

Clarifying Terminology

*AAC&U traditionally –and particularly through LEAP—has advocated for all students to receive a powerful and horizon-expanding **liberal education***

Liberal Education: An approach to college learning that empowers individuals and prepares them to deal with complexity, diversity and change. It emphasizes broad knowledge of the wider world (e.g., science, culture and society) as well as in-depth achievement in a specific field of interest. It helps students develop a sense of social responsibility as well as strong intellectual and practical skills that span all areas of study, such as communication, analytical and problem-solving skills, and includes a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.

Liberal Arts: Specific disciplines (e.g., the humanities, sciences, and social sciences)

General Education: The part of a liberal education curriculum shared by all students. It provides broad exposure to multiple disciplines and forms the basis for developing important intellectual and civic capacities.



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