# LEAP Essential Learning Outcomes

http://www.aacu.org/leap/vision.cfm

| Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World | Through study in the sciences and mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, and the arts  
Focused by engagement with big questions, both contemporary and enduring |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Intellectual and Practical Skills                             | • Inquiry and analysis  
• Critical and creative thinking  
• Written and oral communication  
• Quantitative literacy  
• Information literacy  
• Teamwork and problem solving  
Practiced extensively, across the curriculum, in the context of progressively more challenging problems, projects, and standards for performance |
| Personal and Social Responsibility                           | • Civic knowledge and engagement—local and global  
• Intercultural knowledge and competence  
• Ethical reasoning and action  
• Foundations and skills for lifelong learning  
Anchored through active involvement with diverse communities and real-world challenges |
| Integrative and Applied Learning                              | • Synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general and specialized studies  
Demonstrated through the application of knowledge, skills, and responsibilities to new settings and complex problems |

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### A Reflection on Making Excellence Inclusive

Excellence in the future will require us, in short, to focus as a community both on “essential outcomes” and on collective practices across the curriculum that help students achieve them. We have to be assertive about our shared expectations, and we have to be proactive in asking whether all students have actually worked on the expected outcomes across the curriculum. We must ask whether the faculty are collectively taking responsibility for shared goals? Did courses across the curriculum emphasize these goals? Did assessments provide formative—and eventually summative—evidence of students’ achievement? Did we disaggregate our data? Did all our students achieve the needed learning?

--Carol Geary Schneider, Ph. D., President, AACU

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LEAP’s Main Messages

Achievement
We must raise the level of college student achievement and match ambitious goals for access and completion with an equally ambitious vision for learning.

Consensus Outcomes
Today’s students need to hone their abilities to analyze and solve problems; communicate effectively in writing and orally—and across cultures; work well with numbers, statistics, and data; gain broad knowledge of science and society; and apply their knowledge with a strong sense of ethical and social responsibility.

There is an emerging consensus that these are the key outcomes college students need to succeed in today’s world.

Not Just for Professional Success
Higher education must take the lead to make civic and global learning essential for all students. The future of our democracy and our shared future depends on a more informed, engaged, and globally aware citizenry.

Contemporary Liberal Education
A contemporary liberal education ensures that students will achieve these outcomes—essential for all students.

As they respond to twenty-first-century challenges, many colleges are developing and implementing a new vision for liberal education that influences the entire educational experience, develops essential skills, and involves rigorous encounters with real-world problems.

Assessment and Accountability
The academy must help all students achieve these key outcomes and demonstrate their achievement through performance-based assessments, whatever a student’s field of study.