

# General Education Models

## Open Models

- Students selective a program of study and make choices that are in their best interest in striving to become well educated citizens.
- Examples:
  - o Eliot's elective system at Harvard (1897)
  - o Brown (Current)

## Constrained Models (Limits on free choice)

- **Fluid Model**
  - Distribution requirements
  - "toe dipping"
  - Choose among limited options within fixed categories
    - o Complete Distribution: all requirements satisfied by choices among options
    - o Partial Distribution: Some requirements satisfied by choices among options (e.g., cognate areas such as social science, natural science, humanities, fine arts, etc.) with some fixed requirements (e.g., writing, oral communication, math, etc.)
  - Examples: most large universities
- **Core Model**
  - Core courses required of all
  - Fixed curriculum
  - Examples: Great books curricula (U. Chicago, Columbia, St. John's College)
  - Defined progress to degree

## Hybrid Models

- Combines some sense of a core with distribution requirements
- Core is either rigid (e.g., common Great Books courses) or flexible (core is defined by general parameters)
  - o Example: UK's honors program
  - o Example: Columbia's Western Civilization Curriculum
  - o Example: UK's Modern Studies and Expanding Horizons