Learner

People who are especially talented in the Learner theme have a great desire to learn and want to continuously improve. In particular, the process of learning, rather than the outcome, excites them.

I am (being) ➔ one who enjoys the experience of being a learner
I will (doing) ➔ follow the things that interest me
I bring (contribution) ➔ a learning perspective
I need (requirement) ➔ exposure to new information and experiences
I love (value) ➔ to live on the frontier/the cutting edge
I hate (value) ➔ knowing it all and know-it-alls
Metaphor/Image ➔ yes to learning curves, no to learning plateaus
Barrier Label ➔ curiosity may lead to irrelevance or non-productivity

Theme Contrast
Learner: My interests guide my intentions
Focus: My intentions guide my interests
Learner: I am always interested in learning something new
Woo: I am always interested in meeting someone new

Career Development Tips
- Go to your college’s Career Services office and take several different career inventories. What does each one tell you about your interests? What career possibilities do they suggest for you to explore? Your enjoyment of this self-discovery can motivate and guide you as you begin the career planning process.
- Talk to your mentors about the career planning process. Ask them how they made the decision to pursue their career. Learning about their strategies will provide you with possible tools for your own learning process.
- Read and study all the career possibilities that interest you. Research each one and learn what it’s like to be in those careers over a long period of time.
- Conduct an Informational Interview in a field that interests you.
- Choose a work environment that encourages constant learning or where study is a way of life.
- Environments that value the learning process will bring out your best, particularly if you will have opportunities to develop strengths.
- Many college professors have exceptional Learner talents. Interview your favorite professors about what they find rewarding in their work. You can do this by Taking them out to Lunch.

General Academic Life Tips
- Keep a journal in which you reflect on what you learned from your classes and other experiences.
- Read outside material that is related to your courses. This approach will not only impress the professor; it also will help you develop a better understanding of the subject. Use the University’s Library System.
- Exceed expectations. Do more than the syllabus requires of you.
- Look at every situation as a possible learning experience. This approach will help you become aware of what you do well and where you need help.
- Always ask, “What did I learn from this?”

Extracurricular Activities
- Choose on-campus jobs that will provide learning experiences, such as working as a professor’s assistant. Search GoldPass for a job off campus!
- Don’t restrict your learning experiences to the classroom. Engage in activities in which you can expand your knowledge about subject that interest you most. Take a Service Learning Class.
- Find opportunities to work with faculty and teaching assistants to make your college experience more meaningful. It will deepen your understanding of intellectual topics, concepts, and principles.
- Study Abroad to learn about different cultures.