THE UNIVERSITY

About University of Puget Sound

Established in 1888, University of Puget Sound is a 2,000-student independent residential national liberal arts college, with five specialized graduate programs, located in Tacoma, Washington. Graduates include Rhodes and Fulbright scholars, notables in the arts and culture, entrepreneurs and elected officials, and leaders in business and finance locally and throughout the world. A low student-faculty ratio provides Puget Sound students with personal attention from a faculty with a strong commitment to teaching in more than 50 traditional and interdisciplinary areas of study.

The university's primary goal is to provide an outstanding liberal arts education that prepares students for creative and useful lives. The undergraduate academic program is based on a core curriculum for all students and includes a wide selection of majors in the liberal arts. The university also provides distinctive graduate programs in education, counseling, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and public health.

Puget Sound is the only nationally ranked independent undergraduate liberal arts college in Western Washington, and one of just five independent colleges in the Pacific Northwest granted a charter by Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's most prestigious academic honor society. The college maintains a relationship with The United Methodist Church based on shared history and values held in common, including the importance of access to a high-quality education, academic freedom, social justice, environmental stewardship, and global focus. Puget Sound is governed today by a wholly independent board of trustees, and maintains its status as a church-related and affiliated institution in accordance with the criteria established by the Church's University Senate.

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 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.

Accreditation and Memberships

The University of Puget Sound is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU), an independent, non-profit membership organization recognized by the United States Department of Education.

In addition to institutional accreditation from the NWCCU, the following programs have specialized accreditation or status:

- The **Bachelor of Science Degree in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry** at the University of Puget Sound is approved by the American Chemical Society
- The **School of Education** at the University of Puget Sound meets the standards of the Washington State Professional Educator Standards Board (PESB) for professional certification of teachers and school counselors.
- The **Master of Education in Counseling** program is accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).
- The **School of Music** at the University of Puget Sound is an accredited institutional member of the National Association of Schools of Music, the accrediting agency designated by the United States Department of Education as the agency responsible for the accreditation of music curricula in higher education. In the field of teacher education, the NASM cooperates with the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. The NASM is also a constituent member of the American Council of Education.
- The **Occupational Therapy Program** is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education (ACOTE), American Occupational Therapy Association. Graduates of the program will be able to sit for the national certification examination for the occupational therapist administered by the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy (NBCOT). After successful completion of this exam, the individual will be an Occupational Therapist, Registered (OTR). Most states require licensure in order to practice; however, state licenses are usually based on the results of the NBCOT Certification Examination.
- The **Physical Therapy Program** at the University of Puget Sound is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). Accreditation qualifies the physical therapy graduate to take the licensing examination offered by any of the 50 states.
- The **Prison Education Program (PEP)** was approved by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) effective April 26, 2024. This includes the Washington Corrections Center for Women (WCCW) Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Liberal Studies through the Freedom Education Project Puget Sound (FEPPS). With this approval from the NWCCU, the University may now proceed to apply for approval by the United States Department of Education (USDE).

Outcomes

Students engage in learning experiences at Puget Sound that develop their intellect and creativity, connect them to the community, and propel them to post-graduate achievement. Puget Sound is the only national independent liberal arts college in Western Washington, and one of just five independent colleges in the Northwest granted a charter by Phi Beta Kappa.

In national surveys, Puget Sound seniors report that the university emphasizes academic work, that they study, read and write more than students at peer institutions, and that they engage in critical thinking and analysis in their classes more than students at other institutions. Puget Sound students also rate their quality of interactions on campus higher than students at peer institutions (National Survey of Student Engagement, 2020).

While at the university, more than 75 percent of students participate in community service, among the highest participation rates in the country. Many students also study abroad, including some who participate in the one-of-a-kind Pac Rim Program that develops intercultural competence in students during a semester-long study abroad experience throughout Asia.

