

AACU MEETING ON INTEGRATIVE DESIGNS FOR
GENERAL EDUCATION AND ASSESSMENT

"Cultivating Liberal Education Outcomes: Perspectives of Disciplinary Societies"

Friday, February 22, 2008 Boston, MA 1:45-3:15 p.m.

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American Sociological Association (retired)

Professional societies/disciplinary associations have *resources, legitimacy, and a delivery system* primarily to members, primarily to faculty within a discipline. When we are at our best, we work collaboratively with other disciplinary groups and higher education associations (such as AACU). We not only respond to member needs but, as the full time eyes and ears of the discipline, we anticipate trends, alert members and chairs to them and develop helpful resources. We are a clearinghouse for publications, web resources, workshops and training, and for more informal advice and dialogue.

Sociological work on professions centers on the self-regulating nature of this kind of work, incl. the professorate. Faculty in each field need to take primary responsibility for curriculum and content goals, for assessment of success, and for modifications to increase learning for all students. They need to think creatively and collaboratively about how their field can contribute to liberal education through general education. Ideally the institution provides a clear mission statement, leadership, alignment of rewards to its goals, and a structure to facilitate this work. Disciplinary societies provide models and resources.

ASA has over a hundred publications on teaching and departmental management. Look at the website: www.asanet.org under "Publications" to see the full collection and to order from the on-line bookstore. ASA offers many workshops on teaching, incl. on general education and assessment at its annual meeting (August 1-4, 2008 in Boston) as well as a conference for department chairs and one for directors of graduate study, to support these important academic leaders. ASA has a number of initiatives to prepare graduate students to teach effectively & to think creatively about general education & assessment.

Liberal Learning and the Sociology Major (1990)

Liberal Learning and the Sociology Major Updated (2004)

Documents stimulated by AACU that contain goals for the sociology major and guidance about how departments can develop, implement, and assess those goals.

Sociology and General Education

Assessing Student Learning in Sociology

Creating an Effective Assessment Plan for the Sociology Major

Quarterly journal *Teaching Sociology*

- Section on Teaching and Learning in Sociology
- Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award
- Departmental Resources Group, a network of about 60 consultants in the scholarship of teaching and learning who lead workshops and undertake program reviews; they recommend following the *Liberal Learning* guidelines [ASA does not accredit departments].

For more information, contact Dr. Margaret Vitullo, Director, ASA's Academic and Professional Affairs Program, 202-383-9005 x323 or x318 vitullo@asanet.org