

Educational Philosophy

The enduring vision for more than a century at Whitworth has been the pursuit of intellectual and spiritual development. Through decades of change, this fundamental purpose has remained firmly centered in the person of Jesus Christ. Our understanding of Christ is based on Scripture, the inspired and trustworthy record of God's self-disclosure and our final rule for faith and practice. As a college affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Whitworth stands within the historic Reformed tradition. Believing that God is the ultimate source of all truth and is to be loved with "all our mind," Whitworth embraces freedom of inquiry and the unhindered pursuit of truth.

The college is dedicated to academic excellence as expressed through its core of liberal arts and sciences and through rigorous disciplinary and interdisciplinary study. A Whitworth education is designed to broaden students' understanding of our cultural heritage, to promote critical thinking, to prepare students for productive work, and to stimulate creativity in responding to the challenges of life.

As a Christian institution, Whitworth takes seriously its responsibility to help students understand and respond compassionately to the needs of the world. Recognizing that contemporary society is globally interdependent and that the call to a cross-cultural perspective is increasingly compelling, Whitworth promotes concern not only for domestic issues but for matters of international import, as well. The college welcomes to its campus students from other religious and cultural traditions, convinced that their presence deepens our understanding of the world. Whitworth respects the uniqueness of each individual and therefore encourages each toward self-understanding, optimum personal development, and respect for differences.

Whitworth is determined to foster in its students a desire for independent and lifelong learning. Of critical importance is the challenge to explore the relationships among faith, learning and culture. The college desires to graduate men and women who possess both the competence and the willingness to work toward a world in which the truth of God's redemptive love in Christ will be increasingly honored.