American Association of Colleges and Universities

Strong Foundations: Twelve Principles for Effective General Education Programs

PART 1: Articulating a Compelling Vision for General Education

PRINCIPLE #1: Strong General Education Programs Explicitly Answer the Question, "What Is the Point of General Education?"

PRINCIPLE #2: Strong General Education Programs Embody Institutional Mission

PRINCIPLE #3: Strong General Education Programs Continuously Strive for Educational Coherence

PRINCIPLE #4: Strong General Education Programs Are Self-Consciously Value-based and Teach Social Responsibility

PRINCIPLE #5: Strong General Education Programs Attend Carefully to Student Experience

PRINCIPLE #6: Strong General Education Programs Are Consciously Designed So That They Will Continue To Evolve

PART II: Forming an Evolving Community Base upon a Vision of General Education

PRINCIPLE #7: Strong General Education Programs Require and Foster Academic Community

PRINCIPLE #8: Strong General Education Programs Have Strong Faculty and Administrative Leadership

PRINCIPLE #9: Strong General Education Programs Cultivate Substantial and Enduring Support from Multiple Constituencies

PRINCIPLE #10: Strong General Education Programs Ensure Continuing Support for Faculty, Especially as They Engage in Dialogues Across Academic Specialties

PRINCIPLE #11: Strong General Education Programs Reach Beyond the Classroom to the Broad Range of Student Co-curricular Experiences

PRINCIPLE #12: Strong General Education Programs Assess and Monitor Progress Toward an Evolving Vision Through Ongoing Self-Reflection