1. **(Interdisciplinarity)** analyzing contemporary political, economic, and cultural realities in the LACIS regions from multi-disciplinary perspectives, ideally including humanities, social sciences and sometimes natural science approaches.

2. **(Depth of knowledge)** mastering at the undergraduate expert level a particular disciplinary (e.g. history, anthropology etc.) or topical (e.g. poverty, gender, social justice etc.) theme in the LACIS regions by taking five courses in an area of concentration.

3. **(Historical and cultural grounding)** understanding the historical, political, and cultural forces and conditions that have given rise to the unity and diversity in LACIS regions today.

4. **(Language knowledge)** mastering at the undergraduate generalist level a particular facet of life in one or more LACIS regions by studying a foreign language to the advanced (3rd year) level and beyond.

5. **(Analytical skills)** demonstrating the ability to think critically and analytically, the capacity to write clearly and effectively, and the ability to identify and evaluate research methods and outcomes.