Puget Sound Core Values

Self-Expression
We are committed to articulate and creative self-expression as a means to achieving personal independence and making a difference in the world.

Collegiality
We genuinely respect each other and collaborate with honesty, integrity, and openness for the common good.

Courage
We practice civil discourse and deliberation, and have the courage to address difficult questions with innovative thinking.

Passion
We are passionate about our work and seek to instill in our students a commitment to intellectual curiosity and productive lives.

Diversity
We seek diversity of identity, thought, perspective, and background in our students, faculty, and staff.

Leadership
We prepare our students to be thoughtful and active citizens and leaders, and support opportunities for the professional development of our faculty and staff.

Stewardship
We are responsible stewards of our talents, resources, and traditions.

Environment
The university and the wider community sustain each other. We value our Northwest location and the unique confluence of urban, cultural, and natural attributes that enrich our learning community.

OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC VICE PRESIDENT
AND DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY
acadvp@pugetsound.edu

Freedom of Expression

What We Believe
At University of Puget Sound we encourage and support the full, open, and civil discussion of ideas. We support all members of our community in making their voices heard, and appreciate their willingness to speak out about issues of concern. Join us as we work together to create spaces for open dialogue on issues occurring here at Puget Sound, and at colleges and communities across the country and around the world.

Our Mission
The mission of the university is to develop in its students capacities for critical analysis, aesthetic appreciation, sound judgment, and apt expression that will sustain a lifetime of intellectual curiosity, active inquiry, and reasoned independence.

A Puget Sound education, both academic and cocurricular, encourages a rich knowledge of self and others; an appreciation of commonality and difference; the full, open, and civil discussion of ideas; thoughtful moral discourse; and the integration of learning, preparing the university’s graduates to meet the highest tests of democratic citizenship. Such an education seeks to liberate each person’s fullest intellectual and human potential to assist in the unfolding of creative and useful lives.
Academic Freedom
pugetsound.edu/faculty-code

Academic freedom is the right of all members of the academic community to study, discuss, investigate, teach, conduct research, publish, or administer freely as appropriate to their respective roles and responsibilities. It is the obligation of all members of the university academic community to protect and assure these rights within the governing framework of the institution.

Integrity Principle
pugetsound.edu/integrity-principle

Civility is the hallmark of this community; hostility has no place in open and honest learning. A balance is required between freedom of expression and freedom from threats to safety. The contract among university members requires a balance between freedom of expression and freedom from threats to safety. The university community espouses no single correct way to engage in intellectual inquiry, no set body of beliefs to which all must subscribe, and no restrictions on the free expression of ideas. Equally, however, it rejects the development of an environment that hinders in any way the rights of all individuals to pursue their educational goals. The university does not tolerate language or actions that threaten specific harm to individuals or groups.

Diversity Strategic Plan
pugetsound.edu/diversity

We are a campus community that values the intrinsic worth of its members, recognizes our shared qualities, and embraces our differences. We make appreciation of all persons a key characteristic of this community, foster a spirit of openness and active engagement, and strive to be diverse and inclusive in every aspect of campus life. In doing so we ensure a full educational opportunity for all who teach and learn at the University of Puget Sound.

We believe that reflective, thoughtful, and respectful examination of the differing dimensions of diversity educates and empowers all who work and study here to be advocates for inclusion and equity. All members of this community share in cultivating, sustaining, and continuously developing an environment in which equity is intentionally sought and inclusiveness is practiced. University of Puget Sound is a powerful example of a community enriched by diversity in all its forms, and by the challenges and rewards that come with diverse representation, thought, and expression.

Diversity includes attention to identity characteristics such as age, disability, sex, race, ethnicity, religion/spiritual tradition, gender identity and expression, sexual identity, veteran status, job status or socioeconomic class, nation of origin, language spoken, documentation status, personal appearance, and political beliefs. Diversity also includes attention to processes such as design of the curriculum, admission policies and practices, hiring and retention practices, assessment of performance, budgeting, and any other day-to-day business decisions made within the institution.

Good To Know

While freedom of speech is at the heart of a democracy and a liberal arts education, it must be exercised in a manner that respects the rights of others and is consistent with university policies.

Defamation

Collectively known as defamation, libel (expressed as written words or visual images) and slander (expressed as spoken words) are civil wrongs in which false statements are negligently published and damage the reputation of an individual or entity.

Code of Conduct
pugetsound.edu/code-of-conduct

The university’s Code of Conduct outlines the high ethical standards of the university and our expectations of students, faculty, staff, officers, trustees, and others with whom we work. Confidential reports of code violations may be made through a toll-free compliance helpline at 866.943.5787.

Equal Opportunity

University of Puget Sound does not discriminate in education or employment on the basis of sex, race, color, national origin, religion, creed, age, disability, marital or familial status, sexual orientation, veteran or military status, gender identity, or any other basis prohibited by local, state, or federal laws.