

# The Seattle University Seal



The seal is the university's formal emblem representing our traditions of academic excellence, Jesuit education, and the dynamic opportunities afforded by our location.

## History of the Seal

Seattle University has had a formal seal for more than a century. During this time the seal has evolved through three changes. Each change has increased the impact and clarity of the symbolism of the seal. The seal has also changed to reflect the evolution of the university from Seattle College to Seattle University. The origin of the original seal is not known, but there is some indication that it was designed by the late James Brogan, SJ, pastor of St. Joseph's Church. Father Brogan was instrumental in designing the seal of Gonzaga University as well. Sometime before 1956 the seal was refined by Neil Meany, SJ. The current refinement of the university seal was designed by David Balzer, Seattle University's creative director, and formally approved by Seattle University President Stephen V. Sundborg, SJ, in July 2003. The current seal was updated to reinforce the Jesuit tradition of Seattle University and to recognize the university's location in the city of Seattle and the Northwest.

## Explanation of Symbols

### The eagle

At the top of the emblem is an American bald eagle, from the great shield of the United States.

### The two wolves hovering over a hanging pot

The shield contains two devices from the emblem for the house of Loyola. In the Seattle University seal these devices are found in the upper left and lower right shield quadrants. In the upper left quadrant are two wolves (one representing the house of Onaz, the second wolf the house of Loyola) hovering over a hanging pot, the traditional symbol of the generosity of the Loyola family.

### IHS

In the top right quadrant of the shield are the letters "IHS," from the first three letters in the Greek spelling of Jesus and of special significance to members of the Society of Jesus.

## **The Northwest**

In the lower left quadrant of the shield is a stand of western hemlocks, the official state tree of Washington, in the background is the snow-capped peak of Mt. Rainier. This identifies Seattle University with Seattle, the state of Washington, and the Northwest.

## **The seven ribbons**

The second device from the emblem for the house of Loyola in the bottom right shield quadrant are seven diagonal stripes representing the awards for valor made by the King of Spain to the house of Onaz. The house of Onaz was united to the house of Loyola through marriage prior to the time of Ignatius. The ribbons of valor are portrayed in red on a yellow field. The wolves and the ribbons of valor are devices common to the official seals of all Jesuit schools. The university colors, SU red and SU yellow, were selected due to their representation of the house of Loyola and the awards of valor.

## **The “1881” banner**

The banner located across the bottom of the seal contains the date of the founding of the university, 1891. This date represents not only the founding of the university but also the university’s long tradition of Jesuit education and academic excellence.

