

# Antioch University Seattle Commons



Antioch, as its mission statement proclaims, is “founded on principles of rigorous liberal arts education, innovative experiential learning and socially engaged citizenship.” All three of these principles imply breadth of perspective. Thus an Antioch education, undergraduate or graduate, encourages systems thinking, reflective practice and awareness of the social context of one’s professional, community and personal roles. Accordingly, Antioch provides its students with opportunities to participate in a University Commons – a shared intellectual territory not identified exclusively with any one discipline or Antioch program, but touching several. This Commons encompasses Antioch’s library services, its Learning and Teaching Cooperative, and its student life programs.

It also includes selected course offerings, addressing such questions as:

- What are the qualities, the attributes and the characteristics we seek as learners at Antioch?
- In what areas can we best enhance our capabilities for collaboration?
- What special skills and perspectives are required for that purpose?

Some classes are accepted as Commons-eligible because of their very wide appeal and appropriateness for students, faculty and staff, others because of their breadth of study. Generally, faculty in two or more academic disciplines or programs jointly develop Commons courses, which are then applicable to degrees or certificates in multiple academic centers or programs. Often these courses are team-taught. Often they offer variable credit. Cross-program courses intrinsically are for the common good, as are writing and research classes that enhance students’ capacity for intellectual work in a variety of contexts. All students are encouraged to consider how the Commons courses may fit their degree plans and enhance their learning.

## Writing at the Learning & Teaching Cooperative

As part of the Commons, Antioch Seattle has developed a writing program that is innovative and integrative across academic programs. Both undergraduate and graduate students may find writing classes in one location: the LT Coop. Students enrolled in writing courses find themselves in classes with students across programs with a common goal: to learn and grow as writers. These writing courses offer Antioch students a broad scope of writing experience, from understanding the writing process, to academic writing, to formal research and inquiry, to technical and professional writing. The courses are designed with a very specific educational goal to bring writing to a critical examination within the academic experience at Antioch Seattle.