



Bethany

Activism and Student Involvement Guidelines

Approved by cabinet on Jan. 26, 2021

Bethany College is committed to fostering a campus environment that is conducive to academic discourse. Upon admission to Bethany College, students are expected to uphold and abide by certain standards of conduct that are embodied within a set of core values that include integrity, justice, respect, community, and responsibility.

The educational process at the College is based on mutual trust, freedom of inquiry, freedom of expression, and the absence of intimidation and exploitation. Such an atmosphere of respect and regard for individual dignity among members of the academic community is essential if the College is to function as a center of academic freedom and intellectual advancement. In addition, the College has a compelling interest in assuring the provision of an environment in which learning and work may thrive. Such an environment requires free and unfettered discussion of the widest possible nature, one which encourages expression of all points of view.

Even the most vigorous discussion of intellectual and creative freedom, however, knows limits. The College may properly restrict speech that, for example, is defamatory, harassing, invades a protected right to privacy or confidentiality, constitutes incitement to imminent violence, or otherwise violates local, state, or federal law. The College may also restrict abusive speech (e.g., racial epithets) directed at an individual or group based on their actual or perceived affiliation with a protected class, and for which there is no reasonable academic, educational, or artistic justification. Students are also expected to show courtesy and respect when interacting with other community members, including faculty, staff, and other students. Students who incur penalties prescribed by outside authorities may be subject to further corrective actions by the student conduct process when there are distinct and clear College community interests involved.

The College may also properly restrict speech or expression that involves participating in an on-campus or off-campus unlawful demonstration, riot, or activity that disrupts the normal operation of the College, infringes on the rights of any member of the College community, involves actual or attempted damage to property, involves actual or attempted violence, incites a group towards violent behavior, and/or incites a group to disrupt the scheduled and/or normal activities of the College.