

# About Whitworth University

## Our Mission

Whitworth University is a private, residential, liberal arts institution affiliated with the Presbyterian church. Since 1890, Whitworth has provided its diverse student body an education of mind and heart, equipping its graduates to honor God, follow Christ and serve humanity. This mission is carried out by a community of Christian scholars committed to excellent teaching and to the integration of faith and learning.

## Our Core Themes

Since 1890, Whitworth University has held fast to its founding mission to provide its students an education of mind and heart characterized by rigorous and open intellectual inquiry and the integration of Christian faith and learning. Anchored in the Reformed tradition and enriched throughout its history by strong evangelical and ecumenical currents, Whitworth's mission is carried out by a diverse community of dedicated Christian scholars and staff members who are called to a variety of vocations to serve and support students. Whitworth believes that the best learning occurs in the context of relationship – inside and outside of the classroom – where faculty and staff members alike invest in the lives of students. Whitworth is committed to modeling the highest standards of integrity and fairness and to being a trusted and valued member of the community.

Whitworth's three core themes flow from our mission statement and guide our community. As a comprehensive and residential Christian liberal arts university, Whitworth strives to fulfill our mission through the following:

- a community of Christian scholars integrating faith and learning and promoting worldview development in our graduates;
- an academically excellent education firmly rooted in the liberal arts and sciences equipping our graduates for reflective lives, careers, and professions; and
- an inclusive university community fostering in our graduates intercultural competencies and civic engagement for lives of service in an increasingly diverse world.

## Our Heritage

In 1853, George Whitworth, a minister in the Ohio Valley, convinced 15 families to join him in a wagon train heading from St. Louis to the West. Whitworth's was the only family to complete the brutal five-month journey and reach the Puget Sound area.

An ordained Presbyterian minister, Whitworth had initially set out on the Oregon Trail to follow his calling to serve as a missionary. He would go on to found at least 15 Presbyterian churches across the Pacific Northwest. He also served as president of the University of Washington and as superintendent of schools in Thurston and King counties.

In 1883, Whitworth opened Sumner Academy in the village of Sumner, in Washington Territory, under the charge that "No efforts will be spared to elevate the character of the school and to make it an institution of learning of the highest grade." On Feb. 20, 1890, the school's trustees signed resolutions to increase the curriculum and stature of the academy, which would be known as Whitworth College.

The catalog from 1890 defined the vision for Whitworth College: "It is intended to give both sexes a thorough course of education...ever directing them in pursuit of that learning and culture of mind and heart that make the finished scholar....While it is denominational, it does not aim to be sectarian, opening its doors to all lovers of truth and learning."

In 1899, the college had outgrown the rural community of Sumner and moved to Tacoma. Fifteen years later, when Spokane developer Jay P. Graves offered land in his Country Homes Estates, Whitworth moved a final time. In September 1914, classes began in Spokane.

Whitworth began a new era after 117 years as a college when, in 2007, the board of trustees approved changing the school's name to Whitworth University. The change was prompted by trends in the higher-education marketplace that led the board to clarify Whitworth's standing as a four-year liberal

arts institution. Whitworth's 17th president, Bill Robinson, helmed the transition and said at the time, "As Whitworth University, we will remain as committed as ever to the liberal arts emphasis and the warm, interpersonal culture for which Whitworth is known."

In 2021, under the leadership of Beck A. Taylor, Whitworth's 18th president, the university concluded its 10-year vision and strategic plan, *Whitworth 2021: Courage at the Crossroads*. The university has made great strides in deepening its commitments to academic excellence and to the integration of Christian faith and learning, equipping graduates to respond to God's call on their lives with intellectual competence, moral courage and deep compassion.

## Accreditation

### Accrediting Bodies

Whitworth University is accredited by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities. Accreditation of an institution of higher education by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities indicates that it meets or exceeds criteria for the assessment of institutional quality evaluated through a peer review process. An accredited college or university is one which has available the necessary resources to achieve its stated purposes through appropriate educational programs, is substantially doing so, and gives reasonable evidence that it will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Institutional integrity is also addressed through accreditation. Accreditation by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities is not partial but applies to the institution as a whole. As such, it is not a guarantee of every course or program offered, or the competence of individual graduates. Rather, it provides reasonable assurance about the quality of opportunities available to students who attend the institution. Inquiries regarding an institution's accredited status by the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities should be directed to the administrative staff of the institution. Individuals may also contact:

Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities  
8060 165th Ave. N.E.  
Redmond, WA 98052 425.558.4224  
<https://www.nwccu.org/>

The Whitworth Music Department is accredited by the National Association of Schools of Music. The College of Nursing of Washington State University, Eastern Washington University, and Whitworth University is approved by the Washington State Board of Nursing and the Commission for Collegiate Nursing Education. The Whitworth Athletic Training Education Program is nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education. The Whitworth Marriage & Family Therapy Program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education. In the School of Education, the teacher certification programs, school counseling program and school administration program are approved by the State of Washington Professional Educator Standards Board. The master's-level school counseling program is also accredited by the Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC). The Whitworth School of Business is an accredited member of AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

Whitworth is also a member of the Association of American Colleges & Universities, the American Council of Education, the Association of Presbyterian Colleges and Universities, the Council of Independent Colleges, the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. It is also a collaborative partner of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities.

