



Circleville Campus  
**CAMPUS LIFE HANDBOOK**

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# OHIO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

## CAMPUS LIFE HANDBOOK

### **Student Responsibility for Items in the Handbook**

Each student is expected to adhere to University policies. Students should be familiar with and abide by the content listed in the following pages.

### **Right to Amend**

The University reserves the right to amend sections of this handbook through regular administrative procedures. Policies and other community behavioral standards listed in this handbook are current at the time of publication. Final approval and amendments to the Campus Life Handbook resides with the President and President's Cabinet. Amendments take immediate effect upon notification of the general student population. The updated version of the Campus Life Handbook will be available on the University website.

### **How to Use Your Campus Life Handbook**

This handbook provides general program information and University policy for awareness, student life navigation, and student rights and lifestyle standards. Students who have specific questions regarding the Campus Life Handbook may speak with the Executive Director of Student Development.

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## INTRODUCTION

In the forth chapter of the book of Ephesians, the apostle Paul, urges the people of God to live a life worthy of the calling they had received. This calling is for our lives to reflect our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The word calling is twofold, in that, God wants to do a work in us so that He can do a work through us.

In order for this to be accomplished in a person's life, a person needs to first believe by faith in the saving and sanctifying grace of Christ. As this takes place, God begins to do a transforming work within the heart and mind of the believer through the work of the Holy Spirit.

At Ohio Christian University we believe it is our mission to help prepare students to discover and fulfill God's calling, so they can go impact the world in whatever field of study they pursue. As an academic institution we take a holistic approach to life by recognizing that in addition to the classroom learning takes place through every facet of a student's daily life on campus.

The following pages serve as a handbook to guide students through the policies and procedures established for Campus Life. By exploring each section, you will discover how Christ wants to be Lord of every area of life. Campus Life at OCU is structured in a way that helps foster an environment where students can live a life worthy of their calling.

### **Our Mission**

Ohio Christian University prepares students to serve effectively in the church and society by providing a holistic, Christ-centered, biblically integrated education in the Wesleyan tradition.

### **Our Vision**

Preparing world-impacting Christian servant leaders.

### **Our Core Values**

Christ-Centered - Our community of interdependent students, faculty, and staff seeks to honor and obey Jesus Christ, who is present in Spirit and speaks in Scripture, and to advance God's purposes in the lives of every member.

Biblically Based - Our academic and student development programs cultivate a deep and enduring faith that affirms the authority of Scripture and embraces Christ as the authentic center of life.

Student Oriented - Our undergraduate and graduate curriculum integrates faith and learning in a scholarly environment that fosters critical and creative thinking, academic excellence, and professional competence.

Ministry Motivated - Our emphasis on ministry and missions extends beyond the classroom into real-world experiences that prepare students for a lifetime of service in ministry.

Leadership Focused - Our students experience and engage the world in ways that prepare leaders to serve and transform their professions, churches, and communities.

Academically Excellent - We seek to provide an excellent academic environment for the acquisition of both knowledge and wisdom.

## **Student Goals**

Upon graduation from Ohio Christian University the student should:

Influence the culture and community through Christ-like character, Biblical Christian faith, and a transformed heart.

Lead by serving and equipping others to leverage their highest God-given potential.

Demonstrate discipline-specific competencies and an understanding of the broad fields of knowledge necessary for life-long learning and fulfilling one's calling.

Exhibit love and respect while engaging and communicating with all people groups.

## **Accreditation**

Ohio Christian University is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission and the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation. OCU is also a member of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities, a leading advocate for the integration of faith and learning.

If a student feels that the University is not maintaining the standards demanded by its accrediting agencies, that student may follow procedures as outlined on the university complaints website.

## **ACADEMIC LIFE**

Paul challenges Timothy (2 Timothy 2:15) to do his best when it comes to studying God's Word. The word picture is that of a skilled craftsman who works hard and is diligent as he handles the truths that have been entrusted into his care. As students at OCU, you are to do your best as you integrate the Word of God into your course of study. We recognize that all truth comes from God and touches every area of life. As you do your best you are preparing yourself to be world changes.

