



Winona State University

## Mission and Goals Statement

1. **PURPOSE:** To state the University mission and define the general and specific goals of the University.
2. **MISSION:** **The mission of Winona State University is to educate and enlighten our citizenry at a distinctive institution: a community of learners dedicated to improving our world.**

Located in the beautiful bluff country of the Mississippi River Valley, the Winona campus is largely residential and primarily serves a traditional student age population, while the Rochester campus serves primarily non-traditional students. The Institute for Lifelong Education, head-quartered on the Rochester campus, meets the needs of the non-traditional student on each campus and provides the structure for outreach activities compatible with the mission of WSU. Commonly held principles help Winona State University prepare undergraduate and graduate students on both campuses. We value differences and work collaboratively, continuing a legacy of a century and a half of service.

We are an exemplary arts and sciences institution with select professional and graduate programs anchored in a general education core. As a mid-sized public university, we are committed to retaining small class sizes and to challenging students by maintaining *rigorous academic standards*. Faculty and administration are involved with students, facilitate *cooperative and active learning*, provide prompt feedback, emphasize time on task, communicate *high expectations*, and respect our students' diverse talents and ways of knowing. Faculty are dedicated to creating an optimal learning environment for students by using contemporary technology and by building *learning communities*, which help students maximize their post-graduation successes. Students acquire the disciplinary expertise enabling them to pursue careers or enter graduate or professional schools. *They learn the value of aesthetics and ethical integrity*, along with the importance of *becoming community leaders* and furthering the public good.

Winona State University recognizes that many of the learning experiences of college occur outside the classroom. It therefore is committed to building and maintaining a *caring community*. On both campuses, community members strive for amicable relationships based on shared values and an affirmation of the principle of freedom of speech within an *atmosphere of civility* and mutual respect. Governed by collective bargaining agreements and guided by principled leadership, we respect diversity and collaborate to resolve issues that affect us all. We celebrate our common successes and our distinctive heritage.

We are committed to *measuring results against self-defined and national standards*. Through this ongoing assessment, one in which students, faculty, and staff participate; we will improve continuously and *establish accountability* for results. Thus we shall reaffirm Winona State University's social contract to provide educational benefits to the people of Minnesota, the Nation, and the World.

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### 3. GOALS OF THE UNIVERSITY:

- a. Student Success: All WSU students will graduate possessing the skills, capacities and talents required for high performance in subsequent endeavors by offering undergraduate programs and degrees which provide direct entry into graduate programs or employment opportunities that require significant educational preparation.
- b. Student Satisfaction: WSU students and alumni will report high levels of satisfaction with their experience at WSU. WSU will provide for education, personal, and social development of students through effective academic advising and counseling and through high quality cultural, recreational and extra-curricular programs.
- c. General Education: All WSU students will have a solid foundation in general education. WSU will provide a comprehensive base of liberal studies as the foundation for university degrees in the arts, letters, and sciences as well as offer specialized professional, technological and occupational degrees.
- d. Faculty and Staff Development: WSU will develop the human resources to accomplish the goals of the University by supporting a commitment to research and to scholarly and creative activities which enhance instructional programs and teaching excellence.
- e. Partnership Development: WSU graduates will meet or exceed the expectations of the citizens, businesses, and communities that we serve. WSU will:
  1. Provide pre-professional sequences that are coordinated with professional programs at other universities
  2. Maintain a special commitment to lifelong learning by meeting off-campus instruction and continuing educational needs of the citizens of the service region
  3. Provide public service to the region and serve as a cultural center and a source of problem –solving expertise.
  4. Assume leadership in consortia relationships and cooperate with private business and research organizations to maximize educational and employment opportunities for citizens of the region through the sharing of expertise and resources.
- f. Technology: There will be a seamless integration of technology in the academy at all levels.
- g. Enrollment: WSU will effectively manage enrollment to meet the needs of the University. WSU will provide educational opportunities for all individuals including minorities, the disadvantaged, disabled, and non-traditional students.
- h. Assessment: WSU will evaluate all programs to meet the needs of a changing educational and technical environment.

### 4. EXPECTATIONS: WSU is committed to a policy of continuous quality enhancement. As evidence of this commitment, the University has developed the following statement of expectations:

WSU's mission is to serve the broad educational needs of people living in the region and others attracted to its complement of high-quality programs. The University is committed to

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reserving, extending and disseminating knowledge. Through this commitment, it fosters a love for learning in an atmosphere of intellectual excitement. It acknowledges the great benefits gained from a free and open discussion of all ideas within the academic setting and encourages respect for others and tolerance for opposing points of view.

