



*“Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity.”*

— Horace Mann  
First president of Antioch College  
Excerpt from 1859 commencement address

## About Antioch University Seattle

Antioch University has a 157-year tradition of excellence, innovation and leadership among American colleges and universities. Founded in 1852 as Antioch College, a small liberal arts institution in Yellow Springs, Ohio, with the famed social reformer, abolitionist and educator Horace Mann as its first president, it has never wavered in its commitment to high quality education, social justice and inclusiveness.

Today, Antioch is a national, multi-campus university. The Seattle campus has carried on the Antioch tradition in the Pacific Northwest for more than 35 years, providing student-centered programs that recognize and value the diversity of individual backgrounds.

### **Antioch’s Mission**

Antioch University is founded on principles of rigorous liberal arts education, innovative experiential learning and socially engaged citizenship. The multiple campuses of the University nurture in their students the knowledge, skills and habits of reflection to act as lifelong learners, democratic leaders and global citizens who live lives of meaning and purpose.

### **A Distinctive Approach**

Antioch’s campuses, including the Seattle campus, are small, with limited class sizes and an intimate environment. Students receive strong support from expert faculty members who are both scholars and practitioners in their respective fields, and whose concern is with students’ personal as well as intellectual and professional growth. Since Horace Mann’s day, Antioch students have made significant contributions to a just and humane world – not only after graduation but also while still pursuing their degrees. All students – regardless of the program in which they are enrolled – participate in practica, internships and community projects of various kinds and learn from direct experience as well as from theory and research.

Learning at Antioch is interactive and based in real world experience. Most classes are seminar style, with students and faculty engaged together in discussion. Lectures are infrequent and critical thinking is always expected. The Antioch learning experience is designed not only to be informative, but also transformative. No grades are given. Rather, students receive regular written performance

assessments from members of the faculty. Students rarely take objective examinations. They are challenged in far deeper ways to call on all their personal, creative and intellectual resources, to learn to recognize patterns and connections, to think systematically and inventively, to write crisply and clearly, and to hone their capacities to contribute toward a better world.

Because Antioch draws students with deeply formed commitments to work, family and community, classes are scheduled at times that harmonize with full lives. Many classes meet in the evenings or on weekends. Some programs offer intensive short residencies interspersed with periods of independent study and project work. Students communicate with one another and with faculty members both online and face-to-face. Undergraduate students may demonstrate college-level learning acquired from work and life experience – and, as appropriate, receive credit toward a B.A. degree for such learning. With faculty assistance, students in some programs may design their own degree plans and areas of concentration so they can focus their work on topics of particular interest to them rather than on a set curriculum with rigid, one-size-fits-all requirements.

### **A History of Innovation and Inclusiveness**

From its beginnings, Antioch has pioneered innovative educational approaches that have gone on to become widely accepted across the country. Independent and interdisciplinary studies, self-designed degree plans and integration of work experience with rigorous classroom learning all developed early at Antioch. The institution also has been a leader in its inclusiveness and in welcoming people of diverse backgrounds and viewpoints. Antioch College was among America's first co-educational institutions and among the first to admit students regardless of race.

Its alumni have included distinguished civil rights leaders such as Coretta Scott King and Eleanor Holmes Norton. Antioch continues to lead the way in making higher learning accessible to populations who have been denied such opportunities in the past. The University maintains a culturally diverse faculty and staff, and expects its students to become adept at working with people from all backgrounds. The Seattle campus in particular is distinguished by its collaborations with Native American communities to deliver learning opportunities in tribal settings.