



SIX STEPS TO EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS

Macalester faculty and staff have developed six learning goals for students to achieve by graduation. Use these goals to navigate your learning experiences at Macalester, e.g., in meetings with your faculty advisor, when selecting particular courses, in choosing co-curricular programs, or when applying for a job on campus.

macalester.edu/sixsteps



BY THE TIME YOU GRADUATE...

1 YOU WILL DEMONSTRATE INTELLECTUAL DEPTH AND BREADTH.

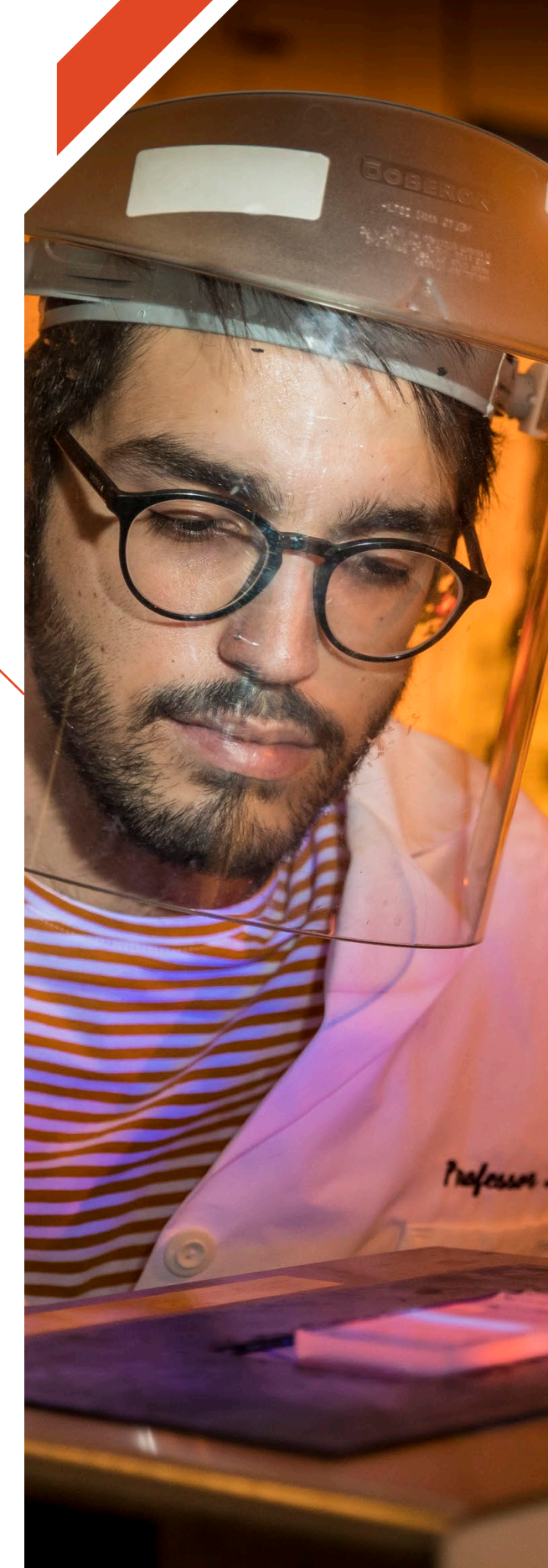
You will study a wide range of disciplines. Our general education requirements introduce you to multiple ways of approaching questions. In addition, you will be required to complete a major, which allows you to go deep within one or more areas of study. This combination of a range of subjects and one you know well provides multiple perspectives to analyze issues and problems.

2 YOU WILL THINK CRITICALLY AND ANALYZE EFFECTIVELY.

Critical thinking is a cornerstone of a Macalester education. You will apply critical thinking skills to analyze issues, question assumptions, and evaluate relevant information (books, literature, data, and more) before you come to a conclusion.

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO...

