

Revisiting General Education Programs in an Era of AP, IB & External Credit Programs

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Introductions...

- **John D. Griffin, Ph.D.**

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- **Gerry Greenberg, Ph.D.**

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Current State of General Education Programs...

- “80% of more than 300 institutions surveyed have recently completed or are currently involved with reforming their general education programs.” (Academic Impressions, 2014)
- Watering Down of General Education
 - Too Many Choices
 - Unclear Goals & Outcomes
 - No clear link to the mission of the Institution
- A large proportion of general education requirements are being fulfilled with “extra-college” credits.
 - Advance Placement
 - International Baccalaureate
 - Dual Enrollment
 - On-Line



Programs in General Education:

- Provide a Foundation in Liberal Education
- Prepare Students for Success in the 21st Century
- Relevant Beyond Graduation
- Rooted in the Mission of an Institution

Skills vs. Content:

- Today's graduates will have multiple careers in fields of study that may not currently exist.
- Employer surveys suggest that communication skills, ability to think critically, problem solving, and ability to adapt to a changing environment in the workplace are more important than an applicants major.



Impact of General Education:

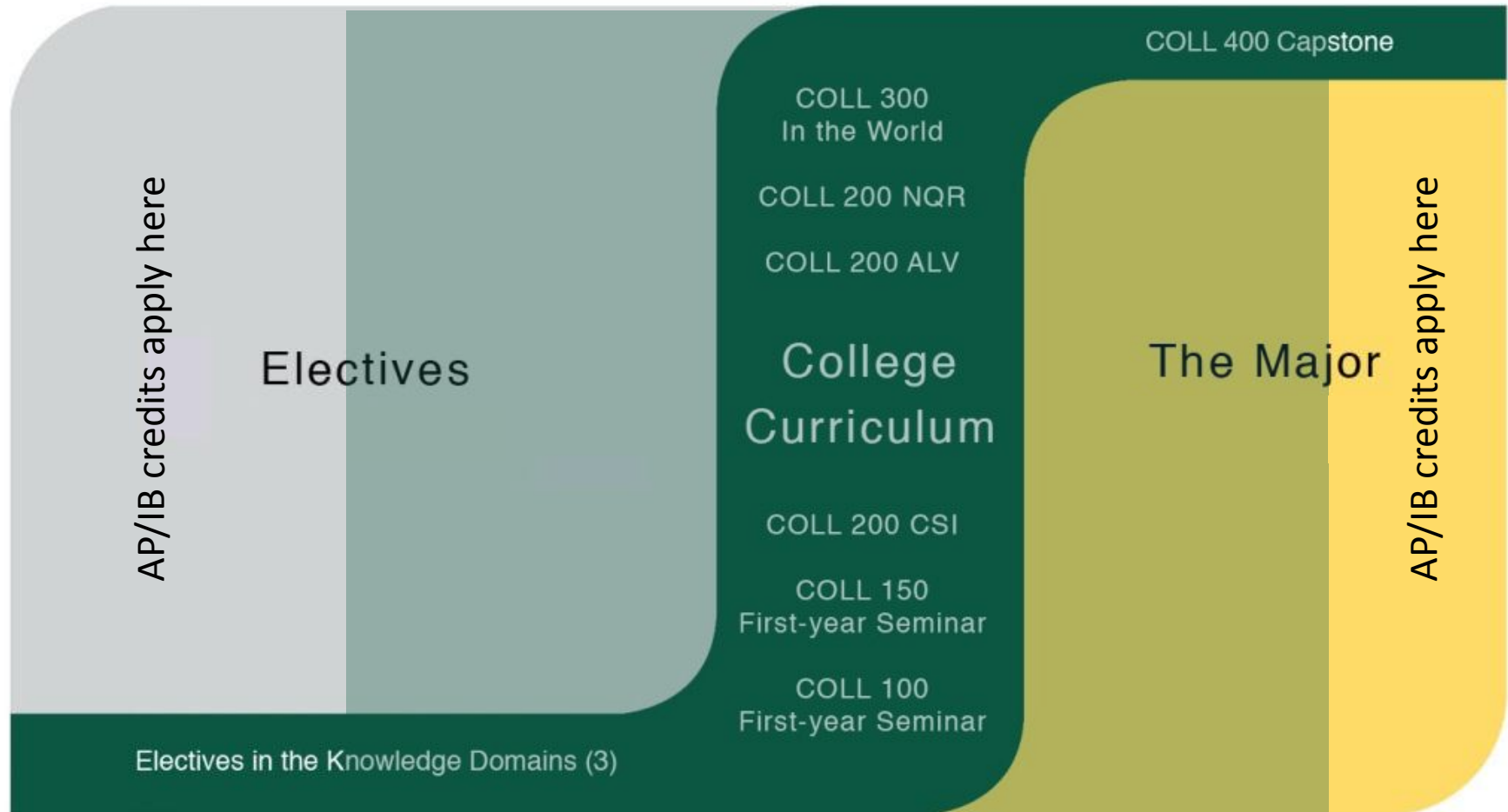
- Retention & Completion Rates
- Employability of Graduates
- Reputation & Costs

