



# The New American Colleges & Universities

Integrating Liberal Arts,  
Professional Studies, and  
Civic Responsibility



[www.newamericancolleges.org](http://www.newamericancolleges.org)



Members of the New American Colleges & Universities (NAC&U) share the belief that the development of professional skills in combination with the theoretical aspects of a liberal arts curriculum provides a high quality undergraduate educational experience that uniquely prepares students for adaptability in their careers and engaged citizenship grounded in the ability to think creatively, critically, and ethically.

**NAC&U members provide an integrative learning experience through the following:**

**General Education Programs** focus on essential skills for all disciplines — inquiry, written and spoken communication, critical thinking and quantitative reasoning. These programs usually include experiential learning and capstone projects.

**Experiential Learning** through internships, practicums, and service learning allows students to “learn by doing,” while having a positive benefit for the participating communities, corporations and organizations.

**Undergraduate Research** builds relationships between faculty and students while giving students real-life skills and experience, including project management; research design, data acquisition and analysis; and presentation, writing and public speaking skills.

**Commitment to Sustainable Civic Engagement** allows students to apply their knowledge in ways that continually meets the needs of the local region and ensures that service has meaningful outcomes.

**Integration of Curricular and Co-Curricular** intentionally supports organizations, activities and infrastructure (including Living-Learning Communities and multi-use buildings and centers) that allow students to apply what they are learning through course work to life outside the institution.

**Global Education**, which includes study abroad, international service learning projects, and undergraduate research, are widely shared tools that help students learn about cross-cultural opportunities and what it means to be contributing members of a global society.

**First-Year Experience Programs** introduce students to learning opportunities and lay the foundation for the collegiate experience through exposure to multidisciplinary faculty, student life staff and upper-level student mentors. Often students connect theory to action through service learning and other applied learning activities in these seminars.

How do NAC&U members work together as a consortium?

**Sharing of information and best practices:**

- Members share and network within their constituency groups such as presidents, provosts, CFOs and student affairs.
- Institutions share fiscal, academic and enrollment data that can be used for benchmarking.
- Members collaborate on panel discussions and presentations at national conferences to share best practices.
- Faculty who serve as NAC&U ambassadors serve as liaisons for their campuses and work together on projects to advance professional development and the consortium’s mission.
- Experts throughout the consortium are able to consult with members on particular projects and/or concerns.

**Research, scholarship and outreach:**

- NAC&U collaborates on grants to foster our mission and address challenges in higher education, most recently examining the concept of holistic departments and re-thinking faculty evaluation.
- The Civic Engagement Collaborative encourages opportunities for social innovation while deepening members’ commitment to civic engagement.

**Professional development and networking:**

- Annual Summer Institute brings together administrators and faculty for roundtables, presentations and keynote sessions while offering activities to promote networking.

**Student Opportunities:**

- International and domestic study away programs and online courses are available to students, maximizing resources for all members.



Founded in 1995, The New American Colleges and Universities is a national consortium of selective, small to mid-size (2,000 - 7,500 students) independent colleges and universities dedicated to the purposeful integration of liberal education, professional studies, and civic engagement. The New American Colleges and Universities collectively and individually are often cited as models of the intentional integration of teaching and learning, scholarship, and service. To improve the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning among its members, NAC&U manages conferences, grant-funded and special projects, administrator and faculty groups, surveys and data benchmarking, marketing and communication outreach, and student programs.

For a complete list of our members, please visit

[www.newamericancolleges.org](http://www.newamericancolleges.org)



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