

AAC&U LEAP Project

- * Ten-year project to champion the value of a liberal education—for individual students and for a nation dependent on economic creativity and democratic vitality
- * Learning outcomes developed in conversations with stakeholders (community & business leaders) at national level
- * Statewide participation – UW System campuses and Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton
- * On campus, an “exciting convergence” of units and people with a strong interest in undergraduate education...

Exciting Convergence!

- * Enhances learning by enriching connections across curriculum
- * Connects academic & co-curricular learning, describes a holistic undergraduate student experience.
- * Participants:
 - L&S Student Academic Affairs
 - Cross-College Advising Services
 - Offices of the Dean of Students
 - Orientation & New Student Programs
 - University General Education Committee
 - Vice Chancellor for Teaching & Learning
 - University Assessment Council
 - Academic Planning & Analysis

Liberal Education and America's Promise

Sharing Our Commitment to What Matters Most: Essential Learning at UW-Madison

Essential Learning Outcomes For UW-Madison Students

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These learning outcomes were developed through extensive national surveys and interviews done by the Association of American Colleges & Universities with employers, faculty, staff, and alumni, asking the basic question, "What qualities and skills do you want in college graduates?"

Beginning in their first year, and continuing at successively higher levels across their college studies, students should prepare for twenty-first-century challenges by gaining:

Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World

- * Through study in the sciences and mathematics, social sciences, humanities, histories, languages, and the arts

Focused by engagement with big questions, both contemporary and enduring

Intellectual and Practical Skills, including

- * Inquiry and analysis
- * Critical and creative thinking
- * Written and oral communication
- * Quantitative literacy
- * Information literacy
- * Teamwork and problem solving

Practiced extensively, across the curriculum, in the context of progressively more challenging problems, projects, and standards for performance

Personal and Social Responsibility, including

- * Civic knowledge and engagement—local and global
- * Intercultural knowledge and competence
- * Ethical reasoning and action
- * Foundations and skills for lifelong learning

Anchored through active involvement with diverse communities and real-world challenges

Integrative Learning, including

- * Synthesis and advanced accomplishment across general and specialized studies

Demonstrated through the application of knowledge, skills, and responsibilities to new settings and complex problems

Contacts

Aaron Brower - ambrower@wisc.edu
Elaine M. Klein – kleine@ls.admin.wisc.edu
Jolanda Vanderwal Taylor - jvtaylor@wisc.edu
Nancy Westphal-Johnson - wesphal@ls.admin.wisc.edu

Essential Learning Across Campus

- * “The UW-Madison Experience” links co-curricular and out-of-classroom experiences to broadly defined learning goals.
- * University Gen Ed Committee links Gen Ed Requirements to Essential Learning Goals in 2008 Draft General Education Assessment Plan
- * University Assessment Council adopts Essential Learning a “rhetorical framework” for discussing learning goals across campus, and for assessment of student learning
- * Essential learning goals have been defined for the First Year Experience

Make It Yours!

- * Essential Learning Outcomes are being discussed all across campus!
- * Use the ELO template to adapt learning goals to your program!
 - * Outcomes
 - * Dimensions (what students know, do, value)
 - * Activity (where they can acquire and practice)
- * Learn more about LEAP and Essential Learning at UW-Madison at www.ls.wisc.edu/gened/leap/

LEAP