

**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