Students are well-prepared for post-graduate success. Placement rates for law and medical school are approximately 80%, well above the national average. Students have received prestigious postgraduate awards, including the Rhodes, Boren, Marshall, and Watson fellowships. The university is recognized as a national Top Producer of Fulbright awards for students (since 2017). In addition, Puget Sound is ranked in the top 7 percent of baccalaureate-granting institutions nationwide

whose graduates go on to earn doctorates. And the university ranked seventh nationally among small schools of top Peace Corps volunteer-producing colleges and universities in 2020. Among national colleges with fewer than 5,000 undergraduate students, Puget Sound consistently ranks among the top five in the number of alumni serving in the Peace Corps. As of the most recent survey in 2023, 84% of students are employed, continuing their education, or engaged in public service seven months after graduation.

Faculty and Students

The faculty and Board of Trustees support a program committed to comprehensive liberal learning and academic excellence. The full-time faculty of approximately 200 is first and foremost a teaching faculty, selected not only for expertise in various subject areas but also for the desire and ability to promote deep understanding and critical thinking. Students benefit from classes taught by committed faculty members who welcome students not only into their classrooms but also into the scholarly community of the campus. Faculty members maintain active intellectual lives that nourish their own scholarly development and their work with students.

Puget Sound is large enough to offer the advantages of multiple perspectives, sophisticated technologies, and a rich array of programs, yet small enough to preserve a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Students come to Puget Sound with diverse backgrounds and interests from nearly every state in the nation and from several foreign countries.

Puget Sound welcomes students, faculty, and staff of all identity characteristics, regardless of 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. The limited size of the student body, the residential campus, and the commitment of the faculty to intensive, rigorous education create a highly engaging experience and strong sense of community.

Key Academic Program Initiatives

Through its undergraduate core curriculum as well as its major and minor programs, the University of Puget Sound is committed to providing a liberal arts education of enduring value. Such an education enables students to adapt, to change careers, and to assume ever greater responsibilities as new opportunities arise. It also enables students to lead interesting and personally satisfying lives and prepares them to address effectively and constructively the challenges of a continually changing society. To these ends, the faculty has selected the following goals to emphasize in the undergraduate curriculum: *A student completing the undergraduate curriculum will be able to* (1) think critically and creatively; (2) communicate clearly and effectively, both orally and in writing; (3) develop and apply knowledge both independently and collaboratively *and will have developed* (4) demonstrate familiarity with diverse fields of knowledge and the ability to draw connections among them; (5) hold a solid grounding in the field of the student's choosing; (6) demonstrate understanding of self, others, and influence in the world; and (7) hold an informed and thoughtful sense of justice and a commitment to ethical action.

Interdisciplinary Study

Some of the most exciting developments in higher education occur at the intersections of traditional fields of knowledge. The pursuit of new understanding by teacher-scholars and students who work across disciplinary lines enriches course offerings and research projects at Puget Sound. Many individual courses, the core curriculum, and several major and minor programs emphasize an interdisciplinary perspective. This interdisciplinary emphasis permits faculty members to combine their particular strengths and creates an array of innovative courses.

The following interdisciplinary programs are available. Descriptions of each can be found in the "Courses of Study" section of this *Bulletin*.

Majors

African American Studies
Biochemistry
Environmental Policy and Decision Making
International Political Economy
Molecular and Cellular Biology
Natural Science
Neuroscience
Science, Technology, and Society
Special Interdisciplinary Major

Minors and Emphases

Asian Studies
Bioethics
Biophysics
Crime, Law & Justice Studies
Education Studies
Global Development Studies
Gender and Queer Studies
Humanities
Latin American Studies
Latina/o Studies
Neuroscience

Several academic departments offer interdisciplinary majors as well, including Greek, Latin, and Ancient Mediterranean Studies, the Business Leadership Program (School of Business and Leadership), French Studies, German Studies, Hispanic Studies, and a Music BA with Elective Studies in Business (School of Music).

Experiential Learning

Experiential learning is a process through which Puget Sound students develop knowledge, skills, and values from direct experiences outside a traditional academic setting, including internships, community-based learning, study abroad and off-campus study, and summer research.

