

# CORE COMMITMENTS: EDUCATING STUDENTS FOR PERSONAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

*An initiative of the Association of American Colleges and Universities*



## About Core Commitments

Core Commitments: Educating Students for Personal and Social Responsibility aims to reclaim and revitalize the academy's role in fostering students' development of personal and social responsibility. It is designed to help campuses create learning environments in which all students reach for excellence in the use of their talents, take responsibility for the integrity and quality of their work, and engage in meaningful practices that prepare them to fulfill their obligations as students in an academic community and as responsible global and local citizens.

## Five Dimensions of Personal and Social Responsibility

Core Commitments emphasizes five dimensions of personal and social responsibility as indispensable capacities for every student:

1. **Striving for excellence:** developing a strong work ethic and consciously doing one's very best in all aspects of college;
2. **Cultivating personal and academic integrity:** recognizing and acting on a sense of honor, ranging from honesty in relationships to principled engagement with a formal academic honor code;
3. **Contributing to a larger community:** recognizing and acting on one's responsibility to the educational community and the wider society, locally, nationally, and globally;
4. **Taking seriously the perspectives of others:** recognizing and acting on the obligation to inform one's own judgment; engaging diverse and competing perspectives as a resource for learning, citizenship, and work;
5. **Developing competence in ethical and moral reasoning and action:** developing ethical and moral reasoning in ways that incorporate the other four responsibilities; using such reasoning in learning and in life.

## Initiative Projects

Through a series of projects, Core Commitments provides national visibility and leadership for personal and social responsibility outcomes and assists campuses as they develop intentional opportunities to advance and assess students' progress over time.

- A **Leadership Consortium** of 23 colleges and universities working to expand, deepen, and assess education for personal and social responsibility;
- **Research and Assessment**, including the development of a new campus climate survey, The Personal and Social Responsibility Inventory, and the convening of directors of key national and multi-institutional research studies into a Personal and Social Responsibility Research and Educational Change Collaborative;
- A **Presidential Call to Action**, where college and university presidents pledge their leadership and best efforts in support of a far-reaching re-engagement with issues of ethics and civic responsibility; and
- **Events and Resources**, to mobilize broad interest in these outcomes and to support campuses in their efforts to make personal and social responsibility part of a substantive vision for student learning that is shared across constituent groups.



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For more information, visit [www.aacu.org/core\\_commitments](http://www.aacu.org/core_commitments).