



## AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

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## COMMISSION ON THE FUTURE OF UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION

Commission on the Future of Undergraduate Education  
American Academy of Arts and Sciences  
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## THE FINAL REPORT

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what was once a challenge of quantity in American undergraduate education, of enrolling as many students as possible, is increasingly a challenge of educational quality—of making sure that all

# COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY LEADER PRIORITIES: Quality, Completion, and Affordability

**1** Make a systemic commitment to the improvement of college teaching.

Improving college teaching is a systemic challenge that requires a commitment from all stakeholders. This includes faculty, administrators, and students. It also requires a focus on professional development and support for faculty. Many institutions are beginning to invest in teaching centers and similar structures to provide this support.

**2** Master's and doctoral programs that produce college teaching faculty should integrate meaningful and explicit teacher-training opportunities. Graduate programs should also provide opportunities for teaching experience and reflection.

Graduate programs that produce college teaching faculty should integrate meaningful and explicit teacher-training opportunities. This includes providing opportunities for teaching experience and reflection. Many institutions are beginning to offer teaching assistantships and similar opportunities to provide this experience.

**3** Provide nontenure-track faculty with stable professional working environments and careers. More institutions should consider creating nontenure-track positions that provide a path to a stable career.

Providing nontenure-track faculty with stable professional working environments and careers is a challenge for many institutions. More institutions should consider creating nontenure-track positions that provide a path to a stable career. This includes providing opportunities for professional development and support for faculty.

**4** Ensure that all college credentials incorporate academic, career, and civic knowledge and skills as a foundation for rewarding and productive lives and careers. This includes providing opportunities for experiential learning and reflection.

Ensuring that all college credentials incorporate academic, career, and civic knowledge and skills as a foundation for rewarding and productive lives and careers is a challenge for many institutions. This includes providing opportunities for experiential learning and reflection. Many institutions are beginning to offer internships and similar opportunities to provide this experience.

**5** Bring together students from different backgrounds to create intellectual and social connections in ways that sustain and enrich American democracy. This includes providing opportunities for cross-cultural dialogue and reflection.

Bringing together students from different backgrounds to create intellectual and social connections in ways that sustain and enrich American democracy is a challenge for many institutions. This includes providing opportunities for cross-cultural dialogue and reflection.

**6** Develop more reliable measures of student learning gains. This includes providing opportunities for assessment and reflection.

Developing more reliable measures of student learning gains is a challenge for many institutions. This includes providing opportunities for assessment and reflection.

**7** Experiment with strategies for teaching and supporting students in online, "hybrid," technology-supported, and team-taught environments. Assessment and data should be used to inform these efforts.

Experimenting with strategies for teaching and supporting students in online, "hybrid," technology-supported, and team-taught environments is a challenge for many institutions. Assessment and data should be used to inform these efforts.

Make completion a top institutional priority, with the full engagement of faculty and staff. Institutions should consider creating a culture of completion and providing opportunities for support and reflection.

Making completion a top institutional priority, with the full engagement of faculty and staff, is a challenge for many institutions. Institutions should consider creating a culture of completion and providing opportunities for support and reflection.

Work toward a new understanding of and approach to student transfer. This includes providing opportunities for articulation and reflection.

Working toward a new understanding of and approach to student transfer is a challenge for many institutions. This includes providing opportunities for articulation and reflection.

**10** Develop employer partnerships, including providing opportunities for internships and reflection.

Developing employer partnerships, including providing opportunities for internships and reflection, is a challenge for many institutions. This includes providing opportunities for articulation and reflection.

