**Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP)**

Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP) is an initiative that champions the value of a liberal education—for individual students and for a nation dependent on economic creativity and democratic vitality. The initiative focuses campus practice on fostering essential learning outcomes for all students, whatever their chosen field of study.

LEAP is AAC&U’s primary vehicle for advancing and communicating about the importance of undergraduate liberal education for all students. LEAP seeks to engage the public with core questions about what really matters in college, to give students a compass to guide their learning, and to make a set of essential learning outcomes the preferred framework for educational excellence, assessment of learning, and new alignments between school and college.

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**Upcoming LEAP Public Forums**

**Liberal Education and Effective Practice**
March 12-13, 2009
Clark University
Worcester, MA

**More LEAP forums**

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**Often-Confused Terms About Liberal Education**

**Liberal education**
A philosophy of education that empowers individuals, liberates the mind from ignorance, and cultivates social responsibility. Characterized by challenging encounters with important issues, and more a way of studying than a specific course or field of study, liberal education can be achieved at all types of colleges and universities. “General Education” (cf. below) and an expectation of in-depth study in at least one field normally comprise liberal education.

**Liberal arts**
Specific disciplines (the humanities, social sciences, and sciences).

**Liberal arts colleges**
A particular institutional type—often small, often residential—that facilitates close interaction between faculty and students, while grounding its curriculum in the liberal arts disciplines.

**Artes Liberales**
Historically, the basis for the modern liberal arts, the quadrivium (arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music) and the trivium (grammar, logic, and rhetoric).

**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.