



GOOD GEN ED READS RECOMMENDED BY AGLS MEMBERS

This list are books, chapters, articles, or blogs anyone new to gen ed may find useful. This is not a comprehensive list and will be updated as recommendations are made or we find new publications.

Last Update August 10, 2025

Adair Fisher, James and Earl J. McGrath (eds). (2012). *The Humanities in General Education: Brown General Education Series*. Literary Licensing, LLC.

Bell, Daniel (2017). *The Reforming of General Education: The Columbia Experience in Its National Setting*. Routledge.

Biscotte, Stephen and Paul Hanstedt (2023). *Kaleidoscopes, Jazz, and Rivers: Alternative Metaphors for 'General' Education*. The Teaching Professor May.

Bresciani, Marilee (ed). (2007). *Assessing Student Learning in General Education: Good Practices Case Studies*. Wiley.

Detweiler, R. A. (2021). *The Evidence Liberal Arts Needs: Lives of Consequence, Inquiry, and Accomplishment*. The MIT Press.

Gaff, Jerry G. (1983). *General Education Today: A Critical Analysis of Controversies, Practices, and Reforms*. Jossey-Bass.

Gaff, Jerry G. (1991). *New Life for the College Curriculum: Assessing Achievements and Furthering Progress in the Reform of General Education*. Jossey-Bass.

Gaff, Jerry G. (1994). *Strong Foundations: Twelve Principles of Effective General Education Programs*. The Association of American Colleges.

Gaff, Jerry G. (1997). *The Changing Roles of Faculty & Administrators*. *Liberal Education*, 83(3): 12-17.

Gaff, Jerry G. (1999). *General Education: The Changing Agenda (Academy in Transition)*. Association of American Colleges and Universities.

Gaff, Jerry G. (2004). *What is a Generally Educated Person?* *Peer Review*, 7(1): 4-7. AAC&U.

Gaff, Jerry G. & Ratcliff, James L. (1996). *Handbook of the Undergraduate Curriculum: A Comprehensive Guide to Purposes, Structures, Practices, and Change*. Jossey-Bass.

Gano-Phillips, Susan & Barnett, Robert. (2010). *A Process Approach to General Education Reform: Transforming Institutional Culture in Higher Education*. Atwood Publishing.

- Gaston, Paul L.** (2010). *General Education & Liberal Learning: Principles of Effective Practice*. Association of American Colleges and Universities.
- Gaston, P. L., & Gaff, Jerry G.** (2009). *Revising General Education—And Avoiding the Potholes*. Association Of American Colleges and Universities.
- Hanstedt, Paul** (2024). *General Education Essentials: A Guide for College Faculty* (2nd edition). Routledge.
- Howard, Craig C.** (1992). *Theories in General Education: A Critical Approach*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Katz, Joseph.** (1985). *Rethinking Teaching from the Humanist's Perspective*. *Liberal Education*, 71(3): 241-250.
- Kolenbrander, Harold M.** (1982). *On Balance: Promoting the Liberal Arts*. *Liberal Education*, 68(1): 1-10.
- MacAloom, John J.** (1992). *General Education in the Social Sciences: Centennial Reflections on the College of the University of Chicago*. University of Chicago Press.
- McGrath, E. J.** (1946). *The General Education Movement (An editorial)*. *The Journal of General Education*, 1(1), 3–8.
- Miller, Gary E.** (1988). *The Meaning of General Education: The Emergence of a Curriculum Paradigm*. Teacher College Press.
- O'Banion, Terry.** (2016) *Bread and Roses: Helping Students Make a Good Living and Live a Good Life*. The League for Innovation in the Community College.
- O'Banion, Terry.** (2016) *A Brief History of General Education*. *Community College Journal of Research and Practice*. 40(40): 327-334.
- O'Banion, Terry.** (2024). *Frankly, My Dear, No One Gives a Damn about General Education!* The NISOD Papers, Issue 31.
- O'Banion, Terry and Ruth Shaw.** (1982). *Obstacles to General Education*. *New Directions for Community Colleges*, 40(12): 59-71.
- O'Banion, Terry and Cindy L. Miles** (2021). *Understanding General Education in the Community College: A National Study*. *Learning Abstracts*: 24(12).
- Smith, Madeline J. & Tarantino, Kristen L.** (2019). *Generally Speaking: The Impact of General Education on Student Learning in the 21st Century*. Myers Education Press.
- Soven, Margot, Dolores Lehr, Siskanna Naynaha, and Wendy Olson** (eds.) (2013). *Linked Courses for General Education and Integrative Learning: A Guide for Faculty and Administrators*. Stylus Publishing.
- Stevens, A. H.** (2001). *The Philosophy Of General Education And Its Contradictions: The Influence Of Hutchins*. *The Journal of General Education*, 50(3), 165-191.
- Tracy, Kisha G.** (2024). *Why Do I Have to Take This Course? A Guide to General Education*. ROTEL/Remixing Open Textbook with an Equity Lens Project.

Zemsky, R., Wegner, G. R., & Duffield, A. J. (2018). *Making Sense of the College Curriculum: Faculty Stories of Change, Conflict, and Accommodation* (First edition). Rutgers University Press.

COMING IN 2026

Biscotte, Stephen and Tisha Paredes. (2026). *The General Education Reform Guidebook: Activities, Itineraries, Games, and Tips for Your Program Redesign Journey*. Rowman & Littlefield.

There are also a handful of white papers by AGLS that are available for free download via our [website](#).

Be sure to visit our 'resources' tab for these AGLS publications, also for free download.

- [Improving Learning in General Education: An AGLS Guide to Assessment & Program Review](#)
- [Judgements of Quality: Connecting Faculty Best Assessment with Student Best Work](#)
- [The AGLS Playbook](#) NOTE: chapter 4 has a bibliography as well.