



**Distilling the Essence
of General Education
Louisville 2025**

**RIGHT DOWNTOWN
RIGHT ON THE RIVER**

ASSOCIATION FOR GENERAL & LIBERAL STUDIES

2025 CONSTITUTE

THE GALT HOUSE

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

OCTOBER 2, 3 & 4



The mind is a richly woven tapestry in which the colors are distilled from the experiences of the senses, and the design drawn from the convolutions of the intellect.

~Carson McCullers (American Author)

One third of all bourbon comes from Louisville, and its distilleries are the city's eighth largest employer! To honor those distinctions, we at the Association for General & Liberal Studies invite you to think about the role of "distillation" in general education. Both processes—bourbon distillation and education program development—require careful planning, expert handling, and thoughtful refinement over time. They both start with raw ingredients, undergo transformation through distinct phases, and ultimately result in a refined, complex final product that satisfies its intended purpose.

Distillation is a process by which the components of a compound are separated and purified via a process of heating and cooling . . . it also refers to the drawing out of the most meaningful and significant components of an experience. General Education has many values and purposes, and we invite all to join the exploration of those essential elements, the very elements of the gen ed experience that make General Education what it is.

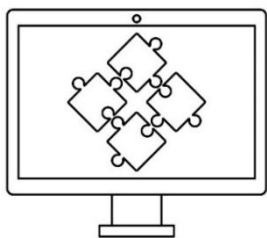
WHO ARE WE?

AGLS is a national organization designed to provide general education faculty and administrators with practical knowledge and experiences for creating, revising, and running a quality program. We have helped individuals, programs, and institutions with everything from communication and marketing to day-to-day administrative operations to innovations in the classroom. Our goal is to create an interactive, three-day experience devoted to matters practical that get all participants engaging, sharing, and leaving each session with concrete 'takeaways.'

OUR 2025 TRACKS

We ask that proposals focus on highly interactive presentations or discussion intensive, sharing high-impact takeaways, and considering how your work supports one of our thematic tracks. Remember, here in AGLS, we are free to talk about not only our successes, but our failures. This is a forum where you will find people who understand the challenges and opportunities that your colleagues on campus may not always comprehend. This is your gen ed safe place for anyone who does the hard work of general education.

General Education Revision and Reinforcement



The "ingredients" in program development are the key elements such as the curriculum content, learning outcomes, teaching methods, assessment strategies, and the needs of students. These ingredients need to be carefully selected and blended to create a comprehensive and effective educational experience.

It is important to distill and share the why, what, and how of general and liberal education so we can learn from each other and avoid reinventing the wheel as we all move forward. Works-in-progress are welcome!

Some potential questions to address for this track include, but are not limited to:

- How has your understanding of stakeholders in general and liberal education changed in response to recent disruptions in higher education and how can you utilize this information for successful revision or reform?
- How are you integrating innovative, high-impact, practices, or pedagogies into your Gen Ed (for example, study abroad, undergraduate research, service learning, civic engagement) that are designed to connect disciplines, connect gen ed to major, connect gen ed to career?
- How are institutions using internal or external current events and issues to prompt or guide general and liberal education revision or reform?
- How do two-year and four-year institutions work collaboratively to build bridges for students to transfer as effectively as possible? How are two-year and four-year institutions communicating about general and liberal education requirements, outcomes, high-impact practices? What creative ways are educators aligning liberal learning experiences across institutions?
- What strategies are you using to communicate the value and significance of general education to various stakeholders?
- How do considerations related to career development and preparation factor into your revision process?

Assessment in General and Liberal Education



The aging process in bourbon can be compared to the ongoing assessment and feedback phases in education. After the program has been delivered, it undergoes "aging" where students' learning is evaluated through exams, projects, or reflections. This feedback loop helps educators refine and improve the curriculum over time.

Good assessment practices can lead to authentic and meaningful improvement in general and liberal education, highlight areas of strength, and illuminate areas for growth.

Some potential questions to address for this track include, but are not limited to:

- How is your institution meeting the challenges posed by technology and advances in AI?
- How can we assess students' growth over time as they encounter, and address issues related to access, equity, diversity, inclusion, and justice?
- How can we use assessment to connect across disciplines to increase student understanding of the value of liberal arts/general education?
- How is your institution using data (institutional or external, such as NSSE or CSSE data, NCES, or SAM) to understand the connection between general education and career readiness?
- How are assessment practices within general education courses and/or programs considering diverse student populations and learners? What practices is your institution following to ensure equitable assessment of student learning?
- How have you used assessment to respond to and/or drive changes in your program? What strategies have you used to share data to support/initiate change?
- What strategies have you used to increase campus-wide participation and engagement in assessment of general and liberal education? Have you found innovative ways to help faculty and staff members find value and importance in this process?
- What approaches have you used to “close the loop” with your communities in embedding the development of learning outcomes and assessment processes into general and liberal education?
- How do you assess the effectiveness of communication/messaging around the value of general education to students? To members of your institutional community? To external stakeholders?

