

Chase Center Mission Summary

Ohio Revised Code § 3335.39:

(A)(1) The Salmon P. Chase center for civics, culture, and society . . . shall conduct teaching and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the American constitutional order and society.

(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center to do all of the following:

(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;

(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills, habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own informed conclusions on matters of social and political importance;

(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of the university;

(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion that shall naturally exist in a public university community.

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(C)(1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the following:

(a) The books and major debates which form the intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of the United States;

(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the American constitutional order;

(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed citizenship.

(2) The center also shall focus on both of the following:

(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the values of free speech and civil discourse;

(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the university's academic community.

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The Ohio State University Administration, Board of Trustees, and Chase Academic Council specifications created for Executive Director:

- The importance of an informed and engaged citizenry to American democracy;
- How the United States Constitution and the constitutions of the fifty states embody the foundational principles of Western democratic society, such as liberty and equality;
- Comparisons to alternative forms of government (e.g., autocracy, monarchy, and theocracy) and the societal conditions necessary to maintain a democratic republic;
- The fundamental structure and principles of the United States Constitution, including the Bill of Rights and subsequent amendments;

- The organization of governmental institutions and organizations at the local, state, and national levels, and the role of government officials within the framework of the Constitution;
- The foundational principles of democratic-republican government as set forth in the Declaration of Independence and applied in practice by the founders and later statesmen such as Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and Salmon P. Chase among others;
- The primacy of First Amendment free speech in cultivating democratic citizenship and preserving individual rights;
- Developing students' discourse skills so that they can discuss and debate even the most complex and contentious issues in a civil and productive manner;
- Building relationships with key internal and external interested parties regarding center operations; and
- Collaborate with individuals and programs within the University to enhance the Chase Center's curriculum and develop additional interdisciplinary offerings that elevate the University's efforts in these important areas.