

TWELVE PRINCIPLES OF EFFECTIVE GENERAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS

I. Articulating a compelling vision for general education

1. Strong general education programs explicitly answer the question, “What is the point of general education?”
2. Strong general education programs embody institutional mission.
3. Strong general education programs continuously strive for educational coherence.
4. Strong general education programs are self-consciously value-based and teach social responsibility.
5. Strong general education programs attend carefully to student experience.
6. Strong general education programs are consciously designed so that they will continue to evolve.

II. Forming an evolving community based on a vision of general education

7. Strong general education programs require and foster academic community.
8. Strong general education programs have strong faculty and administrative leadership.
9. Strong general education programs cultivate substantial and enduring support from multiple constituencies.
10. Strong general education programs ensure continuing support for faculty, especially as they engage in dialogues across academic specialties.
11. Strong general education programs reach beyond the classroom to the broad range of student co-curricular experiences.
12. Strong general education programs assess and monitor progress toward an evolving vision through on-going self-reflection.

*From Project on Strong Foundations for General Education. *Strong Foundations: Twelve Principles for Effective General Education Programs*. Washington, D.C. : Association of American Colleges, 1994.