**Academic Catalog**   <https://www.ohiochristian.edu/about/academics-education-christian-worldview/academic-catalogs/>

### **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to be honest in all academic work and are responsible for their own work for course requirements. Scholastic dishonesty is a violation of academic standards and biblical teachings and an affront to other students and the faculty. (A full description can be found on p.41 of the Academic Catalog.)

### **Academic Issues**

The office of the Provost oversees academic life on the Circleville Campus. If an issue arises in class, students should first contact their professor. If the issue concerns the professor, the student should reach out to the associate dean of that school. If the issue concerns the dean, the student should reach out to the Academic Affairs office ([academicaffairs@ohiochristian.edu](mailto:academicaffairs@ohiochristian.edu)). For issues related to academic appeals, see the Student's Rights and Appeals information in the Academic Catalog.

## **COMMUTER LIFE**

### **Off Campus Housing Policy**

Ohio Christian University is a residential campus that believes in the many benefits derived from living in a University Residence Hall. A student can request to reside off campus, but certain criteria must be met before being approved by the Student Development Office.

An application must be completed, and permission must be gained prior to the semester the student plans to live off campus. Applications are to be submitted no later than July 1 when seeking off-campus housing for fall semesters. Students are not permitted to move off campus in the middle of a semester. Disregarding the off-campus application procedures will result in the application being denied.

It is strongly advised that a student does not commit to a lease for an apartment / house without prior approval to live off campus. Should an off-campus housing request be denied, a student may be committed to or required to break a lease.

One of the following qualifying conditions must be met in order to be approved to commute:

- You are commuting from the home of an immediate relative (Parent, Sibling, or Guardian) within 40 miles from the OCU campus.
- You are married or have kids.

All of the following:

- You are 22 years of age or older by the first day of classes of the semester one is applying to commute.
- You are not on academic, social, or spiritual probation.

Single students that are given permission to live off campus are required to adhere to the following regulations:

- Maintain a positive Christian witness in all activities, including paying your bills on time.
- Attend church services on a regular basis as described in this Handbook.
- It is a violation to have an overnight guest of the opposite sex in your home (family excluded).
- Be consistent in maintaining a total lifestyle that is in keeping with scriptural standards of holy living and the guidelines of the Campus Life (handbook).
- The Off-Campus Housing privilege may be revoked based on any change in the above stated conditions.

### **Commuter Chapel Attendance Requirements**

Commuters will be required to earn credits based on the days they have class directly before or after chapel. Commuters may complete a Chapel Exemption Request with the Student Development office (found in the Brightspace online course). This form must be submitted by September 30<sup>th</sup> in the fall or January 31<sup>st</sup> in the spring and is not official until written approval is

returned to the student. A Chapel Exemption Request may be submitted as soon as the student's schedule is set for the semester. Post-Secondary students are not required to earn credits unless they are degree-seeking.

Commuter students who fall into one of the two categories listed below must complete a Chapel Exemption Request form with the Spiritual Formation Department to receive the corresponding exemption.

- Commuters who are only able to attend one Chapel per week (Tuesday or Thursday) are required to attend 14 chapels (see above requirements).
- Commuters who do not have class on Tuesday or Thursday are required to attend 9 chapels. This will be accomplished through 5 in-person attendances and listening to 4 chapels online (from the current-semester) and submitting a written response. Details will be given when a commuter is approved for this exemption.

If you are experiencing any real difficulty or have serious concern about completing your chapel requirement, please stop by Student Development or email [spiritualformation@ohiochristian.edu](mailto:spiritualformation@ohiochristian.edu) as soon as possible.

### **Commuter Lounge**

Since the majority of students reside on campus and have space in the dorms to spend time in between classes, Ohio Christian University has created space for our commuter students to relax. Located in the Maxwell Library, the commuter lounge provides space for relaxing, studying, or connecting with other commuter students. The lounge is also equipped with a microwave and a refrigerator for students during their lunch break.

## **FINANCIAL LIFE**

### **Financial Responsibility**

It is essential that you maintain a positive testimony regarding finances. When you sign your financial agreement, this means you pledge to faithfully pay your bill. The university reserves the right to take whatever legal steps are necessary for those who default on payment. Ohio Christian University's Student Financial Aid Program serves the majority of the student body through scholarships, grants, campus employment, and loans. Any student in need of help should contact the university Financial Aid Department.

