**Habits of Mind Overview**

**I. Professionalism**

Often your teachers will assess your participation in class, but we feel the ultimate goal is being professional. Typically this means acting respectfully and appropriately given a specific context. In this case, you are in the classroom so we want behaviors that will help the classroom run smoothly—that will reflect respect to your teacher and peers and will make you look conscientious and like you care. These are valued behaviors in college. Some examples are:

1. Attend class daily
2. Arrive on time
3. Turn work in on time
4. Present work in a professional format
5. Communicate professionally with professors and peers

**II. Organization**

Being organized means you arrange things in their proper places, and you recognize patterns and use them to learn and to communicate. It means you are an efficient student; you know where your materials are; you can quickly find a course reading or assignment to be turned in; and your study space is effectively arranged.

**III. Initiative**

Taking initiative means getting things done without being told. Initiative is a valued attribute of good students—teachers love it when you show initiative.

**IV. Community / Citizenship**

What do you think of when you hear the words community and citizenship? Connections? Support and friendship? Contributing to a collective? Participation in a group? The aim of community engagement and citizenship is to build thriving communities where people are actively involved in developing their community. We want you to take responsibility for helping to build your Freshman Experience community.

**V. Self-Assessment**

Self-assessment is important for successful college leaning. In essence, it is your ability and *tendency* or *habit* to evaluate yourself as a learner. Self-assessment calls for reflective thinking—looking back at an event and thoughtfully analyzing it to understand it better or to do something differently in the future.