

The Seattle School of Theology & Psychology

Institutional Profile

ONE INSTITUTION, THREE EXPRESSIONS

The Seattle School of Theology & Psychology has grown from a graduate institution into a broader ecosystem of learning that serves students, practitioners, leaders, organizations, and communities.

Today, The Seattle School fulfills its mission through three interconnected expressions: the Graduate School, Allender Center, and The Center for Transforming Engagement. Together, these expressions offer graduate education, professional training, leadership development, continuing education, and community-based learning opportunities that extend the institution's reach far beyond a traditional academic model.

Each expression serves distinct audiences and outcomes, yet all are united by a shared commitment to the study of text, soul, and culture and the belief that meaningful transformation occurs through relationship. Each also utilizes small-group experiences that allow participants to engage one another with curiosity, honesty, and care. These settings foster the capacity to listen deeply, wrestle with complexity, integrate learning, and cultivate wisdom in community.

Graduate School: Formation for Vocation

The Graduate School forms reflective practitioners through rigorous academic study and vocational preparation. Through master's degree programs and graduate certificates, students engage theology, psychology, and culture in ways that shape both personal and professional identity. The Graduate School seeks to develop practitioners with the capacity to serve others with wisdom, competence, and care.

Allender Center: Transformation Through Story

The Allender Center equips individuals and communities to engage personal and collective stories with courage and compassion. Through conferences, certificate programs, story groups, and professional training, participants cultivate greater self-awareness, resilience, and capacity for healing. The Allender Center's work is rooted in the conviction that transformation emerges when stories are explored within the context of trustworthy relationships.

The Center for Transforming Engagement: Leadership in Practice

The Center for Transforming Engagement equips leaders and organizations with practical tools and adaptive frameworks to navigate change in real-world contexts. Through leadership development programs, learning communities, and organizational engagement, participants cultivate the capacity to remain present, regulated, curious, and responsive amid complexity and disruption.

BEGINNINGS

Established in 1997, The Seattle School of Theology & Psychology resides in the heart of the Judkins Park neighborhood of Seattle, Washington. The Seattle School offers two graduate degrees: MA in Counseling Psychology and MA in Theology & Culture, as well as various certificates and enrichment programming. Focused on a transformational education through deep relationality, the school is committed to train people to be competent in the study of text, soul, and culture in order to serve God and neighbor through transforming relationships.

The Seattle School is an Equal Opportunity Employer with a strong commitment to excellence and diversity throughout the school. Since its founding the school has been committed to training therapists, pastors, leaders, practitioners, and social entrepreneurs. We have been identified as a leader and innovator in theological education – forming provocateurs of change embodying the intersections of text, soul, and culture.

Mission

Our mission is to train people to be competent in the study of text, soul, and culture in order to serve God and neighbor through transforming relationships.

The mission of training people for competence in the study of text, soul and culture has remained consistent. The Seattle School began out of a commitment to interdisciplinary training around three core values: scripture, relationship, and cultural engagement.

As the understanding of our mission statement has matured through pedagogy and practice, the vision of text, soul, and culture has been refined. The curriculum includes a significant focus on the narrative character of scripture and the "text" of written expression and personal account. "Soul" has been shaped by the interdisciplinary exchange between theological and psychological discourse, which has produced an emphasis on relationality, community, imago Dei (image of God), human suffering, and healing. "Culture" has potential to be the most influential variable within the curriculum because it challenges learners to formulate responses to the larger questions of human flourishing through our commitment to individual and collective spiritual revitalization.

Together, these commitments have shaped an institution that prepares therapists, pastors, leaders, spiritual directors, artists, activists, and practitioners to engage their communities with wisdom, courage, curiosity, and care.

OUR DISTINCT APPROACH

At The Seattle School, education is understood as more than the transfer of information or the acquisition of professional skills. We believe meaningful learning involves the whole person and occurs through the integration of intellectual rigor, personal formation, relational engagement, and practical experience. This conviction is reflected throughout the institution, whether learners are pursuing a graduate degree, engaging in story work, participating in leadership development, or joining a professional learning community, they are invited into a process that engages both who they are and how they serve in the world.

Narrative (Personal Transformation Through Story)

We believe that who you are is essential to the work you are called to do. Embedded within our curriculum and culture is a desire for you to know your own story – for the sake of redemption and transformation. At The Seattle School, we embrace the philosophy that we can only take the other as far as we are willing to go ourselves.

Relationship (Our Trinitarian and Missional Foundation)

We believe the Triune God is made known as we live into the sacredness of human relationships. Our programs and offerings are designed to reflect God's relational way of being. In leadership, ministry, and therapy, we believe that transformation is rooted in the authenticity and care of the relationship developed with neighbors, parishioners, and clients.

Community (A Cohort Model)

We believe it is in the context of community that we are opened up to seeing our stories and the stories of others in ways that we are unable to see on our own. Our programs value an educational model where students journey alongside one another and whenever possible, lectures and events are enhanced by dialogical interaction and small group engagement. Even in online models, we prioritize community and relationship.

