions | be creative | take risks  
show courage | respect others  
follow your heart | manage your time  
take care of yourself  
maintain your integrity  
enjoy this

A photograph of a large, red brick building with a prominent, multi-tiered steeple. The building is partially obscured by lush green and autumn-colored trees in the foreground. The sky is a clear, bright blue with some light clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny, suggesting a pleasant day.

DENISON