Experiential learning allows students to integrate theory and practice in real-world contexts, reflect on how these direct experiences have shaped their academic growth and understanding of self, others, or the world, and utilize flexible and sophisticated problem-solving skills to address unscripted problems.

Internships and Career Preparation

An internship experience offers an opportunity to apply classroom knowledge and explore career interests in an off-campus setting under the guidance and coaching of industry professionals. Strong internship experiences offer the opportunity for students to contribute to an organization meaningfully while receiving regular feedback and mentorship. Student learning is at the center of internship experiences. Whether it is paid, unpaid, for credit or not, an internship can provide an excellent space for expanding learning and exploring career fields, building experiences and resumes, and launching careers.

During their internship search and application process, Puget Sound students benefit from robust resources offered through Career and Employment Services including exploring career fields, developing resumes and cover letters, networking and interview skills, and career

advising. Students can also apply for grant funding as a part of the Summer Fellowship Internship Program or through the Puget Sound Internship Grant.

Community-based learning

Community-based learning opportunities allow us to cultivate strong relationships with local organizations while offering students the chance to engage in the Tacoma area in transformative ways that advance the organization's goals. Students who engage in community-based learning have the chance to apply for funding and receive guidance and support through the Community Engagement Initiative program which connects University of Puget Sound's faculty and students with people and organizations in the south Puget Sound region to engage in volunteerism and community projects.

Study Abroad and Off-Campus Study

Recognizing the importance of intercultural understanding in liberal education, the University of Puget Sound encourages students to study abroad and offers credit for a wide variety of study abroad programs.

Students may choose to study abroad for a full academic year, a semester, or a summer, enrolling in Puget Sound-approved programs. Programs are offered in Africa, Asia, Oceania, Europe, and Central and South America. Every two years the University of Puget Sound runs the Pacific Rim Study Abroad Program (PacRim) in which students study in a number of Asian countries over the course of a semester, with optional experiential learning opportunities over the following summer. The University of Puget Sound also offers short-term faculty-led programs to different locations each year.

Summer Research

The University of Puget Sound offers many opportunities for students to deeply engage in independent inquiry, whether in the natural sciences, social sciences, arts, or humanities. The Summer Research Program is designed to encourage and support original research projects conducted by Puget Sound students with the active guidance and thoughtful mentoring of their faculty research advisors. Students engaged in summer research will collaborate with a faculty advisor to craft a project proposal and, once approved, will spend 10 weeks conducting full-time research and then present their findings in the fall. In addition to applying for grant funding for their projects, students may also apply for an additional award to cover research expenses or travel.

The Summer Research Program seeks to foster imagination, creativity, and accomplishment. The university believes that students engaged in active research, collaboration, and presentation will graduate thoroughly prepared for graduate or professional school or for the responsibilities of professional-level employment. The university supports students' research not only through the curriculum but also through summer grants in all disciplines, an array of first-rate scientific equipment, excellent library resources, and widespread access to information technology.

Written and Oral Communication

At Puget Sound, developing excellent written and oral communication skills are at the heart of a liberal arts education. From Bookends, an academically-focused portion of the Puget Sound orientation program for first-year students, through abundant writing projects and oral presentations and opportunities throughout their careers (including a senior thesis in some majors), students are challenged to write and speak expressively and cogently.

The university supports and encourages writing in all disciplines.

Based on the premise that every writer needs a reader, the Center for Writing and Learning (CWL), staffed by faculty and peer writing advisors, assists students at every level in the writing process. Writing Excellence Awards recognize and reward outstanding writing in all disciplines. Faculty members receive curriculum development grants to work on sequencing and assigning writing in the major. In addition, faculty members attend workshops designed to help them facilitate students in their efforts to sharpen their writing skills.

Cocurricular activities offer additional vehicles by which students can develop as writers: tutoring in the Center for Writing and Learning; contributing to *Sound Writing*, our student-written campus writing handbook; writing for *The Trail*, the student newspaper; working on *Tamawanas*, the yearbook; contributing to *Crosscurrents* (the campus literary magazine), *Elements: The Scientific Magazine of the University of Puget Sound* (wholly student-conceived and produced biannually), or Wetlands (a publication of literary and artistic materials related to questions of gender and sexuality); and submitting their work to community publications and professional journals.

