About Washington University in St. Louis

Who We Are Today

Washington University in St. Louis — a medium-sized, independent university — is dedicated to challenging its faculty and students alike to seek new knowledge and greater understanding of an ever-changing, multicultural world. The university is counted among the world’s leaders in teaching and research, and it draws students from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. Students and faculty come from more than 100 countries around the world.

The university offers more than 90 programs and almost 1,500 courses leading to bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in a broad spectrum of traditional and interdisciplinary fields, with additional opportunities for minor concentrations and individualized programs. For more information about the university, please visit the University Facts page of our website.

Enrollment by School

For enrollment information, please visit the University Facts page of our website.

Committed to Our Students: Mission Statement

Washington University’s mission is to discover and disseminate knowledge and to protect the freedom of inquiry through research, teaching and learning.

Washington University creates an environment that encourages and supports an ethos of wide-ranging exploration. Washington University’s faculty and staff strive to enhance the lives and livelihoods of students, the people of the greater St. Louis community, the country and the world.

Our goals are as follows:

• To welcome students, faculty and staff from all backgrounds to create an inclusive community that is welcoming, nurturing and intellectually rigorous;
• To foster excellence in our teaching, research, scholarship and service;
• To prepare students with the attitudes, skills and habits of lifelong learning and leadership, thereby enabling them to be productive members of a global society; and
• To be an institution that excels by its accomplishments in our home community, St. Louis, as well as in the nation and the world.

To this end, we intend to do the following:

• To judge ourselves by the most exacting standards;
• To attract people of great ability from diverse backgrounds;
• To encourage faculty and students to be bold, independent and creative thinkers;
• To provide an exemplary, respectful and responsive environment for living, teaching, learning and working for present and future generations; and
• To focus on meaningful, measurable results for all of our endeavors.