

From the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education
(<http://www.mass.edu/campuses/missionsc.asp>)

MISSION of the State Universities

There are six comprehensive state universities—Bridgewater State University, Fitchburg State University, Framingham State University, Salem State University, Westfield State University, and Worcester State University—and three specialized colleges—Massachusetts College of Art and Design, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, and Massachusetts Maritime Academy. The six comprehensive state universities integrate liberal arts and sciences programs with professional education, and the three specialized colleges also focus on academic areas identified in the college's name.

Each state university places a special emphasis on teaching and lifelong learning and promotes a campus life that fosters intellectual, social, and ethical development. Committed to excellence in instruction and to providing responsive, innovative, and educational programs of high quality, they seek to develop each student's critical thinking, quantitative, technological, oral, and written communication skills, and practical appreciation of the arts, sciences, and humanities as they affect good citizenship and an improved quality of life. The state universities provide a campus environment where the ideas, values, perspectives, and contributions of all students are respected.

Massachusetts state universities are strategically located to facilitate access to baccalaureate and master's degree programs for Commonwealth residents who meet their high standards for admission. In recognition of their responsibilities to Massachusetts taxpayers to manage their resources efficiently and to maintain tuition and fees at a level as low as possible, each university has a distinctive academic focus based upon its established strengths and regional and state needs. Each university is a leader and resource for the community and contributes to the region's cultural, environmental, and economic development.

Below is a summary of the most frequent comments collected in the campus-wide survey regarding our mission.

When asked the critical mission of WSU, key issues emanating from the comments included:

- **Populations Served:** WSU should continue to serve students for whom it is important that it remain affordable. At the same time, increase diversity and admit underserved populations in a welcoming, safe, and secure environment.
- **Regional Focus:** It is important that WSU retain its role of contributing to the economic, social, and cultural vitality of the region, with service to the local community, Western Massachusetts and the Pioneer Valley, and the entire Commonwealth.
- **Career:** WSU trains students for jobs, careers, and workplace success; some viewing this as part of a well-rounded graduate along with liberal arts. Others view the two educational goals as in tension or contradictory.
- **Liberal Arts:** WSU should graduate leaders who as citizens are well informed members of society, with critical thinking skills, an understanding of social justice and world affairs, and life-long learners. Again, some view this in contrast with preparation for employment, while others consider the two complementary.
- **Teaching:** WSU's mission should be academic excellence—to provide a quality education to students, with the emphasis more on teaching than on the liberal arts/job preparation distinction.

For faculty and alumni, the mission of delivering a liberal arts education was most mentioned, followed by serving various populations and educational affordability, while staff most often mentioned teaching. and the populations served. Senior administrators more often valued the liberal arts tradition, followed by career preparation. Students did not respond to this question.

Westfield State Mission Statement: Our goal was to refine the mission statement to emphasize the mission critical features contained in the previous mission while considering the responses from the community regarding our mission moving forward, all within the context dictated by the Department of Higher Ed.

Current Mission Statement	Revised Mission Statement
<p>Westfield State University fosters intellectual curiosity, encourages critical thinking, inspires civic engagement, and promotes a global perspective. A public teaching institution offering quality programs in the liberal arts and sciences with complementing professional studies curricula, we are grounded in our founding principles of academic excellence and educating all in a diverse and welcoming community. Westfield State develops the knowledge, skills, and character essential for students to reach their full potential and become responsible leaders in society. We contribute to the economic, social, and cultural vitality of the region.</p>	<p>Westfield State University is a comprehensive, public institution providing an exemplary, accessible and affordable education. The University offers a welcoming, student-centered community where lifelong learners are inspired to maximize their potential and are guided along a path of discovery. We encourage the economic, social, and cultural growth of the region by developing the knowledge, skills, and character essential for students to become responsible leaders on society.</p>

Vision Statement: Our goal was to refine our vision statement to the essential features, ensure that it is aspirational, and frame it such that all members of the community can easily remember this vision on a daily basis.

Current Vision

Westfield State University will be recognized for its academic excellence and engaged scholarship. The University will graduate well-rounded and creative leaders able to embrace the challenges and opportunities ahead, contribute to their fields, and improve their communities. Students will gain and create knowledge through multiple forms of learning, including experiential education and faculty-led scholarship. Our globally engaged community will include student, faculty/librarians, and staff international exchanges and active explorations of critical world issues.

The programs and functions of the University will be supported with modern facilities, library, and information technology, adequate staffing, and funding to support student and program needs.

Westfield State will stand out as an institution operating sustainably, growing responsibly, and maintaining a cohesive, functional, and aesthetically pleasing campus.

Westfield State University will be an inclusive place where decision making reflects the concerns and voices of all parts of the campus community. The University will exemplify how to value diversity and benefit from collaborative decision making. The strong bond among the campus community will make it a place where students, faculty/librarians, and staff want to learn, teach, and work.

Revised Vision

Westfield State University strives to be the premier public comprehensive institution in the Northeast region through its commitment to student engagement and success.

Values Statement: Our goal was to refine our values statement to identify those which are essential to our mission and vision as well and so that the values are easily recalled and thus implementable on a daily basis.

Current Values Statement	Revised Values
<p data-bbox="203 695 537 726"><i>We commit ourselves to...</i></p> <ul data-bbox="251 737 795 1304" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="251 737 795 810">• Treating all members of our community with dignity and <i>respect</i>.<li data-bbox="251 821 795 978">• Building community by being <i>inclusive</i>, supporting the personal development of all community members, and embracing multiple perspectives.<li data-bbox="251 989 795 1062">• Maintaining <i>excellence</i> and <i>integrity</i> in all that we do.<li data-bbox="251 1073 795 1146">• Supporting civic engagement in local, regional and global initiatives.<li data-bbox="251 1157 795 1230">• Making decisions in a transparent and <i>collaborative</i> manner.<li data-bbox="251 1241 795 1304">• Providing <i>affordable</i> public higher education.	<p data-bbox="820 695 1154 726"><i>We commit ourselves to...</i></p> <ul data-bbox="868 768 1162 1062" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="868 768 1162 810">• Diversity<li data-bbox="868 821 1162 863">• Inclusion and Equity<li data-bbox="868 873 1162 915">• Respect<li data-bbox="868 926 1162 968">• Excellence<li data-bbox="868 978 1162 1020">• Integrity<li data-bbox="868 1031 1162 1073">• Access<li data-bbox="868 1083 1162 1125">• Collaboration