

**A STATEMENT OF VALUES
FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN AND ITS MEMBERS**

As a public university in Africa we fully embrace our African identity. We are committed to utilising our resources to widen educational and social opportunities, enhance the quality of life of individuals and communities, build an equitable social order based on respect for human rights, and advance the public good through knowledge generation, teaching and active engagement with key challenges facing our society – South African, continental and global.

The University is a community of scholars, teachers, students and staff. A community implies the adherence by its members to certain shared values. This statement of values provides a framework that proactively guides our actions. The statement also serves as the foundation for a range of University policies. As a community, the University commits itself, and expects all its members to commit to upholding these values in institutional and personal relationships, and in all aspects of University life.

VALUES

We commit ourselves to

Academic values

- excellence in research, teaching and innovation
- ensuring that research informs all our activities including teaching, learning and service to the community
- the importance of all types of research from basic to applied and creative
 - advancing and disseminating knowledge that addresses the key challenges facing society - South African, continental and global
 - protecting "curiosity driven research" and
 - nurturing and valuing creativity in the arts including the performing and creative arts
- a high quality and holistic student experience
- a culture of learning and development, which is reflective and is supportive of students, scholars, teachers and PASS staff
- intellectual honesty, rigour in debate, openness to alternative ideas and respect for other views, ways of being, beliefs and opinions
- promote the academic interrogation of boundaries, knowledge traditions and power relations
- promote academic freedom, including the creation of spaces for the contestation of ideas
- advance knowledge about the African continent and academics on the continent as international thought leaders
- enable access for academically eligible students regardless of their financial circumstances

Institutional culture

- inclusiveness, embodying respect for cultural, religious, linguistic, political, and other differences and acknowledgement of the value of diversity in society
- fairness, consistency, and integrity in both academic and other work, and in all personal and institutional relationships
- build on the best of UCT's legacy, while interrogating the historical values and assumptions that inform our institutional culture and the academic project
- refrain from speech or conduct that demeans or humiliates people
- recognise the value of the role played by the professional and administrative support staff in supporting the academic project and the quality of the student experience
- advance the principle of collegiality, open governance and to be fully accountable for our actions, decisions, and the stewardship of the University's resources and mission

Environment, health and safety, institutional resources

- the protection and responsible use of the University's assets and resources, including access to its repositories of knowledge and the stewardship of intellectual property
- the protection and conservation of the environment and natural resources
- the promotion of the health and wellbeing and personal safety of all members of the community