

Youngstown State University Core Values

We—the faculty, staff, administrators, and students of Youngstown State University—hold the following values essential to achieving the University’s mission:

Centrality of Students

We are a student-centered institution committed to the education, development, well-being, and success of students. In concert with our mission to help students grow intellectually, we strive to foster their personal, social, emotional, and career growth.

Excellence and Innovation in Teaching, Learning, and Scholarship

We value excellence and innovation in teaching and learning, both inside the classroom and out. Thus, we strive to offer outstanding academic programs; to foster intellectual inquiry, exploration, and discovery; to transcend traditional boundaries; to apply and perfect knowledge; to encourage creativity; to provide effective tools, technologies, and facilities for learning; and to excel in scholarship, including the “scholarship of teaching and learning”—an area of research that explores how individuals teach and learn.

Interconnectedness of Teaching, Scholarship, and Service

We view teaching, scholarship, and service as inseparable, mutually enriching elements of the University’s mission. The quality of education is highest when faculty and students at all levels—both undergraduate and graduate—engage in discipline-related scholarly activity and research; when they have opportunities to apply what they teach and learn; and when they can enhance their expertise through service to the profession, the community, and the world beyond.

Access and Diversity

We believe in the dignity and worth of all people; strive to foster an appreciation of, and respect for, differences among the human race; and celebrate the diversity that enriches the University and world. Diversity is an integral component of our curriculum and a vital element of our daily lives. Everyone is valued and welcome on the YSU campus.

Shared Vision and Identity

While we embrace and encourage the differences that make us human, we recognize that a shared vision and sense of identity are crucial to the institution’s success both now and in the future. These qualities must guide us as we seek to ensure the future of Youngstown State University and strive to achieve identified priorities, goals, and objectives, especially in difficult social and economic times.

Collaboration and Community Engagement

Youngstown State University is part of many extended and interconnected communities dependent upon the commitment, expertise, contributions, and perspectives of many, both inside and outside the institution. As scholar-citizens, we pledge to work collegially and cooperatively to nurture individuals; support teaching and learning; enrich the cultural environment; establish productive partnerships; provide responsible leadership; address community needs; and bring about the greater good of the collective whole—be it the University, the city of Youngstown, the Mahoning Valley, the state, the region, or the world.

Academic, Professional, and Personal Integrity

As a campus community, we expect all conduct to be rooted in integrity, mutual respect, and civility. We are committed to an environment that values ethical behavior, not only in teaching, learning, and scholarship but also in administrative-faculty relations, student services, fiscal affairs, athletic competition, extracurricular and social interaction, and other endeavors integral to life inside and outside the University.

Freedom of Expression and Intellectual Inquiry

We believe in a climate that promotes freedom of inquiry, the sharing of ideas, and meaningful debate. True learning and professional growth are possible only when individuals feel safe to pursue knowledge, engage in purposeful dialog, propose alternatives, ask questions, and respectfully disagree.

Lifelong Learning

Learning does not end when one graduates or leaves the University. Thus, we recognize the importance of instilling intellectual curiosity, a love for learning, critical- and creative-thinking skills, and other capacities for lifelong learning. We accept the responsibility to provide educational programs, professional workshops, cultural enrichment, workforce training, and other avenues of continued learning for students of all ages and from all walks in life.

Continuous Improvement and Accountability

As a dynamic and evolving institution of higher education, we affirm the need for constant improvement and hold ourselves to high standards of accountability. Only by assessing our strengths and weaknesses honestly, anticipating and responding creatively to threats and opportunities, and taking responsibility for our choices and actions can we create an environment conducive to excellence in teaching and learning.