

Purpose of this Handbook

This Administrative Professional (AP) Handbook summarizes Washington State University (WSU or University) policies and procedures for Administrative Professional personnel. It conveys information regarding WSU services, facilities, and employee benefits, as well as other information required by state and federal governments. The handbook is web-based with links to complete information on most subjects. Periodic updates will be provided electronically on the Human Resource Services web site and announced through WSU Announcements. If you have questions about information in the handbook, please contact Human Resource Services at 509-335-4521.

Administrative Professional employees provide key support in the areas of research, public information, development, computer systems and network programming, personnel, legislative relations, internal audit, counseling, graphic arts, extension, and/or continuing education. Others serve as executive heads, principal assistants, managers, supervisors, and serve in related capacities that maintain continuity of operations within the University community. As a group, Administrative Professional employees function as a significant link between the teaching, research, extension, and Civil service staff who support WSU's mission.

About Washington State University

A Brief History

Washington State University was founded March 28, 1890, less than five months after Washington's entry into the Union, by the first Washington legislature. WSU was established under the Morrill Act of 1862, which provided grants of land to each state for a college providing education in agricultural and mechanical arts as well as in the liberal arts.

The Morrill Act opened higher education to groups who previously had been excluded. In a quiet way, the Morrill Act was a revolutionary document aimed at enhancing the equality of higher education opportunities.

WSU originally was named Washington State Agricultural College and School of Science; however, before the first classes began in January 1892, the name was changed to Agricultural College, Experiment Station, and School of Science of the State of Washington. In 1905, the name once again was changed, this time to State College of Washington. This name endured until 1959 when it was changed to Washington State University. Refer to WSU web site for additional information [WSU](#)

Past presidents of WSU were George Lilley, 1891–92; John W. Heston, 1892–93; Enoch A. Bryan, 1893–1915; Ernest O. Holland, 1916–44; Wilson Compton, 1945–51; C. Clement French, 1952–66; Glenn Terrell, 1967–85; and Samuel H. Smith 1985-2000. V. Lane Rawlins 2000-2007, Elson S. Floyd WSU's current chief executive, became President in 2007.

More detailed information about President Elson S. Floyd, Presidential Committees, the Board of Regents, and Washington State University can be found on the President's web site [President's Office](#)

Characteristics, Mission and Strategic Plan

As a public, land-grant and research institution of distinction, Washington State University enhances the intellectual, creative, and practical abilities of the individuals, institutions, and communities that we serve by fostering learning, inquiry, and engagement.

Washington State University offers a premier undergraduate experience, conducts and stimulates world-class research, graduate and professional education, scholarship and arts, and provides an exemplary working and learning environment that fosters engagement.

WSU is guided by a commitment to excellence embodied in a set of core values: Quality and Excellence; Integrity, Trust, and Respect; Discovery, Innovation, and Creativity; Land-grant Ideals; Diversity and Global Citizenship; Freedom of Expression; Stewardship and Accountability. A copy of the Strategic Plan can be found: [Strategic Plan](#).

Policy for Administrative Professional Employees

This handbook conveys information about the nature, operation, and organization of WSU, summarizing WSU policies relating to Administrative Professional employees. Neither this handbook nor any University policies, procedures, or practices shall be construed as an express or implied contract of employment or a promise of continued employment.

Although this handbook contains a compilation of current policies relating to Administrative Professional employment, these policies evolve over time as the institution and its internal and external environments change. For these reasons, the University reserves the right to revise this handbook or any of its policies or benefits or to institute new policies or benefits, provided these changes are not inconsistent with state and federal law. Any such modification applies upon adoption by the University, regardless of previous provisions that may have been in effect. The most current revision of the handbook is available on the Human Resource Services web site.

The laws of the state of Washington and appropriate Washington Administrative Code provisions also apply to all employees, as does the University's Business Policies and Procedures Manual (BPPM). A link to the manual can be found at [BPPM](#). All University policies are subject to federal and state laws; where there is deemed to be a conflict, the provisions of law apply.

Recruitment, Selection and Salary Procedures

Washington State University is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action employer. The procedures for recruitment, selection and salary determination of Administrative Professional personnel are outlined in BPPM chapter 60 as follows:

- Selecting Administrative Personnel, BPPM 60.17
- Classification and Reclassification, BPPM 60.02
- Administrative Professional Salary Determination and Adjustment, BPPM 60.12