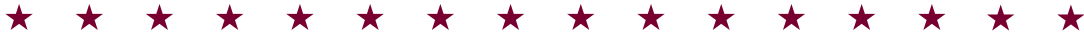


# Core Areas of Twenty-First Century Knowledge



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*

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Study in core disciplines remains essential in college, and can provide students with opportunities to explore the enduring issues, questions, and problems they confront as human beings while also providing them with important intellectual and practical skills.

All students should learn about:

- ★ **science, mathematics, and technology**—including a solid grasp of the methods by which scientific knowledge is tested, validated, and revised
- ★ **cultural and humanistic literacy**—including knowledge of the world's histories, American history, philosophical traditions, major religions, diverse cultural legacies, and contested questions
- ★ **global knowledge and competence**—including an understanding of economic forces, other cultures, interdependence, and political dynamics, as well as second-language competence and direct experience with cultural traditions other than one's own
- ★ **civic knowledge and engagement**—including a rich understanding of the values and struggles that have established democratic institutions and expanded human freedom and justice, and direct experience in addressing the needs of the larger community

In addition to exposure to these areas of knowledge, all college students should have multiple opportunities to work, independently and collaboratively, on projects that require the integration of knowledge and skills in analysis, discovery, problem solving, and effective communication.

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Adapted from *College Learning for the New Global Century* (AAC&U 2007), page 34. See also chart of Essential Learning Outcomes—including four areas: knowledge of human cultures and the physical and natural world, intellectual and practical skills, personal and social responsibility, and integrative learning.