

When looking at my values sheet and the My 30 Values cards, there are certain values that stand out in both. These values include family, open-mindedness, ambition, self-sufficiency, and honesty. My life is often guided by these core values, and they shape the way I interact with others as well. I try and be true to others as well as myself while keeping my goals high so that I'm always trying to improve.

A core value of mine is family. My family is very important to me because they have both set me up for my future and will always be co-existing with my everyday life forever. The members of my family are some of the best people I have in my life right now, and I would never give up the opportunities that they gave me.

Open-mindedness is another core value for me. For me to learn and improve myself, I need to keep my mind open to new ideas. I am naturally a very creative person; however, I can not let that get the better of me. I have plenty of my own ideas, but I need to allow others to give their ideas as well if I want the best overall solution. Keeping an open mind will allow me to take in new ideas and learn from them, and that is why this value is important to me.

Another two values that are important to me are ambition and self-sufficiency. My dream job is to become a game designer; therefore, I will do as much as possible to get me to that point. However, that field is not easy to get in to early in life. This means that I will need to find some other way to make a living while slowing moving towards that field. I have already done this by picking my major, computer science. This major allows me to have an easier time finding a nice job in the short term while also getting me closer to my dream job. My goal is to not only be self-sufficient, but to enjoy what I am doing with my life as well.

My biggest goal is honesty, and this is a goal I have just recently realized how important to me it really is. Honesty is the centerpiece to all my other core values: Dishonestly will destroy family and relationships, not being open-minded is basically me being dishonest to myself, and being self-sufficient through dishonest or unethical ways will not give me the chance to actually enjoy life for what it is. I try and bring honesty into my everyday life, through actions or conversation. That is why honesty is my biggest core value.

When looking at the different Graduation with Leadership Distinction pathways, two seemed interesting to me: the Professional & Civic Engagement pathway and the Research pathway.

The Professional & Civic Engagement pathway looks interesting since it could help me take on a leadership role. Being a leader is not what I immediately look for. Although, if an opportunity did arise that would have me become a leader in something, I would try my hardest to fulfill that role. I do not need to become a leader for me to pursue my goal, but it would add to my goal of self-sufficiency by a lot.

The Research pathway would also be interesting since it would keep me at an open mind. It would allow me to broaden my knowledge about certain topics and make sure I am constantly learning more and more. Research could also branch me into something more exciting later too. There seem to be lots of possibilities when considering the research route.

These different GLD pathways seem interesting; however, I already am thinking about possibly going for an internship so that I could be self-sufficient right away once I have my computer science degree. I want to set myself up for the future well, even if I am not taking risks, I want to be in a stable position and have full control over my life.