

What Does Michigan's LEAP Status Mean for Student Success

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What is LEAP?

- Liberal Education and America's Promise.
 - An initiative of the Association of American Colleges and Universities.
- Started in 2005 with Wisconsin as the first member.
- A way for a consortium of higher education institutions within a state to promote the benefits of a high quality liberal education.
- There are currently 13 LEAP states.



Principles of Excellence

- Aim High – Make Excellence Inclusive
- Give Students a Compass
- Teach the Arts of Inquiry and Innovation
- Engage the Big Questions
- Connect Knowledge with Choices and Actions
- Foster Civic, Intercultural, and Ethical Learning
- Assess Student's Ability to Apply Learning to Complex Problems



Essential Learning Outcomes

- Knowledge of Human Cultures and the Physical and Natural World
- Intellectual and Practical Skills
- Personal and Social Responsibility
- Integrative and Applied Learning



High Impact Practices

George Kuh (2008) describes strong positive effects of participating in high-impact activities as measured by the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE).

- First-Year Experiences
- Common Intellectual Experiences
- Learning Communities
- Writing-Intensive Courses
- Collaborative Assignments and Projects
- Undergraduate Research
- Diversity/Global Learning
- Service Learning, Community-Based Learning
- Internships
- Capstone Courses and Projects

Ensuring Quality & Taking High-Impact Practices to Scale by George D. Kuh and Ken O'Donnell, with Case Studies by Sally Reed. (Washington, DC: AAC&U, 2013).



Authentic Assessment

- Struggle to “measure”
 - meaningful experience for students across their intellectual development.
 - How to assess students’ own authentic work.
 - Measure achievement in learning outcomes that both employers and faculty consider essential.
- Faculty/Institutional assessment culture
 - AAC&U VALUE rubrics to assist campus in assessing Essential Learning Outcomes (help provide a guided pathway) that would allow for more general comparisons.
- LEAP States
 - Institutions struggle in measuring authentic assessment



What is LEAP Michigan?

- Statewide discussion of best practices in assessment of general education and use of high impact practices (HIP) in integrative learning.
- Communicate the value of a liberal education to external constituents.
- Share best practices that lead to success of students from underrepresented groups.



Faculty, We Want You!



February 2017 – Great Lakes Student Success Summit

- First effort to involve faculty (General Education and Assessment faculty leaders)
- Provided basic information and discussed the initiative
- Faculty responded that there should be somewhere to direct colleagues to describe the initiative
- Discussed potential statewide projects



May 2017 – LEAP Learning Community

- Discussion of a definition for liberal education
- Viewed web sites of other LEAP states
- Preference given to educating faculty about the initiative as first and most important project
- MI LEAP web site that is faculty friendly was discussed as the first step



Progress Since May

- Mission and vision statement developed
- MI LEAP definition established based on discussion at May meeting
- All have been posted on the MI LEAP web site



<https://www.masu.org/Portals/0/docs/LEAP%20Michigan%20Mission%20and%20Vision%20Statements.Final.pdf>



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- Explore how institutions and individual faculty have incorporated LEAP in programs and courses
- Discussion of next steps

