

**Audio Conference of Interest to AAC&U Members:
Responding to *Academically Adrift*: What Colleges Can Do**

The book *Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses* has set off a **[national debate](http://blog.aacu.org/index.php/2011/01/24/why-we-need-more-liberal-education/#more-754)** (<http://blog.aacu.org/index.php/2011/01/24/why-we-need-more-liberal-education/#more-754>) on rigor and the college curriculum.

Tracking 2,300 undergraduates at a range of four-year institutions, the research behind the book found that large numbers of students learn little, if anything, in college, face minimal course requirements — and yet graduate. The findings are based on student scores on the Collegiate Learning Assessment, as well as student surveys and transcript analysis. The book calls for colleges to be more demanding of students and more consistent in their requirements.

On **Friday, February 18, at 1 p.m. Eastern time**, *Inside Higher Ed* presents "**Responding to *Academically Adrift*: What Colleges Can Do**," an audio conference with Richard Arum, one of the authors of the book.

Professor Arum will present the findings and advise colleges on the steps they can take to respond to the issues raised.

The presentation (like the book) will be relevant for a wide range of colleges and universities highly competitive on admissions, open admissions, and everything in between.

Arum will cover the following topics:

- An overview of the study and its results
- Steps colleges can take to promote rigor – policies at the faculty, departmental, institutional, and sector levels
- Ideas on how to communicate about issues of rigor with students, parents, and the public

Upon registering, you will be e-mailed information about how to dial in. The day before the conference, *Inside Higher Ed* staff will send you a PowerPoint that you can use to follow along with the presentation. This is an audio-only conference; you will not need to be connected to the Internet to participate.

ABOUT THE PRESENTER: Richard Arum is professor of education and sociology at New York University and the author (with Josipa Roksa) of *Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses* (University of Chicago Press). He is the coeditor of *Stratification in Higher Education: A Comparative Study* (Stanford University Press) and *The Resurgence of Self-Employment: A Comparative Study of Self-Employment Dynamics and Social Inequality* (Princeton University Press). He is also director of the education research program at the Social Science Research Council.