Integration (The Integration of Theology, Psychology, & Culture)

How people understand the world we live in is an integral part of how we relate to others and to God. How we understand humanity, its beauty and its brokenness, affects how we engage each other and how we see God and the Church. How we understand God impacts how we understand the world. At The Seattle School, we engage theology, psychology, and culture both in their distinct disciplines and in their points of intersection to develop adaptive leaders and practitioners able to hold complexity and practice wisdom.

Dialogue (A Variety of Practice)

Our commitment to text, soul, and culture invites people with varying approaches to ministry, therapy, and cultural engagement into dialogue with one another. We invite faculty and thought leaders with diverse psychological models, denominational backgrounds, and theological understandings to the table for discourse.

Training (Practical Experience as Education)

We believe that learning is fostered by hands-on experience alongside skill and knowledge building. We help people hone their interpersonal awareness, emotional intelligence, and the skills necessary to make use of their knowledge in personal, therapeutic, pastoral, and cultural contexts. Our integration of knowing, being, and doing shapes self-aware provocateurs of change.

Intercultural Credibility (Capacity to Engage a Diverse and Changing Society)

Intercultural credibility reflects our continuing commitment to discourse, relationship, and growth as we join God in the work of redemption through community. This is an active commitment to becoming trustworthy by 1) developing the capacity to recognize the cultural contexts and biases that shape our identities; 2) creating generous practices that engage others with courage, loving curiosity, and mutuality; 3) engaging in robust theological discourse in light of Christian tradition(s) and relentlessly changing culture(s); 4) and being faithfully present in the Way of Christ to expand communities and systems with an imagination for the biblical practice of Shalom.

Institutional Learning Outcomes

The Seattle School's Institutional Learning Outcomes articulate the qualities and capacities we seek to cultivate across all three expressions of the institution. They reflect our mission, educational philosophy, and commitment to preparing people who can engage the world with wisdom, courage, and care.

Through the study of text, soul, and culture, learners are equipped not only with knowledge and professional competence, but with greater capacity for presence, resilience, and service. The goal is not simply to prepare people for a profession, but to cultivate embodied listeners, meaning makers, and community healers who contribute to the flourishing of individuals, organizations, and communities. Upon program completion, a learner at The Seattle School will be a(n)...

Embodied Listener	Meaning Maker	Community Healer
Thoughtfully engages context and culture with a listening posture	Applies scholarship-informed learning toward the good of human flourishing in a complex world	Serves God and neighbor through transforming relationships
Demonstrates growth toward healthier self-awareness	Engages individual and collective stories with credibility & care	Pursues personal healing in service of collective wholeness
Cultivates healing relationships marked by observation, openness, and curiosity	Grows in theological awareness of God's work in the world	Responsibly stewards common resources
Attends to felt experience in the body and its impact	Analyzes assumptions, asks generative questions, and critiques to create	Cultivates more equitable, inclusive, and sustainable spaces and systems

THEOLOGICAL IDENTITY

[Please click here to visit our website to access our complete theological identity documents.](#)

LOOKING AHEAD

As The Seattle School approaches its next chapter, it remains committed to its founding mission while expanding the ways that mission is lived and shared. In a rapidly changing educational landscape, the institution is exploring new opportunities to make transformational learning more accessible through both degree and non-degree pathways across all three expressions.

This evolution reflects a growing recognition that learners seek meaningful engagement at different stages of life, vocation, and leadership. While graduate education remains central to the institution's identity, The Seattle School is increasingly developing opportunities for lifelong learning through professional training, leadership development, continuing education, certificates, and community-based learning experiences.

At the same time, the institution remains committed to cultivating spaces where curiosity, complexity, and dialogue are welcomed. In an increasingly fragmented and polarized world, The Seattle School seeks to foster thoughtful engagement across differences while preparing people to navigate uncertainty with wisdom, humility, and resilience.

Looking ahead, The Seattle School will continue to build upon its distinctive integration of text, soul, and culture while deepening collaboration across its three expressions. Through the transforming relationships that define its educational approach, the institution seeks to develop embodied listeners, meaning makers, and community healers who contribute to the healing and rebuilding of individuals, organizations, communities, and culture.

AT A GLANCE

- **FOUNDED**

1997

- **LOCATION**

Seattle, Washington

- **MISSION**

To train people to be competent in the study of text, soul, and culture in order to serve God and neighbor through transforming relationships

- **LEARNING EXPRESSIONS**

Graduate School

Allender Center

The Center for Transforming Engagement

- **GRADUATE PROGRAMS**

Master of Arts in Counseling Psychology (MACP)

Master of Arts in Theology & Culture (MATC)

Graduate Certificates

- **ACCREDITATION**

Accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU)

- **CURRENT STUDENTS**

233

- **ALUMNI**

Graduate Programs: 1,725+

Narrative Focused Trauma Care®
Graduates: 1,600

Leaders Trained Through CTE: 450

- **FACULTY**

9 Core Faculty

17 Adjunct Faculty

5 Affiliate Faculty

- **DISTINCTIVE FRAMEWORK**

Text, Soul, and Culture

- **INSTITUTIONAL LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Embodied Listener

Meaning Maker

Community Healer