In fulfilling its mission, WSU incorporates The Seven Principles for Good Practice in Undergraduate Education (as outlined in the Wingspread Journal) to maintain excellence in teaching and Outcomes Assessment to demonstrate the excellence of WSU's programs and services.

WSU has a rich heritage of providing an educational setting in which students are assisted in achieving their learning goals. WSU's dedication to excellence in academic programs and student services is demonstrated through the high expectations established for everyone at the University- Faculty, students, administration and staff. It is only through the collective efforts of each of these constituent groups that WSU can achieve its goal of excellence. In working together, each group has high expectations of itself and others.

### ***WSU students are expected to be dedicated to:***

- a. Active Learning: WSU students are expected to be actively involved in the teaching-learning process and committed to applying their learning experience to activities beyond the classroom and to making those learning experiences part of their life-long learning process.
- b. Standards of Excellence: WSU students are expected to meet the high expectations expressed by faculty and staff members. Additionally, students are encouraged to expect excellence of faculty and staff as well. WSU students are entrusted to maintain the highest level of integrity in their academic work and interactions with others.
- c. Time on Task: Students are expected to be responsible for effectively managing their time so as to expend the utmost energy on their classroom tasks and learning experiences. A significant amount of time outside of class is expected to be spent on individual studying, in laboratory settings, in the library or engaged in academic – related discussion with peers, faculty and administrative staff.
- d. Cooperative Learning: Students are expected to be committed to learning in settings beyond the classroom such as those learning experiences occurring in group discussions, group work projects, multi-cultural interactions and internships.
- e. Personal Growth and Development: WSU students are encouraged to take advantage of the wide range of activities, clubs, and organizations available on campus both within their major area of study as well as those activities for their own pleasure. Such experiences contribute to the creation of the educated person and provide opportunities for students to meet informally with other students, faculty, and staff.

### ***WSU faculty are expected to be dedicated to:***

- a. Excellence in Teaching or Other Assigned Duties: WSU faculty plan and organize courses using instructional methods and materials, which promote learning and personal growth for their students. WSU faculty have high expectations for themselves and their students. They conduct their departmental and university-assigned activities with the aim of increasing student learning and success.

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- b. Scholarly and Research Activities: WSU faculty engage in a variety of scholarly, creative, and research activities which contribute to their excellence in teaching and program quality and provide opportunities for students to learn through participation.
- c. Professional Preparation, Study, and Development: WSU faculty engage in professional studies and experiences that enhance their capacities to enrich student learning.
- d. Student Growth and Development: WSU faculty perceive, as their main objective, the perpetuation of a learning environment in which students are encouraged to realize their potential. Such encouragement includes faculty/student interaction in small group settings in and out of class, a sound advising system, prompt feedback, respect for diverse talents, and ways of learning and opportunities to work one-on-one on independent study projects. WSU faculty also encourage student participation in campus organizations, cultural events and extracurricular activities.
- e. Service to the University and the Community: WSU faculty actively participate in the community through memberships in campus and community organizations.

### ***Administration and staff are expected to be dedicated to:***

- a. Faculty Recruitment and Support: WSU administration and staff help attract and maintain a highly skilled teaching faculty dedicated to teaching, research, and service. Additionally, they support faculty enrichment activities, which contribute to the quality of students' learning experiences.
- b. Student Recruitment and Support: WSU administration and staff are dedicated to recruiting highly qualified students who can contribute to the academic excellence of the University. Administration supports academic advising and support services that increase the quality of the students' educational experiences.
- c. Creation of a Stimulating Learning Environment: The administration and staff are responsible for the creation and maintenance of a physical environment conducive to learning with adequate resources for both students and faculty- including library, computer, and other resources required for instruction, research, and public service.
- d. Cooperative Decision-Making: The administration contributes to a cooperative/collegial decision – making process. Such a process ensures the appropriate participation of faculty and students in instructional governance and fosters respect among the constituent groups.
- e. Promoting Excellence: WSU administration is dedicated to carrying forth a leadership role in developing concern for excellence throughout the university community. The administration articulates the support for excellence to all constituencies.

This WSU Regulation supersedes WSU Regulation 1-2, dated August 18, 1988.

AUTHENTICATED BY:

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1/20/99

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Darrell W. Krueger  
President

Date of Adoption

Authoritative References:

[MnSCU Policy 1A.1](#), Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Organization and  
Administration  
President

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