Guiding Principles for General Education Reform
Prepared by the General Education Reform Committee, 12/18/15

General Education provides a shared educational experience that imparts knowledge and expertise essential for all undergraduate students regardless of their major or interests. Moreover, as part of a liberal education, General Education “helps students develop a sense of social responsibility, as well as strong and transferable intellectual and practical skills ... and a demonstrated ability to apply knowledge and skills in real-world settings.” It prepares students to engage complexity, diversity and change and empowers them to be active and responsible citizens of their local communities and of the world.

General Education should be:

• A reflection of the uniqueness of Wayne State as an urban research institution in Detroit.
• Clearly understood by students, faculty, and advisors.
• Smaller, simpler, and more flexible than it is now.
• Internally coherent.
• Complementary to learning in the major.
• Designed around learning outcomes.

General Education should include:

• Pathways for all students, including non-traditional and transfer students.
• Dynamic, integrative, high engagement experiences.

General Education should cultivate:

• Intellectual and practical skills as a foundation for further study and lifelong learning.
• Scholarship and inquiry.
• Knowledge of arts, cultures, history, science, and society.
• Civic knowledge and engagement—local and global.
• Students’ ability to embrace complexity, diversity, and change.

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1 Association of American Colleges & Universities  https://www.aacu.org/leap/what-is-a-liberal-education