### State Authorization – Washington State

Whitworth University qualifies as "exempt" (WAC 250-61-060) from requiring degree authorization in the State of Washington according to the Washington State Degree-Granting Institutions Act, Chapter 28B.85 RCW. The Washington Student Achievement Council recognizes Whitworth University as a legal degree-granting institution under these exemption criteria. Specific degree programs at Whitworth University are approved by the Washington Student Achievement Council's State Approving Agency for veterans' education and training benefits under Section 3675, Chapter 36, Title 38, U.S. Code.

### State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (SARA)

Whitworth University is a participating institution of SARA (State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements) which is a voluntary, regional approach to provide oversight of postsecondary distance education. Under the provisions of SARA, Whitworth is authorized to provide distance education to

students residing in other SARA member states. A list of SARA states and participating institutions can be found on the NC-SARA website (<https://www.nc-sara.org/directory/>).

### State Authorization - Oregon State

Master of Education in Montessori education programs (M.Ed.) delivered in the State of Oregon are considered a "physical presence" by SARA, thus state authorization is required for conferral of these degrees in other SARA member states. Whitworth University has been granted initial authorization for these degree programs in the State of Oregon.

*This school is a non-profit corporation authorized by the State of Oregon to offer and confer the academic degrees and certificates described herein, following a determination that state academic standards will be satisfied under OAR 583-030. Inquiries concerning the standards or school compliance may be directed to the Higher Education Coordinating Commission Office of Degree Authorization, 3225 25th Street SE, Salem, Oregon 97302, or [info.pps@state.or.us](mailto:info.pps@state.or.us).*

## Academic Affairs

(Academic Programs, Accreditation)

Deanna Ojennus, Accreditation Liaison Officer  
509.777.3441  
[alo@whitworth.edu](mailto:alo@whitworth.edu)

<https://www.whitworth.edu/cms/academics/>

### Program Review

In addition to the programs listed above that are accredited by external agencies, all of Whitworth's academic programs undergo an internal systematic review managed by the faculty-led Teaching, Learning, and Assessment Committee (TLAC). TLAC reviews the student learning outcomes and assessment results of each area on a three-year cycle. The purpose of these reviews is to support continuous improvement in all of our programs. In addition to reviewing its programs regularly, Whitworth also regularly assesses its shared curriculum programs for effectiveness.

### Review of Accreditation, State & Federal Approval

Enrolled and prospective students have the right to review the documents describing the institution's accreditation, approval or licensing documents. If you wish to review these documents, please contact the Director of Assessment and Accreditation ([ALO@whitworth.edu](mailto:ALO@whitworth.edu), 509.777.3441).

## The 4-1-4 Calendar

In 1969, Whitworth became one of the first educational institutions in the country to adopt the 4-1-4 academic calendar. This calendar is now favored by many liberal arts colleges and universities due to its flexibility and its potential for innovative short-run and off-campus courses.

Whitworth's fall semester begins in early September and ends with Christmas Break. During Jan Term, Whitworth's one-month winter term between semesters, students take one intensive course. Many students participate in internships, independent studies or study abroad programs during this month. Whitworth has developed a number of tuition-reciprocity agreements with other colleges and universities on the 4-1-4 calendar, which allow students to experience another college or university during January without upsetting tuition or financial aid arrangements. The spring semester begins in early February and ends in mid-May. A 12-week period of summer instruction is also offered in varied formats, from weekend workshops to online and traditional lecture courses.

## Academic Calendar

### 2021-2022

#### Fall Semester

Saturday	Sept. 4	Residence Halls Open for New Students
Tuesday	Sept. 7	Residence Halls Open for Returning Students
Tuesday	Sept. 7	Advising and Registration
Wednesday	Sept. 8	Day and Evening Classes Begin
Friday-Monday	Oct. 29-Nov. 1	Fall Break
Wednesday-Friday	Nov. 24-26	Thanksgiving Vacation
Monday	Nov. 29	Classes Resume
Tuesday-Friday	Dec. 14-17	Final Examinations

## Jan Term

Sunday	Jan. 2	Residence Halls Open at 1 p.m. for Returning Students
Sunday	Jan. 2	Residence Halls Open at 3 p.m. for New Students
Monday	Jan. 3	Classes Begin
Monday	Jan. 17	Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday
Monday	Jan. 24	Last Class Day

## Spring Semester

Monday	Jan. 31	Residence Halls Open at 10 a.m. for New Students
Wednesday	Feb. 2	Advising and Registration
Wednesday	Feb. 2	Evening Classes Begin
Thursday	Feb. 3	Day Classes Begin
Monday-Friday	Mar. 28 - April 1	Spring Break
Monday	April 18	Easter Holiday
Tuesday-Friday	May 17 - 20	Final Examinations
Saturday	May 21	Graduate Commencement
Sunday	May 22	Undergraduate Baccalaureate and Commencement

## Summer School Dates

Summer school dates extend from May 23-Aug. 12, 2022. Whitworth offers three-week, six-week, nine-week and 12-week course options during this time period.

Note: Whitworth's Adult Degree Program and Master of Business Administration program operate on a different academic calendar than the one that applies to the rest of the university. For the most up-to-date adult degree calendar information, see <https://www.whitworth.edu/forms/dynamic/school-of-continuing-studies/classschedule.aspx>. To view the academic calendar for Whitworth's Master of Business Administration program, go to <https://www.whitworth.edu/cms/academics/mba/curriculum-and-course-schedule/>.