



Community Expectations for The Asbury College Graduate Student Community

The Statement of Mission

Our global mission, as a Christian Liberal Arts College in the Wesleyan-Arminian and holiness traditions, is to equip men and women, through a commitment to academic excellence and spiritual vitality, for a lifetime of learning, leadership, and service to the professions, society, family, and the Church.

The Statement of Purpose

Asbury College is an independent college, providing education guided by the classical tradition of orthodox Christian thought. Foundational to this endeavor is a high view of scripture as God's infallible word, particularly with its teaching that the world was created by God and that persons are created in the image of God. The total educational program of the College reflects a liberal arts character. The college believes in the humanizing value of broad exposure to our Western cultural heritage, the "great tradition" as a classical body of knowledge, and seeks to develop students' God-given potentials as physical, social, moral, rational, and spiritual beings.

Every facet of College life is shaped by the Wesleyan-Arminian understanding of sin, grace, and the possibility of full salvation. By its various programs, the College seeks to engender among its students a commitment to Jesus Christ as personal Savior, to holiness of heart and life, and to the cause of world redemption.

The Graduate Student Community

In response to the institutional mission, the Graduate Education program is committed to the integration of educational excellence and spiritual vitality within a professional development model. Our underlying purpose is to prepare leaders with "tough minds and tender hearts." This model reflects a rigorous academic preparation and an intentional design to build moral and spiritual excellence. Therefore, the integration of faith and learning within the graduate preparation program at Asbury fulfills the institution's mission of *eruditio et religio* (academic excellence and spiritual vitality).

Department mission

The Graduate Education Department of Asbury College is committed to preparing leaders for the schools of today and tomorrow. To accomplish this end, the Graduate Education Department creates a learning environment conducive to individual professional growth while embracing an ever-widening educational partnership with schools, both local and worldwide. In keeping with the institution commitment to evangelical Christianity in the Wesleyan-holiness tradition, a basic tenet of this program is the cherished preservation of our moral and ethical roots of educational inquiry and thought, content-specific and pedagogical knowledge, professional competence, and Christian caring with an intentional focus on preparation for educational leadership. Reflecting the institution's commitment to develop the professional, the graduate instruction targets individual areas of anticipated development and provides models for professional growth and leadership to accommodate specific educational paradigms. Within a framework of moral stewardship and through diverse and exemplary models of teaching, the Graduate Education Department strives to enable its students to become leaders and facilitators of educational community.

Foundational Principles of Community Life

The concept of community at Asbury College is built on ten foundational principles which we believe are essential for success, not only during your time at Asbury, but also throughout the rest of your life. We are aware that these underlying principles may seem so obvious that we may at times forget to identify their vital impact on everyday living within our setting. However, it is important to understand that these foundational tenets are at the heart of all we do at Asbury College, whether graduate student, undergraduate student, faculty, staff or administrator.

We recognize that these are not the only principles upon which a community can be founded but they are the ones that we have discovered to be effective for the promotion of a unique partnership of faith, living, and learning. It is in such a climate that people move beyond simply preparing for life, and learn how to live. To aid you in making an informed decision about studying at Asbury College, we ask you to consider the following foundational principles:

1. Asbury College is committed to following biblical mandates for living. We believe the Bible is our ultimate authority and it provides the essential teachings and principles of personal and community living.
2. Asbury College promotes a radical commitment to Jesus Christ as both Savior and Lord. We believe that Jesus Christ desires a personal relationship with every individual and invites us to surrender to Him in order that His perfect love might flow through our lives.

3. Asbury College encourages a balanced lifestyle. Our community seeks to influence the whole person by advocating a life which exemplifies a healthy approach to the spiritual, rational, social, emotional and physical aspects of our lives seeking a balanced approach to living.
4. Asbury College is committed to a lifestyle characterized by integrity. The Asbury community seeks to be characterized by honesty, faithfulness, loyalty and mutual respect.
5. Asbury College is a learning community. The Asbury community takes seriously its commitment to academic excellence and views scholarly endeavors as critical components of a larger educational preparation of the whole person.
6. Asbury College is a respectful and inclusive community. Asbury seeks to foster respect, acceptance, and support for differences of gender, race, national origin, age, mental and physical ability, religious denomination, and ethnic culture.
7. Asbury College is a redemptive community. In addition to promoting a right relationship with God, the community promotes right relationships with one another and with the institution itself.
8. Asbury College is a disciplined community. Our community encourages its members to discipline themselves and to be accountable to God and others for their actions.
9. Asbury College is a serving community. Asbury's mission is to develop servant-leaders who will make significant contributions to society.
10. Asbury College is a celebrating community. We believe in the value of celebrating the special events and achievements that come to the members of our community.