Oral communication is among the most important skills for college students to possess, according to an employer study conducted by the American Association of Colleges and Universities in 2018. Speaking skills can have a positive impact on a student's academic life, career, and civic success. The university's Center for Speech and Effective Advocacy addresses the curricular and co-curricular needs of a wide variety of classes and campus groups, and provides a collaborative space to practice and refine the skills of public speaking, argumentation, advocacy, and persuasion. Trained peer speech consultants are available by appointment to assist students and faculty members with every aspect of learning and teaching oral communication skills. This Center extends the long-standing strength of Puget Sound in speech communication, argumentation and debate (dating back at least to the early 1920s) to new generations of students and teachers.

e-Portfolio

Sounding Board ePortfolios encapsulate students' learning and experiences both in and outside of the classroom through deliberate cultivation of relevant artifacts and thoughtful reflection. While ePortfolios can be integrated into a single course or program, students can also collect and curate evidence of their learning and growth throughout their time in college. This iterative process leverages ePortfolio pedagogy to foster students' critical thinking, creativity and reflective practice. Sounding Board offers creative freedom for students to express and articulate their narrative in individualized ways, and encourages them to consider how they will apply their liberal arts education to experiences beyond Puget Sound.

Academic Honor Societies

Puget Sound students are eligible for membership by election to two national academic honor societies: Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi. Both societies select students in their junior or senior year on the basis of scholarly achievement and good character.

Phi Beta Kappa elects members from liberal arts fields of study only, recognizing those students whose programs demonstrate breadth, including study of foreign languages and mathematics.

Phi Kappa Phi selects highly qualified student members from both liberal arts and professional fields of study.

Students also may be elected to a number of discipline-specific honor societies at the university.

Cultural Life

The university has long been one of Tacoma's prominent educational and cultural centers providing the campus and local community with a wide array of student, faculty, and guest artist performances in music, theatre, and art. A listing of current campus events may be viewed on the university website, pugetsound.edu/calendar.

To supplement formal instruction, each year the university presents a number of lectures in which nationally recognized speakers are brought to campus to encourage meaningful dialogue on topics pertinent to our changing world. Lecture series include Brown and Haley Lectures, with new perspectives in the social sciences or humanities; Chism Lectures, with appearances by nationally recognized performers, artists, and scholars in the arts and humanities; Norton Clapp Visiting Artist Lectures, bringing notables of contemporary theatre to campus for workshops and presentations; Susan Resneck Pierce Lectures in Public Affairs and the Arts, hosting public intellectuals, writers, and artists of high recognition; and Swope Endowed Lectureships on Ethics, Religion, Faith, and Values, in which leading thinkers promote discussion and inquiry into matters of contemporary spirituality, ethics, and world religions.

The Puget Sound region is rich in cultural, social, and educational opportunities. Our location in a vibrant metropolitan area places our students in proximity to the Pacific Rim, providing opportunities to explore diverse cultures. Moreover, the university's location encourages engagement with a wider educational and artistic community through events and internships in Tacoma, Seattle, and Olympia.

