The Essential Learning Outcomes

Beginning in school, 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 and Applied 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*

Note: This listing was developed through a multiyear dialogue with hundreds of colleges and universities about needed goals for student learning; analysis of a long series of recommendations and reports from the business community; and analysis of the accreditation requirements for engineering, business, nursing, and teacher education. The findings are documented in previous publications of the Association of American Colleges and Universities: College Learning for the New Global Century (2007) and The LEAP Vision for Learning (2011). For more information, see www.aacu.org/leap.