



WASHINGTON STATE
UNIVERSITY

Compliance and Risk Management Report

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Focus on Enterprise Risks

Top 10 Risks for 2024

1. Enrollment Trends
2. Financial Sustainability
3. Athletics
4. Facilities and Deferred Maintenance
5. Employee Recruitment and Retention
6. Faculty and Staff Morale
7. Political Climate/Social Change/Free Speech
8. Cyber Security
9. Civil Rights Compliance
10. System Transition





Political
Climate/Social
Change/Free
Speech

7 / 33

“At Washington State University, freedom of speech and expression is essential to who we are.”

<https://freespeech.wsu.edu>

Cyber Security

8 / 33



Colleges, universities and research institutions are uniquely vulnerable to attacks from cyber criminals, but a concerted effort from administrators and students can minimize the risk.

<https://business.bofa.com/en-us/content/cyber-security-in-higher-education.html>



Diving into risk

ERM Review Detail

Risk Description

What actually is the risk, and who is managing it?

Current Controls

What is in place to mitigate the risks?

Gap Analysis

What are the residual or remaining risks?

Status

What has been done in the past year to address the risks?

**POLITICAL & SOCIAL
CLIMATE AND SPEECH ON
CAMPUS**



Without freedom of thought, there can be no such thing as wisdom - and no such thing as public liberty without freedom of speech.

Benjamin Franklin

Diving into risk

Risk Description

Need to balance free speech rights with teaching and research.

Current Controls

Mitigating through cross-functional, systemwide response.

Gap Analysis

Universities facing increased scrutiny nationally.

Status

Ramping up preparations for an active academic year.



RISK DESCRIPTION

Balancing free speech with teaching /research mission

WSU must protect the free speech rights of all parties while ensuring teaching, research, and service mission continues



RISK DESCRIPTION

Balancing free speech with teaching /research mission

We “must tolerate insulting, and even outrageous, speech in order to provide adequate ‘breathing room’ to the freedoms protected by the First Amendment.”

U.S. Supreme Court, *Boos v. Barry*,
(1988)



RISK DESCRIPTION

Balancing free speech with teaching /research mission

Universities “play a critical role in exposing students to the ‘marketplace of ideas’ and, as a result, First Amendment protections must be applied with particular vigilance...”

U.S. Supreme Court, *Husain v. Springer*, (2007)



CURRENT CONTROLS

Protecting free speech is a “team sport”

- Provost’s Office
- Human Resource Services
- Student Affairs
- Compliance and Civil Rights
- Campus leadership
- CERT/bias response teams
- Emergency management
- WSU law enforcement



GAP ANALYSIS

Universities facing increased scrutiny



- Geopolitical issues
- Inquiries from federal and state officials
- Increasing distrust of higher education
- Sharply divided nation
- 2024 election season



STATUS

Addressing the risk



- Time, place, manner
- Educating students, faculty, and staff
- Reviewing policies and practices
- Sharing lessons learned and best practices with other universities

CYBERSECURITY





Cybersecurity is no longer about Impact vs Likelihood: It is a Choice and a Balance

There is no such thing as "perfect protection."



The objective is to build a sustainable cybersecurity program that balances the value of protection against the needs of WSU



WSU Outcome-Driven Metrics (ODMs) to Measure Cybersecurity Risk

Incident Containment Time	Incident Remediation Time	OS Patching Cadence	Third-Party Risk Engagement
Unassessed Third Parties	Expired Policy Exceptions	Endpoint Protection Coverage	Ransomware Recovery Exercise
Ransomware Downtime Workarounds	Cloud Security Coverage	Privileged Access Management	Access Removal Time
Multifactor Authentication Coverage	Security Awareness Training	Phishing Training Click-Throughs	Phishing Reporting Rates



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Identity is the New Perimeter

Our first and most crucial line of defense against modern threats is securing the identity of our users.

Keeping it simple, we can ensure that our most valuable assets—our people—are the key to resilience by focusing on:

- multi-factor authentication
- ongoing security training



Reducing Risk and Strengthening our Security Posture

Phishing resilience through ongoing training and enhanced user awareness.

- Phishing attacks target human vulnerabilities
- We empower users as the first line of defense
- Reduce risk through proactive education, vigilance