- Use bodies of knowledge, theories, or methodologies within a field to analyze issues, solve problems, express or appreciate aesthetic values, or achieve desired goals;
 - Use bodies of knowledge, theories, or methodologies to recognize and address unresolved questions or issues in a field;
 - Compare and contrast how different fields analyze issues, solve problems, express aesthetic values, or achieve desired goals;
 - Produce novel applications, creative expressions, or new insights connected to bodies of knowledge from one or more fields.
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- Question both stated and unstated assumptions and explore issues from multiple perspectives;
 - Gather information (quantitative, qualitative, interpretive, aesthetic, normative) most relevant to an issue;
 - Recognize when further information is necessary;
 - Synthesize and critique relevant information to formulate defensible conclusions, build upon existing knowledge, or create novel ideas;
 - Reevaluate conclusions when considering new information relevant to an issue.





BY THE TIME YOU GRADUATE...

3 YOU WILL COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY.

You will inform, express, and persuade effectively in a variety of forms, including writing, speaking, and employing visual media. This will be important as you share information and ideas with others in a variety of contexts and throughout your life.

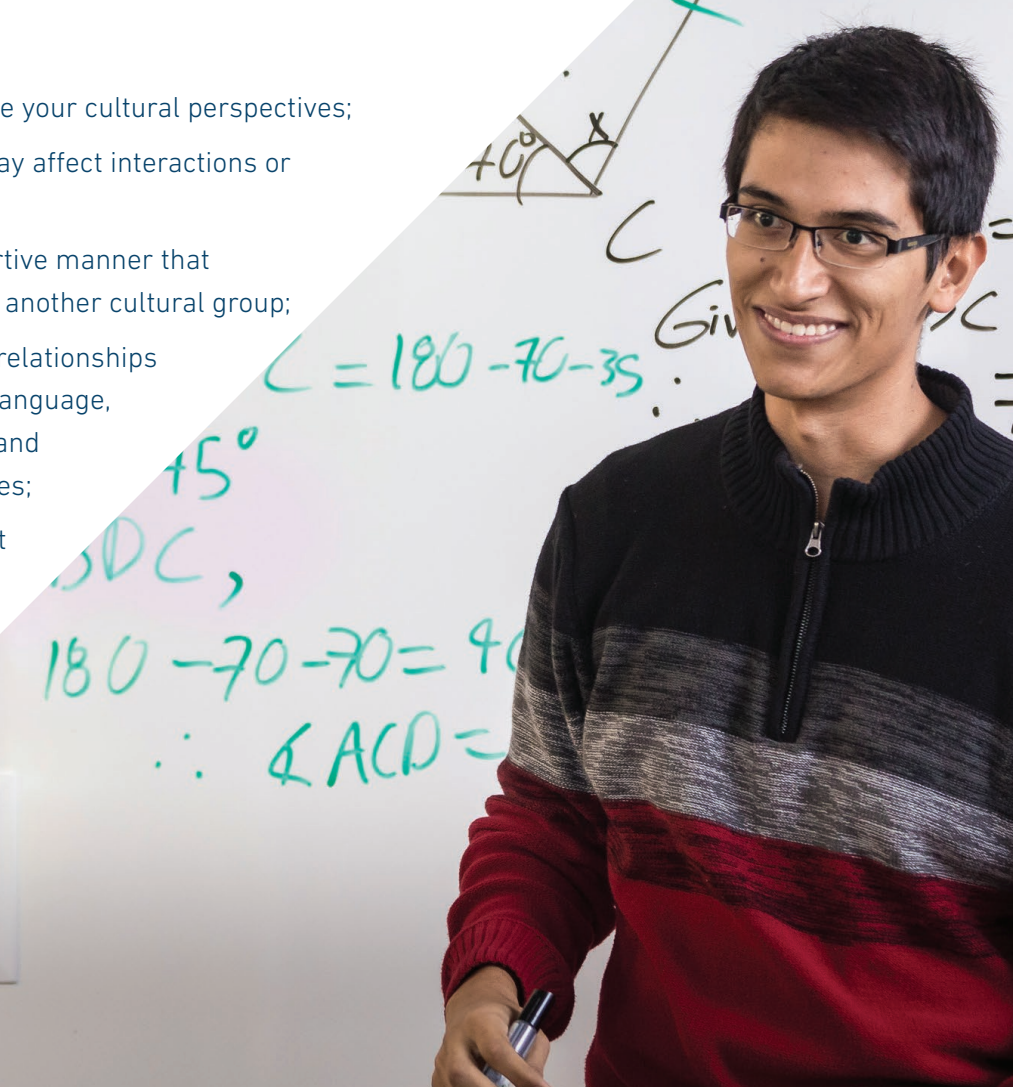
4 YOU WILL DEMONSTRATE INTERCULTURAL KNOWLEDGE AND COMPETENCE.