Belonging, Access, and Student Success for All



In bourbon blending, the process starts with selecting different aged whiskey barrels, each bringing its own distinct flavors. Similarly, student success in general education begins with the varied backgrounds, identities, and experiences that students bring into the classroom, and continues with having those perspectives acknowledged and valued. Just as each barrel contributes something unique to the final blend, each student adds their individual perspective to enrich the overall educational experience for everyone.

- What are examples of meaningful ways you are cultivating access and belonging in general and liberal education that can make a difference for all students?
- How is your institution managing access and accessibility (particularly for online instruction) and compliance with federal regulation in your program?
- How are you aligning general and liberal education program learning outcomes to foster students' personal growth?
- How is student data used to illuminate student success issues to create the best general and liberal education program?

- How are multiple voices and perspectives involved and valued in general and liberal education reform or revision?
- What challenges have you encountered with improving student success, increasing access, or developing students' sense of belonging? What approaches have you used, or could you use, to address these challenges?
- In what ways are cultivating access and belonging illuminated in student transfer plans (e.g., 2yr to 4yr, statewide articulation, etc.)? How does general education feature in ensuring transfer student success?



PROPOSAL GUIDELINES

AGLS encourages participation from faculty, students, staff, and administrators, as well as proposals that relate to successful collaborative efforts between two and four-year campuses. Sessions that actively engage the session audience and/or provide usable 'Monday morning' ideas and activities are especially encouraged. We pride our conference on providing hands-on experiences for the attendees.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

30-Minute Presentation: one or more people present a final or preliminary summary result of a new program, initiative, or collaborative project. The purpose of this presentation should be designed to generate discussion or feedback on the next stage or further development of the presentation's focal point. This format is well-suited for sharing information about works-in-progress, quick activities, and seeking feedback or collaborations. Two presentations of similar topics of this format will be paired for one 60-minute session.





60-Minute Interactive Session: one or more people present an interactive learning opportunity similar to our longer workshops but limited to 60 minutes. The goal of these sessions is to demonstrate a useful tool or best practice used at the presenting institution and spark conversation and ideas for attendees to take back to their campuses. Sessions should focus on innovation and integration of particular processes, successful practices, and pedagogies that have proven meaningful at the home institution. Proposals should include the learning goals and takeaway(s) and indicate how participants will be invited to engage in the material.



20-minute Discussion Round Robin: a 20-minute seeded discussion format to present emerging projects and challenging scenarios. This session is great for works in process or is an opportunity to get feedback from other attendees to gather ideas on how to move forward with your project. The proposals accepted will be matched with other similar round table proposals to make a 60-minute session. Here is how the '20-minute discussion' should go: the presenter talks for ten minutes then facilitates discussion and sharing for the remaining ten. At the 20-minute mark, a room facilitator will announce it is time for attendees to switch tables to participate in another discussion topic. Each session will have no more than three topic tables. Participants will be able to 'attend' no more than two discussions within a 60-minute session.

PROPOSAL DEADLINE IS APRIL 25, 2025

What information should you have on-hand prior to going online to submit your proposal?

- 1) Type/format of presentation you want
- 2) Title of proposal
- 3) Name, institution, email address, and day phone number of primary proposal contact
- 4) Abstract of proposal (limited to three hundred words)

Additional information will be requested once a proposal is accepted onto the program, e.g., co-presenter information, etc.

Note on AV: Computers/laptops will not be available in session rooms, but LCD projectors and internet access will be available for presenters to bring their own hotspot and laptops. No technology will be available in round robin sessions.

TICKETED PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP THURSDAY OCTOBER 3RD

NEW IN 2025!!

The How-to Gen Ed Reform Workshop: Useful Tools for All Four Phases of the Process

In this ALL NEW workshop, experienced facilitators will help participants navigate the four phases of the gen ed reform process: 1) laying the foundation, 2) program design, 3) program implementation, and 4) sustained engagement. This is not a theoretical overview... it is a nuts-and-bolts, in-the-weeds, how-to-guide that brings 'assessment thinking' to gen ed leadership. We will share and work through prompts, worksheets, templates, and activities to practice the challenging work of gen ed reform in a supportive, collaborative environment so participants will leave feeling more prepared for the real deal at their institutions. We will even throw in a couple of engaging gen ed reform games and exercises to put the FUN in gen ed reform FUN-damentals. This workshop is ideal for those new to gen ed leadership as well as seasoned gen ed veterans looking to expand or refresh their reform toolbox.

Workshop registration is \$85 per person or \$70 per person for attendees from institutional member campuses.



Have a question about session types, topics, or technology?

Contact our office by phone at (812) 390-6912 or by email at execdir@agls.org.

Proposal Portal Opens February 10, 2025

Proposal Deadline: April 25, 2025

Registration Opens: April 15, 2025

Full conference information will be available on February 14, 2025

www.agls.org/agls-annual-conferences

REGISTRATION

All presenters must register for the constitute unless otherwise notified.

Online registration will open April 15, 2025.

The full registration fee is \$365 and one day only registration fee is \$250, if registered before September 15, 2025. Registration includes annual membership in AGLS.