Models of General Education:

- The Checklist (Menu)
 - Content
 - Breadth of Knowledge
- Skill Based & Interdisciplinary
 - Communication
 - Critical Thinking
 - Comprehensive



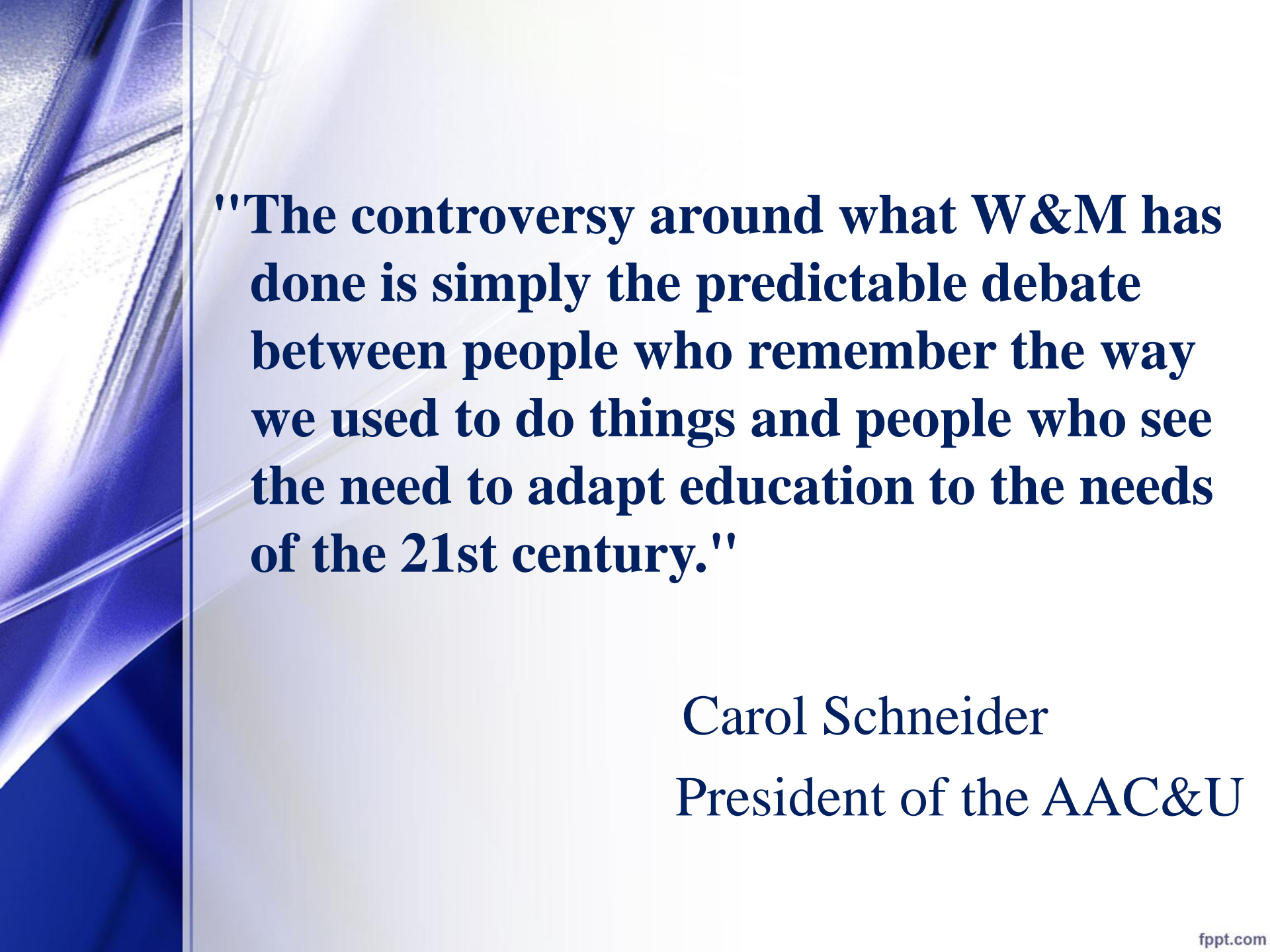
College of William & Mary ARTS & SCIENCES



