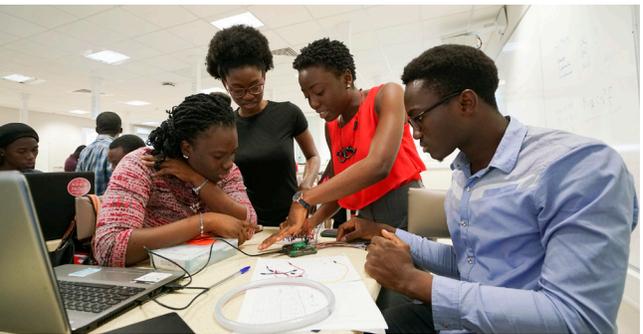


The Ashesi Way Of Liberal Arts

As Ghana's first liberal arts college, Ashesi University offers students a broad intellectual grounding and seeks to provide them with the skills and depth of perspective needed to become ethical leaders in their communities.

Our interdisciplinary liberal arts program is the heart of the Ashesi Education, and includes courses in the humanities and social sciences, as well as in mathematics, business, and computer science. We believe that a liberal arts education most effectively develops students' critical thinking and analytical skills by teaching them to explore the connections between fields of knowledge, separate relevant information from the irrelevant, question assumptions, reflect on others' views, and navigate the world's most complex issues. The core curriculum is supplemented by a set of courses in African Studies, which help develop students' understanding of Africa's past, present, and possible future trajectory.



The Ashesi Learning Goals

Eight learning goals guide our curriculum and co-curricular programs, and spread across all majors at Ashesi:

1. Ethics & Civic Engagement

Students are ethical, responsible and engaged members of their communities. They demonstrate concern for others; have the courage to be ethical and demand ethical behavior from their peers; and do the right thing when nobody is looking.

2. Critical Thinking

Students apply critical thinking and quantitative reasoning to approach complex problems. They demonstrate skills in data analysis and modeling; consider multiple perspectives; and have awareness of a broad range of concepts and ideas that have personal, local, and global significance.

3. Communication

Students are excellent communicators in a variety of forms.

4. Leadership & Teamwork

Students are adept at leading and functioning in teams. They demonstrate confidence and humility; have good interpersonal skills and engage fully with members of a team; and are organized and plan and follow through on complex projects.

5. Innovation and Action

Ashesi students take intellectual risks and demonstrate an entrepreneurial spirit.

6. Curiosity & Skill

Students are inquisitive and confident, have breadth of knowledge, and attain a high level of mastery in their chosen field. They probe deeply in a chosen field; keep an open mind; show confidence but never feel that they know it all; and demonstrate awareness of global and multicultural issues.

7. Technological Competence

Students are effective and flexible users of technology.

8. Professionalism

Students honor contracts and commitments and adhere to professional standards; are respectful of people, time, and resources; execute responsibilities with excellence; and take ownership of their own development and decisions.

Demonstrating the Power of Service: Students Pay it Forward

At Ashesi, the liberal arts approach extends beyond the classroom through service learning. Service learning is a requirement for graduation and exists as another dimension of our commitment to nurturing well-rounded graduates who personify excellence in scholarship, leadership, and citizenship.

Many students begin their own social initiatives as part of the Leadership as Service Seminar, addressing issues including:

- Environmental stewardship and agriculture
- Education in technology, science, music, literacy, and health
- Girls' and women's empowerment
- Early childhood development
- Youth and entrepreneur mentorship

"It's service learning, not just service," says Dr. Esi Ansah, lecturer of the Leadership as Service Seminar. "So, when students go out into communities, they are expected to position themselves as learners and return with a wealth of experiences, knowledge and new perspectives in terms of how they see people. Leaders lead by example, not just show the way, but also join everyone else on the journey as they lead." These tangible leadership experiences analyzing problems and testing solutions build confidence and awareness that students carry forward into their lives and work. As a result, Ashesi graduates are always looking for opportunities to solve problems and improve the world around them.



Collaborating with Liberal Arts Universities Worldwide

As one of the first universities in Africa to adopt the liberal arts model of education, Ashesi is a proud member of the Global Liberal Arts Alliance (GLAA), an association of institutions that support excellence and cooperation in liberal arts education. "The GLAA opened up the whole world to Ashesi," says former Provost Dr. Marcia Grant. "Being a part of the group opens up opportunities to increase Ashesi's international activity. We now have stronger relationships with universities from Hong Kong to Nigeria."



JOIN US

To learn more about Ashesi's liberal arts education and how you can partner with us, please contact us at 206.545.6988 or foundation@ashesi.org.

Ashesi University in Ghana · Ethical Leadership and Innovative Thinking for a New Africa

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