Memberships paid for with registration will have a term of October 2025 through August 2026. Full registration includes Constitute resources, as well as morning coffee, lunch on Friday and Saturday.

Campuses with an institutional membership (paid for 2025-26 year prior to August 15, 2025) will receive a 15% discount code for constitute registrations. Contact the AGLS office for complete details.

Our ticketed pre-conference workshop fee is \$85 per person or \$70 per person for attendees from institutional member campuses. NOTE: There will be other pre-conference workshops that are FREE to register.

REFUND POLICY

Refunds are available if requested in writing before September 10 (less \$50 processing fee).

ACCOMMODATIONS



On 4th & Main, the Galt House is where guests come to experience, immerse and delight in Louisville's winning spirit. No other hotel can grant guests access to the city like we can, from our central location in the heart of the business community, museum district, cultural center, and Urban Bourbon Trail, to our unique waterfront location. Our status as the "official hotel" of all that matters makes us Louisville's always-iconic hotel and ultimate lifestyle destination, reflective of Louisville's energy, excitement, and contemporary spirit.

We have secured a block of rooms for the evenings of Thursday, October 2 through Saturday, October 4 at the rate of **\$189 per night plus tax**.

The guest room rate includes high speed internet access in all guest rooms and \$10 discount on overnight self-parking in the East Tower lot for overnight guests.

Room rates are guaranteed though September 1, 2025, or until the room block is fully reserved.

For those driving to Louisville, parking is available at the hotel. With over 1,300 parking spaces, The Galt offers a two-to-one parking space ratio per every guest room. Parking is available starting at \$30 per night for self-parking. Valet prices vary. Valet is offered 24 Hours around the clock.

Phone and online reservation lines will open April 15, 2025. Visit our website for information.



The Galt House is just a 15-minute drive from Louisville International Airport (SDF). The hotel is easily accessible by rideshares, taxis, Uber, and Lyft.

Whether you need to find your new favorite restaurant, relax with a spa day, work out in a fitness center, send a package, print your presentation, or buy souvenirs from your Louisville trip, the Galt House has you covered. Literally. At the Galt House Hotel, you can do all this and more without ever stepping outside.

Amenities onsite:

Pelo West: Experience the power of self-care in a tranquil environment where expert therapists tailor each service to your unique needs. Embrace wellness with our range of transformative treatments. Unwind in our peaceful ambiance, designed for deep relaxation. Trust our dedicated team to provide exceptional service and exceed your expectations.

The UPS Store: The UPS Store offers printing, shipping, packaging, package management, freight services, shredding, notary services, office supplies, mailbox services, and more.

Club 360: Stay here and stay active! From the seasonal outdoor pool* to the high-tech fitness equipment at the rooftop Club 360° Fitness Center, the Galt House Hotel has everything you need to stay healthy.

Retail Therapy: You can go on a shopping spree without leaving the hotel. Shop for gifts, clothes, spirits, get a haircut, or shine your shines in one of our several boutiques.

Want to grab a bite to eat or a quick beverage? The Galt House has a variety of restaurants for you to choose from!

Swizzle: enjoy picturesque while dining on the 25th floor

Walker's Exchange: an American Brasserie open for breakfast, lunch, and dinner

Jockey Silks Bourbon Bar: fantastic spirits paired with southern comfort food for lunch or dinner

The Veranda: gather before dinner in the east tower lobby for spirits and hors d'ouevres

Thelmas at the Conservatory: grab and go options throughout the day, featuring Starbuck's coffee

Down One Bourbon Bar & Restaurant: one of the stops on the Bourbon Trail, right on the historic Whisky Row

The beautiful Conservatory Bar is billed as Louisville’s “longest” bar and it is in the atrium connecting the two towers. With an array of TV’s and plenty of seating, this is where you want to hang out for any ball game or socializing with your colleagues



EASILY ACCESS ALL THAT LOUISVILLE HAS TO OFFER

What is there to do near The Galt House Hotel?

You name it! Known as Louisville’s centerpiece, THE GALT HOUSE HOTEL ENJOYS A CLOSE PROXIMITY TO ALL CITY FAVORITES, including the KFC Yum! Center, the Belle of Louisville, the Urban Bourbon Trail, Whiskey Row, Museum Row, Old Forrester Distillery, Jim Beam Urban Stillhouse, Kentucky Peerless Distillery, the Evan Williams Bourbon Experience, Fourth Street Live!, the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory, Waterfront Park, Actors Theatre of Louisville, Kentucky Center for the Arts, the Muhammad Ali Center, the Frazier History Museum, the Kentucky Science Center, the Falls of the Ohio, and Louisville Glassworks. You can also make a splash by visiting local distilleries — just a shot away from the Galt House Hotel!



OUR MISSION: The Association for General & Liberal Studies is a community of practitioner-scholars that provides strategic, effective, and innovative support for peers engaged in the day-to-day work of general and liberal learning in 21st century higher education.

OUR VISION: The Association for General & Liberal Studies aspires to be the leading organization that enhances the day-to-day work of those engaged in general education.



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