Theatre Arts Season

The Department of Theatre Arts mounts a variety of productions each year: a faculty-directed play is presented each semester in the Norton Clapp Theatre, a festival of student-directed scenes is offered in the fall, and the Senior Theatre Festival is eagerly attended every spring. Recent faculty-directed productions include Indecent, Life is a Dream, Telephone, Stupid F*cking Bird, Penelopiad, Antigone, Threepenny Opera, You On the Moors Now, The Sea Gull, Mr. Burns: A Post-Electric Play, Twelfth Night, Rent, The Force of Habit, A Streetcar Named Desire, 365 Days/365 Plays, Spring Awakening, and In the Next Room. Plays directed by students as part of their Senior Theatre Festival include Eurydice, Crave, The Effect, Woman and Scarecrow, The Chairs, Lungs, Bright Room Called Day, Peter and the Starcatcher, Narvis, Eurydice, Hedda Gabler, Quake, Rabbit Hole, The Trestle at Popelick Creek, How I Learned to Drive, Baltimore Waltz, The Pillowman, Proof, Lunacy, Afterlife: A Ghost Story, Gnit, Gruesome Playground Injuries, Recent Tragic Events, Looking for Normal, Macbeth, Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf, and Hamlet.The Matthew Norton Clapp Endowment for Visiting Artists enriches campus life by bringing distinguished innovators of contemporary theatre to campus for workshops and presentations. Past guest artists have included Dave Malloy, Lydia Garcia, Annie Smart, Bill T. Jones, Holly Hughes, Steven Dietz, Russell Davis, and C. Rosalind Bell, as well as Pulitzer Prize winners Edward Albee and Robert Schenkkan. The Department of Theatre Arts encourages all university students, regardless of major, to participate in all aspects of theatrical production, both onstage and behind the scenes. Functioning independently of the department, the ASUPS-sponsored Bare Bones Collective and other student-initiated groups present an exciting variety of theatre throughout the year in Rausch Auditorium and other campus venues.

The School of Music

The School of Music enriches the cultural life of the campus and community through performances, recitals, workshops, clinics, festivals, master classes, and colloquia given by faculty members, students, university ensembles, and guest artists. The Jacobsen Series offers solo and chamber music recitals performed by School of Music faculty members, alumni, and guest artists. Master classes are presented throughout the school year by visiting artists. Performing ensembles include Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Jazz Orchestra, Adelphian Concert Choir, Voci d'Amici, Chorale, Dorian Singers (a treble voices ensemble), Opera Theatre (scenes programs and full-length productions of operas, operettas, and musicals), Popular Music Ensemble, and classical as well as jazz chamber music groups. Performance venues include the 500-seat Schneebeck Concert Hall, Kilworth Memorial Chapel, Trimble Hall Forum, and Rasmussen Rotunda in Wheelock Student Center. Membership in student ensembles, both auditioned and non-auditioned, is open to all students, regardless of major. The School of Music also has a community music division that offers non-credit instruction.

Kittredge Gallery

Kittredge Gallery displays contemporary art by national, international, and regional artists working in a variety of disciplines and media.

Exhibits are accompanied by visiting artist lectures and workshops. Kittredge Gallery serves as a valuable teaching space and resource with shows curated to support courses taught in the studio and art history programs as well as the liberal arts curriculum of the university. Two student shows are scheduled in Kittredge Gallery every year. Kittredge Gallery is open Monday through Saturday from mid-August through mid-May.

Learning Beyond the Classroom

Learning beyond the classroom is an important component of a residential college experience. Puget Sound is a community in which each student's education is enriched by many opportunities to extend and supplement in-class learning through such activities as attending plays and concerts, joining student clubs, participating in intramural or intercollegiate athletic teams, leading residence hall or residence community groups, volunteering in Tacoma and Pierce County, participating in sustainability efforts, or engaging with the community in the Community Engagement Initiative. In these and similar settings, students develop empathy while navigating differences, learn to be a productive member of a team, and forge new friendships in the process.

Some campus activities are clear extensions of the curriculum: Puget Sound students may participate in cocurricular enhancements such as Residential Seminars, residing in a suite focused on environmental policy and decision-making, competing in intercollegiate forensics tournaments, producing student publications or radio broadcasts, or performing with campus arts groups.

Students can explore the greater Puget Sound region through the campus organization Puget Sound Outdoors, which offers snowboarding, sea kayaking, rock climbing, and hiking excursions as well as outdoor leadership and wilderness first aid courses. The Alternative Break programs give students a chance to do volunteer work and explore social justice issues during fall and spring breaks. There are also numerous residence hall-based excursions for students. Students participate in and attend lectures, cultural events, films, dances, and athletic events.

Students can choose to participate in student governance through the Associated Students of the University of Puget Sound, residence hall associations, leadership of fraternities and sororities, membership in

departmental or co-curricular clubs, organization of theme-living groups, or by serving on university committees.