*Must take all COLL courses @ W&M

**Extra-college credits may be applied to a certain number of elective courses (grey) and smaller number of major courses (yellow)

Center for the Liberal Arts



"The controversy around what W&M has done is simply the predictable debate between people who remember the way we used to do things and people who see the need to adapt education to the needs of the 21st century."

Carol Schneider
President of the AAC&U



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

The College of Arts and Sciences

LIBERAL ARTS CORE CURRICULUM

1: Liberal Skills

a. Writing Skills

Studio 1 – Writing Intensive – Studio 2

b. Language Skills — OR — Math Skills

Proficiency (3rd semester)

Proficiency (2 semesters)

2: Divisional Perspectives

Humanities (4 courses)

Social Sciences (4 courses)

Natural Sciences/Math (4 courses)

3: Critical Reflections

(2 courses)



SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

The College of Arts and Sciences

Pre-College and Extra-College Credits

Up to 30 credits may count toward degree

AP (33 different area exams)

All credits toward LAC

(not Writing Intensive or Critical Reflections)

Transfer Credits

Experiential Learning

Study Abroad

How do we operationalize a *CORE*?

Liberal Education AND the Core

Essential Elements of a Core

Unique Elements reflecting Institutional Mission

How to Make it Successful for Students

How to Make it Successful for Departments

How to Make it Successful in the Marketplace

Delivery of the CORE

Based on curriculum

Tied to how it is delivered

Driven by who is teaching what

Evolved unencumbered by time and circumstance

Until we question whether it is still a CORE

Pressure for a flexible CORE

- External Factors
 - Parents
 - Students
 - Competitors
 - Cost
 - State Legislators – Publics
- Internal Factors
 - Commitment to a CORE
 - Championing the CORE
 - Enrollments
 - Resources for Teaching
 - Cost
 - Governing Boards

Pressure for flexible yet comparable CORE

State systems seek common CORE for transferability

State-imposed acceptance of novel sources of CORE credits
(MOOCs, self-paced online)

State/Private institutions seek common CORE for transportability
(consortia)

Informed opposition to the flexibility

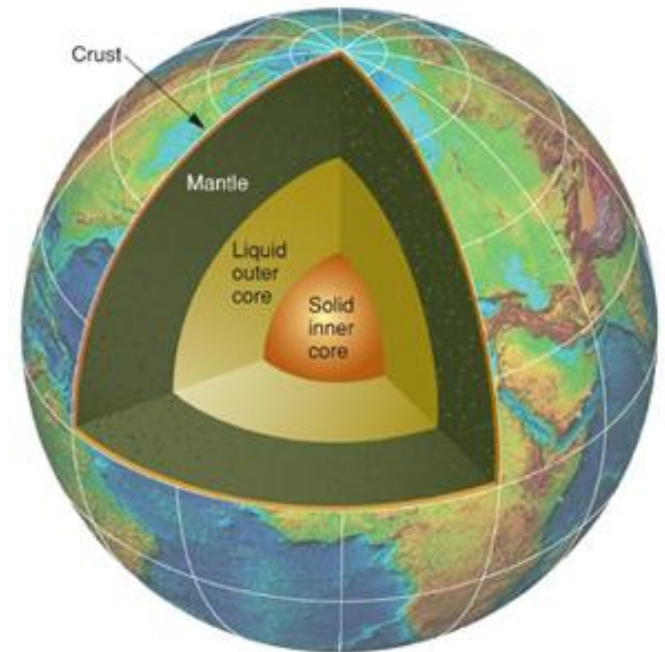
Structure of the Earth

Crust

Mantle

Outer Core

Inner Core



Questions for Breakouts...

- What is your model & how do you treat extra-college credits?
- How does your Core (General Ed.) fit with your institution's mission?
- Is your model effective for today's students?
- Is change in your future?

Follow Up...

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