You will develop the knowledge and capacity for self-reflection that enhances your ability to understand your own and others' social and cultural locations and ways of knowing. You will achieve this goal by studying and exploring the socially constructed nature of identity and the range of racial identities and cultural systems within the Macalester community and beyond.

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO...

- Consider audience perspectives or needs and the context in which communication occurs;
- Articulate findings, ideas, positions, or perspectives, or convey information: a) in writing using many genres and styles; b) in oral form in prepared presentations, group discussions, or performances; c) in visual forms such as graphs, illustrations, art work, and multimedia;
- Listen attentively when interacting with others, either as presenters or audience members.

- Engage with ideas and people that challenge your cultural perspectives;
- Reflect on how your cultural background may affect interactions or relationships with others;
- Demonstrate empathy by acting in a supportive manner that recognizes the feelings and perspectives of another cultural group;
- Articulate the complexity arising from interrelationships among various aspects of culture, such as language, history, values, politics, religious practices, and unequal distributions of power and resources;
- Navigate differences by drawing on relevant cultural frames of reference and adapting perspectives and behaviors accordingly.





BY THE TIME YOU GRADUATE...

5 YOU WILL MAKE INFORMED CHOICES AND ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY.

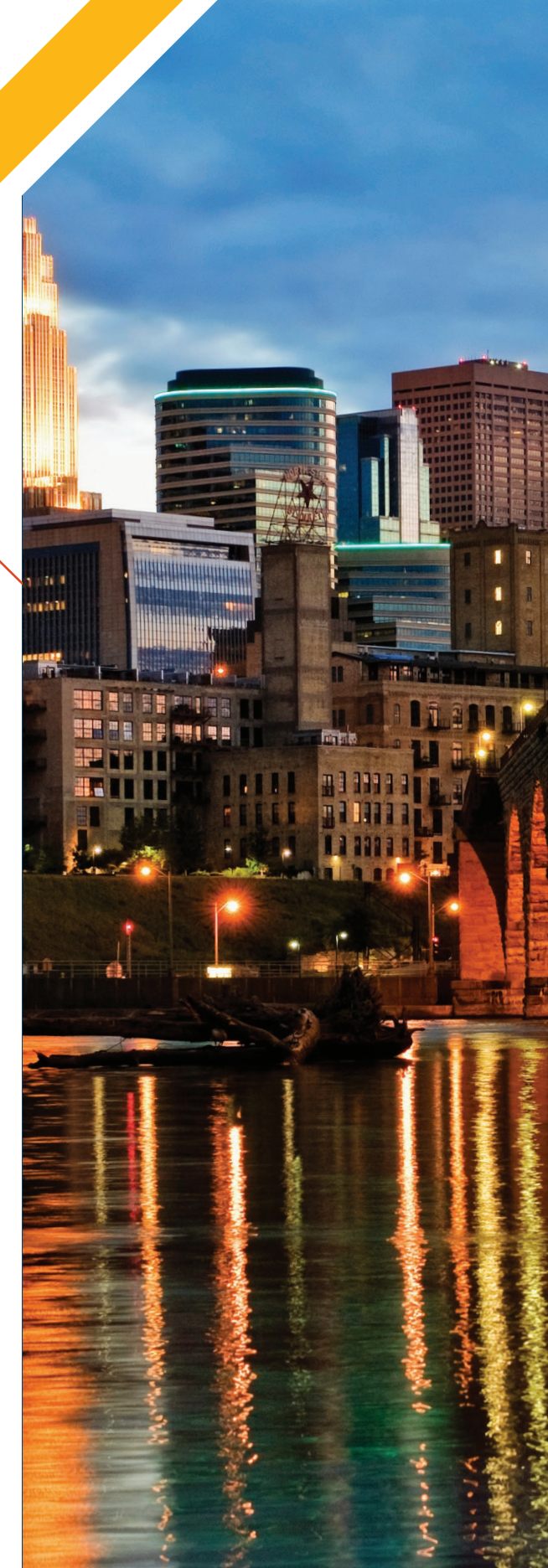
You will make informed choices based on your ethical standards. Ethical considerations can vary across cultural and community lines. Understanding others' values and taking into account your own goals and beliefs when making a decision is a crucial part of your Macalester education.

