

RELIGIOUS LIFE POLICIES AND STANDARDS

Wofford College

Wofford College offers opportunities for the religious and spiritual development of students, staff and faculty. Affiliated with the United Methodist Church, the College operates with Methodist sensibilities in that religious life is intentionally ecumenical and broadly-based. In order to provide our college community with diverse opportunities for religious and spiritual experiences, and in an effort to ensure those experiences are healthy, safe and transparent, the College has established the following policies:

The College Chaplain

The College Chaplain serves as pastor to the college community. As the administrator charged with oversight of the college's religious life, the College Chaplain is the primary institutional liaison for all religious life activities on the campus. Individuals or groups seeking to engage in on-going ministries or religious fellowships at Wofford College must consult with the College Chaplain regarding religious life policies and standards, and regarding procedures for registering their organization with the college prior to beginning activity on the campus.

Religious Life Representatives

Wofford College welcomes authorized representatives of diverse religious traditions to participate in and nurture religious life at the college. These professionals must be appointed officially in writing by their respective ecclesiastical or para-church agencies, must be accountable to those agencies for their work at Wofford College, and must register with the Office of the Chaplain prior to beginning their work on campus.

Campus Ministers

Representatives of duly constituted ecclesiastical bodies (e.g., a local church, synagogue, mosque, diocese, presbytery, conference, convention, etc.) shall be designated "Campus Ministers." These persons have seminary training and are credentialed by their endorsing body. These representatives may offer pastoral care from their own traditions to members of the college community and may advise student organizations in their traditions. An ecclesiastical body may register as many as two Campus Ministers.

Religious Workers

Representatives of national or regional nondenominational or para-church organizations shall be designated "Religious Workers." These representatives may attend regularly scheduled meetings of the student organization for which they serve as local advisors, meet with the student leaders of that organization, and meet by appointment with other members of the college community in locations on campus designated by the College Chaplain. An organization may register as many as two Religious Workers.

Privileges

Professionals registered with the Office of the Chaplain as religious life representatives are entitled to the following privileges:

- Use of public campus facilities to meet with their constituencies (as defined above), subject to ordinary college restrictions and availability.
- Announcement through Chaplain's Office publications and the college's Campus Ministry web page of their professional activity on campus.
- Participation in other aspects of the college's life as invited by the College Chaplain or other college officials.

7. While Wofford College recognizes that appropriate expressions of evangelism may be integral to a group's religious convictions and activities, the following behaviors are examples of actions which are not acceptable:

- door to door or other organized campaigns within residence halls (where students rightly expect their privacy to be respected), whether by students or representatives;
- visual displays or organizational announcements in classroom space;
- literature or survey campaigns where individuals cannot easily or comfortably avoid being approached by those distributing the literature or surveys;
- intrusion through unwanted or unannounced visits,
- phone calls or mailings (including email);
- persistence in personal invitations of any kind, including personal visits and electronic communication (IM, email) to a group's meetings or activities after the invitee has clearly indicated a desire not to participate in that group's life or activities.

This list is not exhaustive.

8. Religious Life Representatives will show respect for one another theologically. Understanding theirs to be primarily a professional rather than a theological commitment to one another, they will agree to disagree on matters of faith and practice. They will maintain an atmosphere of cooperation and mutual concern for the spiritual well-being of the students. Religious Life Representatives are cooperative members of the Wofford College community, and will act as part of it, rather than at odds with it.

9. Religious groups shall clearly identify the name of their organization on all publicity, displays, or other organizational materials posted, distributed or erected on campus.

10. Religious life representatives shall clearly identify themselves as representing their particular ecclesiastical or para-church agency (and not the Office of the Chaplain or Wofford College) in all written, visual, oral or electronic communications with students, parents, the press, or the general public. Identification as Wofford College staff, and false or deceptive promotions or advertising concerning a religious group, its activities, or its representatives are prohibited.

11. Religious groups and representatives shall keep the Office of the Chaplain apprised of their activities, notifying that office of any changes in a group's regular meeting time(s) and of any and all occasional activities sponsored by the group.

12. Infractions of these standards by student religious organizations may result in a referral to the Office of the Dean of Students for possible sanctions based on the Code of Responsibilities.

Consequences of Inappropriate Activities

The College reserves the right to deny campus access and rescind the privileges of any group or leader found in violation of these policies and standards. If religious groups or representatives engage in practices or behaviors which adversely affect an individual's or the public welfare, health, or safety on the campus or which are clearly contrary to the purposes for which the college exists, the college has the right to intervene to stop such activity.

Local Congregations and Religious Organizations

Congregations, religious organizations and spiritual groups wishing to invite students to off-campus events must send such invitations to the Chaplain's Office. All invitations should include name of sponsoring organization, a contact person, address, phone, and if available, email. At the discretion of the Chaplain, invitations may be posted on the "Religious and Spiritual Events" Bulletin Board. Congregations, religious and spiritual groups are invited to participate in the annual Student Activities Day Interest Fair in early September.