

AAC&U's Mission Statements**

(early years are approximate)

1915-1925

The purpose of the Association shall be the consideration of questions relating to the promotion of higher education in all its forms, in the independent and denominational colleges in the United States which shall become members of this Association, and the discussion and prosecution of such questions and plans as may tend to make more efficient the institutions included in the membership.

1925-1976

The purpose of the Association shall be the promotion of higher education in all its forms in the colleges of liberal arts and sciences which shall become members of this Association, and the prosecution of such plans as may make more efficient the institutions included in its membership.

1977-1997

The purpose of the Association shall be to enhance and promote humane and liberating learning, to strengthen member institutions as settings for humane and liberal learning, and to extend the benefits of humane and liberating learning as widely as possible through lifelong learning and continuing education.

1998-2012

The mission of the Association of American Colleges and Universities is to make the aims of liberal learning a vigorous and constant influence on institutional purpose and educational practice in higher education.

2012-2017

The mission of the Association of American Colleges and Universities is to make liberal education and inclusive excellence the foundation for institutional purpose and educational practice in higher education.

2017-

The mission of the Association of American Colleges and Universities is to advance the vitality and public standing of liberal education by making quality and equity the foundations for excellence in undergraduate education in service to democracy.

**This document is adapted from a report prepared in April 2017 by Bethany Zecher Sutton for the AAC&U Board of Directors. In 2017, the Board approved a new mission statement which was released as part of AAC&U's 2018-22 Strategic Plan.