Consistent with our mission statement, Puget Sound places a high value on equity and inclusion and provides students with a range of cocurricular opportunities to connect within and across lines of ethnicity, sexuality, religion, and identity.

Other features of campus life are less structured but also contribute significantly to learning beyond the classroom; an informal chat with a professor in Diversions Café or Oppenheimer Café, spontaneous discussions of issues on the Wheelock Student Center plaza, or penning an editorial for *The Trail* are just a few ways in which students can engage in meaningful dialogue.

Detailed information on campus activities is available at the Wheelock Student Center information desk, from the various Student Affairs offices, at the university website (pugetsound.edu/student-life), in the daily calendar (pugetsound.edu/calendar), or at the ASUPS website (asups.pugetsound.edu).

Community Engagement, Partnership, and Leadership

Puget Sound is committed to its role as an intellectual asset within the community, serving as a center for faculty and student research and scholarship on a broad array of issues. In partnership with community members and organizations throughout the region, numerous projects and programs have taken shape, including three signature initiatives.

Community Engagement Initiative

The Community Engagement Initiative connects University of Puget Sound's faculty and students with people and organizations in the south Puget Sound region to engage in short-term projects and initiatives. The Community Engagement Initiative allows us to cultivate strong relationships with our local community while offering students the chance to engage in Tacoma in meaningful and transformative ways that bring their liberal arts learning to life. Experiential Learning Programs and Support offers cultivated opportunities for students to apply to, or students can apply for funding for a position they found outside of our list. All partnerships through CEI promote the university's educational, service, and research missions and seek to bring the community and university together in productive and supportive collaboration.

Freedom Education Project Puget Sound

Freedom Education Project Puget Sound (FEPPS) provides a rigorous college degree program to incarcerated people in the Washington Corrections Center for Women and creates pathways to educational opportunity after they are released from prison. Students work towards an Associate of Arts degree with a community college partner and a Bachelor of Arts degree accredited by the University of Puget Sound. Since 2012, more than forty Puget Sound professors have taught a course or given a lecture at the prison, and many Puget Sound undergraduates have volunteered to work in study halls. More information is available at pugetsound.edu/fepps.

Race and Pedagogy Institute

The Race and Pedagogy Institute, a collaboration between Puget Sound and the South Sound community, seeks to educate students and teachers at all levels to think critically about race and to act to eliminate racism. Since 2006 the initiative has served as an incubator, catalyst, and forum for a variety of programs and projects. The initiative hosts a national conference every four years, which welcomes to campus more than 2,000 presenters and participants from colleges and universities across the nation, regional schools and community organizations, and the campus community for three days of plenary sessions, panel discussions, and artistic and theatrical performances. Visit pugetsound.edu/raceandpedagogy for more information and to learn about the national conference.

Puget Sound Museum of Natural History

The Puget Sound Museum of Natural History is an internationally recognized research and teaching collection located in the university's Thompson Hall. The second-largest natural history collection in Washington State, the museum features nearly 111,000 specimens of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, plants, insects, fossils, minerals, and rocks. In addition to serving Puget Sound students and faculty for classes and research, the museum also serves the local community, and other scientists, artists, and educators worldwide through outreach programs, exhibits, visits, and loans. The museum has an extensive volunteer program where student docents can gain valuable experience working with the collections and interacting with public audiences. For more information visit: pugetsound.edu/museum

Sound Policy Institute

Sound policies restore and sustain the natural environment in balance with a healthy, prosperous, and just community. The Sound Policy Institute brings together the campus and wider regional community for outdoor experiential teaching and learning on environmental issues at the nexus of science and policy. The institute provides opportunities for University curriculum and programs to incorporate outdoor experiential learning that engages pressing environmental issues in our community; the integration of "big ideas" related to sustainability into the teaching and learning of faculty members from across academic disciplines and higher education institutions; and community member engagement in lifelong environmental learning experiences . More information is available at pugetsound.edu/soundpolicy.