If you struggle with one or more of these principles but are committed to what they represent, we enthusiastically invite you to join our community. However, if you cannot appreciate or commit to these principles, Asbury may not be the right place for you.

Community Expectations for the Asbury Community

A distinguishing mark of a Christian community is that its members commit to a set of basic guidelines which are considered essential to maintain the spirit and health of the community; thus, the primarily residential undergraduate student population at Asbury College is held to high expectations for a disciplined lifestyle. Although the nature of the graduate education experience is qualitatively different, in order to model

consistency for our undergraduates, students are asked to abide by similar community life guidelines while enrolled at Asbury College.

The lifestyle guidelines represent a set of values which are important to the continuance of the Asbury heritage and the fulfillment of her mission. The standards should not, however, be considered an index of Christian spirituality or confused with the means of salvation. Salvation comes through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The guidelines espoused here reflect Biblical imperatives, traditions, and commitments which we believe will support all students in developing a “lifestyle for a lifetime.”

At Asbury College we respect the worth and dignity of each individual and are sensitive to the special needs of each individual. Therefore, discrimination against others on the basis of race, national origin, gender, age, religious beliefs or disability is not acceptable in any form. Verbal, physical, or sexual abuse of others is not acceptable.

At a Christian college, moral issues are based on biblical mandates. Certain behaviors are expressly prohibited in the Scripture and therefore are unacceptable in the Asbury College learning community. These behaviors include: theft (including plagiarism), lying, dishonesty, vulgarity (including crude language), sexual immorality (including adultery, homosexual behavior, premarital and extramarital sexual intimacy), drunkenness, immodesty of dress and occult practices. While not explicitly mentioned in Scripture, Asbury believes that the following represent violations of Biblical principles and also are unacceptable: abortion, gambling, and pornography.

Because of the potential damaging physical and psychological effects, students should refrain from alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs and the use of tobacco in any form. Asbury College forbids the use of alcohol and tobacco on campus and prohibits the abuse of addictive substances controlled by law.

Students should not engage in activities which pose a threat to their own safety or to the safety of others (e.g. tampering with fire alarms or fire fighting equipment). In addition, students are not permitted to bring firearms or other weapons on campus.

The college community is concerned that all students, undergraduate and graduate, reflect in their dress modesty, neatness, cleanliness and appropriateness. Out of courtesy to our undergraduate students, please seek to follow the attire guidelines for the campus.

Regular attire: During regular class hours (Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.) students should wear clothes which reflect a respect for the academic endeavor. Shorts and athletic wear are not considered regular attire on the campus during the day.

Hughes Auditorium: Out of respect for Hughes Auditorium as a place for community worship, regular or semiformal attire is requested at all times.

Classroom Buildings and Library: During the class day, regular attire is requested. Casual attire (including modest walking shorts) may be worn after 4:30 p.m.

Administration Building: Regular attire is requested during business hours (Monday-Friday, 8:00a.m.-5:00p.m.). Casual attire may be worn after 5:00 p.m.

Living quarters in campus resident halls are closed to members of the opposite sex except during special events such as open house, etc. The lobbies of the women's residence halls are open during specified periods of the day with a receptionist on duty.

Asbury College keeps the Lord's Day (Sunday) as a distinctive day set apart primarily for worship, fellowship, ministry, and rest. Due to the unique nature of this day, the campus is not open for "business as usual." The library, physical activities center and offices are not open for activity nor does the college sponsor academic activities or athletic competition. Acknowledging that corporate worship, fellowship, and instruction are essential to the growth of the Christian, all members of the community are encouraged to attend Sunday worship services and become involved in a local church fellowship.

Our commitment to the integration of academic excellence and spiritual vitality impacts every aspect of our lives. Asbury College seeks to have a different worldview while seeking to remain relevant in an ever changing world. Thank you for your part in helping in our community's attempt to actualize Biblical principles for Christian living.