

Essential Education Video Transcript

Essential Education is a radical shift from the old paradigm of general education. It comes from decades of research from think tanks and employers who have asked students to graduate with a particular set of skills.

We have thrown out our old curriculum and rewritten a new one with those skills in mind. It's based on the idea that more and more colleges have to teach students not so much what to learn, but how to learn because the jobs that they will get when they leave and the jobs that they get subsequently are going to be different from the jobs we have prepared them for. If the only thing that we do is prepare them for the jobs that exist today, they're going to be unqualified shortly after they leave, so there's some core things that this new curriculum has to teach students to be able to do. And more than anything, it's to learn how to learn.

Between social media and the internet, we have access to information everywhere, but if you don't

know how to use that intelligently, critically, ethically, then you're not going to be a success. And the radical shift for us is that we're going to provide those core skills, those essential skills through meaningful frameworks for students. We are not going to ask students to just simply take a random literature course or a random sociology course. We have designed this core curriculum so that students see it through a series of lenses that are meaningful and relevant to the world today. They are sustainability, peace, equality, innovation and global citizenship.

And it used to be that the narrative was you take general education as just something you have to take, get it out of the way. Now the idea is that this is essential, that this is no less important and in some cases even more important than your major because the skills that the employers want are those essential skills that we're talking about.