6 YOU WILL ENGAGE WITH COMMUNITIES.

Macalester's vibrant Twin Cities location means classroom learning expands through access to Minneapolis and St. Paul. During your time at Macalester, you will participate in activities that enrich communities. This can happen anywhere—on campus, in the Twin Cities, or in locations around the world. When you engage with communities, you will apply what you have learned from your experiences at Mac and contribute to the common good.

YOU WILL BE ABLE TO...

- Discern how your choices and ethical stances are grounded in larger community values or ethical standards;
 - Recognize and compare ethical standards associated with communities different from your own;
 - Articulate a well-reasoned choice or ethical stance on an issue, while understanding its limits;
 - Anticipate the intended and unintended implications of your choices and ethical stances;
 - Respond accordingly to the consequences of your choices and ethical stances.
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- Identify distinctive characteristics of communities (e.g., beliefs, history, expectations, assets, strengths, issues, and challenges);
 - Describe interrelationships among local, national, and international issues and how they affect communities;
 - Participate in activities that contribute to communities while respecting their distinctive characteristics (e.g., beliefs, history, expectations, assets, strengths, issues, and challenges);
 - Reflect upon your role, motivation, and actions with regard to your involvement within and across communities;
 - Work collaboratively within and across communities to achieve a civic aim.



MACALESTER'S MISSION

“Macalester is committed to being a preeminent liberal arts college with an educational program known for its high standards for scholarship and its special emphasis on internationalism, multiculturalism, and service to society.” (Approved by the Board of Trustees in 1992)

Your future at Macalester is largely up to you! Your Macalester education will be transformative. You will have learning opportunities within and outside the classroom that will prepare you to be a learner throughout your life, to seek academic excellence, to take responsibility for your choices, and more.

It will be an exciting and fun four-year process, from which you will gain important skills before you graduate.

The mission statement touches on four key parts of a Mac education: scholarship, internationalism, multiculturalism, and service to society. While these are listed as four separate things, you couldn't be a Mac student without any one of them—and combined, they demonstrate what Mac is all about.

SCHOLARSHIP

Students are expected to pursue academic work with high standards both in and out of the classroom. Scholarship means taking challenging classes, reading in the library late into the night, writing and editing an essay, or participating in a class discussion. Your engagement with academic work will occur outside of classroom assignments too—in your dorm room at two in the morning, as you and your roommate pick apart a reading from your first-year course, in Cafe Mac, in discussions at the Department of Multicultural Life, or at the Annan Institute for Global Citizenship.

INTERNATIONALISM

As the world shrinks, metaphorically, the opportunities to engage with individuals with distinct histories, politics, and perspectives increases. No matter where you're from, learning how to interact respectfully with people from different countries will be an invaluable part of your Mac experience.

MULTICULTURALISM

The Mac community includes people from a wide variety of social groups and identities. As a student at Macalester, you will have an opportunity to explore your own identities and engage with others who are both similar to and different from you. When you examine the dynamics of power and privilege, your educational experiences can be truly transformative. You will learn how to contribute to a more just and equitable environment in which all members of our community thrive.

SERVICE TO SOCIETY

Macalester is located in the heart of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Your learning on campus will extend into the local community and beyond through applied coursework, internships, or civic engagement. These hands-on experiences will deepen your academic growth, increase your capacity to solve public problems, and enhance your commitment to make decisions for the common good.

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This introduction to Macalester's institutional learning goals and outcomes was written by the Assessment Office. Cole Callahan '14 and Madeline Spolin '15, student employees in the Assessment Office, were the lead authors. We also acknowledge the Student Learning Committee for its work in developing the institutional learning goals and outcomes, which were adopted in 2012. Version 3 revised 1/19



MACALESTER