

The OSU Shared Student Values

Created 2008

The OSU Shared Student Values

Conception and Creation

As the first student-created values statement in the Oregon University System, this living document has been a reflection of dedication, hard work, and the engagement of over a thousand students. In 2006, the P.E.A.C.E. OSU organization held forums to discuss issues within the OSU community. What came out of those forums was a desire to create a guiding document outlining the values shared by the student body. In June 2007, a team of students took the initiative to record these values. Over nine months, the Student Community Covenant Team has worked diligently to meet with students at organizational meetings, held open forums, participated in a symposium and conducted a survey to reach out to as wide a cross section of the student body as was possible in order to ascertain their values. Thank you for taking the time to reflect on the importance of this initiative.

Mission and Aspirations

We, the students at Oregon State University, are present within this community to complete a quest to better ourselves. To thrive intellectually, emotionally, personally, and socially requires us to draw closer together in the pursuit of our dreams. We feel that in order for us to succeed, it is paramount that we challenge each other to be in community. We pledge to embrace the values that were created by students, for students, to guide our time here.

Values

The values highlighted below will help create an environment in which fellow colleagues are able to prosper and grow. They were generated, defined and supported by OSU students and appear in no distinct order, all are equally important.

Respect is treating every individual with dignity, honor and generosity while valuing their humanity. Each individual, whether a student, faculty member, community member, or you, deserves to be treated honorably. This includes taking care of each other, each other's belongings and university property.

Empathy is putting yourself in the shoes of another, trying to understand where another person is coming from, who they are, their experiences, and their perspective. An empathetic person is willing to put their thoughts, feelings and perspectives aside and openly listen to others.

Inclusion is welcoming all people into a friendly, accepting and helpful atmosphere where diversity is not only embraced but also encouraged. It is honoring others as unique individuals who all have something to contribute.

Responsibility is holding yourself accountable for your words and actions, whether you believe them to be right or wrong. Responsible students meet their academic and personal commitments. They also consider how their actions could affect others, the university and the environment, and act accordingly.

Honesty and Trustworthiness go hand in hand. Honesty is telling the truth. Trustworthiness is establishing a reputation for honesty. Together, these are the foundations of our academic and social associations. In the academic arena, it is paramount that you do your own work and credit others when appropriate. In the social realm, honesty and trustworthiness create the space for strong and lasting relationships.

Openness is being continually ready to approach a situation with an open mind. An open-minded approach enables you to consider new ideas, try new things and relate to people with different perspectives. But openness is more than just being open-minded, it is also being willing to share yourself with others.

Awareness is knowing what's going on around you. This includes in the world, at the university and within your immediate vicinity. Awareness prepares you to make well-informed decisions. Self-awareness is recognizing your own needs, desires and your purpose in attending OSU.

Integrity is having a strong set of moral values and living up to them. People with a high level of integrity do what is right, for the right reasons, even when it is not easy and even when no one else is watching.

Growth is why you are at the university. We are all here for the same underlying reasons: to learn and to prepare ourselves for the life and career to which we aspire. Growth encompasses your personal, intellectual, spiritual, and physical development. It includes making mistakes and learning from them, thinking critically, asking questions and seeking answers, expressing your own ideas and exploring the ideas of others. It includes building relationships, discovering what you believe in and maintaining a healthful lifestyle.

Courage is the willingness to risk going outside your comfort zone in order to better yourself. It is important to be bold enough to ask that question in the midst of a packed lecture hall, to build a relationship with someone new, to learn about perspectives counter to your own, to seek help when you need it, or to take an intellectual risk on a paper or project. Courage includes standing up for what you believe in and facing challenges.

Thank You

We would like to take a moment to thank individuals who have been instrumental in the process of creating this ethos statement. First, we would like to thank the Student Community Covenant Team for all their hard work and energy on this initiative. They met weekly, hosted seven forums and one symposium to collect values, surveyed hundreds of students on the gathered values, drafted the values statement, and hosted an unveiling reception. The members include:

Angela Baxter

Sarah Bendickson

Duy Nguyen

Next, we would like to thank the students of Oregon State University. Without their contributions, this initiative would never have materialized. We would also like to thank the following students who assisted in gathering values from student organizations:

Nadine Honda

Shannon Reich

Greg Purdy

Matt Ryder

Gail Woodside

A sincere thanks goes to **Dr. Larry Roper** for his constant support, advice, funding and for being a sound board. You have helped each of us grow by providing the safe and open environment in which to work on this initiative. **Jodi Nelson** also significantly assisted this initiative by being a sounding board and offering support.

Others who have provided considerable support include **ASOSU**, the **Memorial Union**, **Student Leadership and Involvement**, **University Housing and Dining**, and the **Office of the Registrar**. **ASOSU** has co-sponsored events, assisted with advertising, co-funded, and provided opportunities for students to get involved. The **Memorial Union** provided in-kind donations and space to collect values. **Student Leadership and Involvement** provided a platform to gather values from the student body by allowing us to host a symposium. **University Housing and Dining** provided funding, space, and advertisement of the forums. **The Registrar** sent out numerous all-student emails announcing the forums, survey and reception. We would not have succeeded without your support.

Thank you!

This publication will be made available in an accessible format upon request.

Please call Office of the Dean of Student Life at 541-737-8748 or

Email: deanofstudents@oregonstate.edu

oregonstate.edu/deanofstudents/osussv