1.S - Criterion 1 - Summary

The institution’s mission is clear and articulated publicly; it guides the institution’s operations.

Summary

CWRU’s mission, to improve people’s lives through its educational programs and research activities, is clearly stated within the documents that the university presents to the public (e.g. the CWRU General Bulletin, various annual reports, and several other magazines and publications). Similar information is presented throughout the university’s digital environment. The university recognizes the importance of articulating its goals clearly and accurately to all of its internal and external constituencies.

CWRU’s mission statement guides the university’s operations on several levels. For example, the mission statement provides references that are used for project prioritization and allocations of human, financial, and infrastructure resources across the institution and its academic units. In addition, the mission statement provides guidance to the planning activities (such as the major strategic planning processes which culminated in 2008 and 2013) that take place at the institutional level, as well as within the academic units.

Diversity and inclusiveness are important core values at CWRU. In recent years, the university has invested resources to diversify its student populations, to establish the Office of Inclusion, Diversity, and Equal Opportunity, and to open the Center for International Affairs, among other efforts. Many of CWRU’s academic programs and research activities focus on the diversity of society. In addition, CWRU has received accolades and awards for its efforts relative to LGBT concerns, diversity programming, and business policies that favor utilizing women- and minority-owned businesses as vendors.

The principle of contributing to the public good is a pervasive theme at CWRU and provides the underlying impetus for many of the university's academic programs, research activities, and outreach and engagement with the community. CWRU’s strengths in contributing to the public good have resulted in the university being recognized (e.g., in the Washington Monthly’s university rankings for service orientation) as a national leader in this area. Examples include the academic degree programs within Mandel School of Applied Social Sciences as well as the scholarly research performed by its faculty. Academic programs and events offered through the Social Justice Institute likewise focus on societal benefit. Community and global health programs (and many others from within the Schools of Medicine, Dental Medicine, and Nursing) contribute directly to the public good. Either directly or indirectly, many of the research and scholarly activities in the health sciences, the social sciences, engineering, and the physical sciences also contribute to societal benefit. Commitment to the public interest is evident in programs and scholarly activity in the humanities, arts, management, and law. The university also serves as a rich resource to the public through the arts and cultural programming, educational outreach, and community service opportunities it offers.

Sources

There are no sources.