



## **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.”<sup>1</sup> 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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<sup>1</sup> Association of American Colleges & Universities <https://www.aacu.org/leap/what-is-a-liberal-education>