<https://www.ohiochristian.edu/student-consumer-information/institutional-and-financial-assistance-information/>



## DAILY LIFE

### Office of Student Development

Student Development seeks to connect our students relationally, engage them spiritually, and prepare them to be servant leaders in the world. The office is responsible for specific objectives designed to influence, shape, and guide the university's traditional student population through their college experience.

The Student Development Department oversees student life on campus. If an issue arises that is outside of the classroom (residential life, community living, student activities, student council), please connect with the appropriate area.

- Resident Assistant
- Resident Director
- Executive Director of Student Development
- Spiritual Life Committee
- President's Cabinet (through the Office of the President)

### Employment

OCU offers students the opportunity to work on campus through the Federal Work Study program. There are numerous jobs throughout campus that you can apply for by looking online, or by inquiring at the different departments on campus. Students are not guaranteed a job on campus, but should seek out opportunities. Once a position is found, students will need to prepare resumes and hiring documents just like they would for any job.

### Food Service

Ohio Christian University has an excellent food service history and accommodating kitchen staff. Recently OCU was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> Best College Food in Ohio by Niche.com. There are a range of options each day, a café for coffee and specialty drinks, and flexible meal schedules. For further information and questions about dietary restrictions please contact the Food Service Manager by visiting the website below.

<https://ocu.hallmarkdining.com/>

### Mail

All students will be assigned a mailbox and are encouraged to pick up their mail daily. Letters and packages can be sent out through the Mail Room located in The Connection. Please leave your change of address at the Post Office.

### Medical

Primary Health Care – Students who may be in need of medical attention can receive care through our local health services.

OhioHealth Physician Group Primary Care

210 Sharon Rd Suite D

Circleville, OH 43113

(740) 420-8422

#### Accident Insurance Coverage

<https://www.ohiochristian.edu/myocu/campus-student-information/medical-services/>

#### Student Health Services

Immediate health care is available to students through Urgent Care at Berger Hospital. The student is responsible for charges incurred. Students should notify their Resident Director when they are ill so that their progress can be monitored.

#### Vaccination Policy

Immunization Record is required of each student when admitted to Ohio Christian University. Students must be vaccinated against meningococcal disease, tuberculosis, MMR, DTap/DTP, Polio, Varicella, and hepatitis B. The data will be kept on file in the Office of Student Development and Residence Hall RD Office. All information is kept in strict confidence, per FERPA. Students must also have their Immunization Record completed and submitted to the Admissions office prior to Student Orientation at the beginning of the semester.

In case of serious physical or mental illness, the parents or guardians will be notified if a student has given consent, or the situation constitutes a health or safety emergency.

Students who wish to abstain from vaccinations due to religious or medical reasons may contact the Office of Student Development to appeal this policy.

#### Counseling

Ohio Christian University offers on campus counseling through a local Christian Counseling agency. This service allows students to schedule in person appointments with a licensed counselor. This service will be available four hours a day, Monday through Thursday, each semester.

#### Off-campus Confidential Resources

- National Sexual Assault Hotline – 1-800-656-HOPE (4673)
- National Domestic Violence Hotline – 1-800-799-7233
- Ohio Sexual Violence Helpline – 1-844-OHIOHELP (1-844-644-6435)
- Ohio Hispanic Coalition Domestic Violence 24 Hour Hotline – (614) 746-3534 (Spanish and English)
- Haven House of Pickaway County – (740) 477-9113
- Medical care options in your community, including:
- Berger Health in Circleville, Ohio – (740) 474-2126

## **University Contact Information**

Ohio Christian University

1476 Lancaster Pike

Circleville, OH 43113

(877) 73-8669 Fax: (740) 477-7714

<https://www.ohiochristian.edu/about/about-ocu/contact-us/>

## **Security**

Campus Security is maintained by the Chief of Security and a Deputy as well as part-time work study students. These persons are employed by the University to take steps to maintain your safety and the security of campus facilities. Add their number to your cell phone: (740) 412-5337.

<https://www.ohiochristian.edu/myocu/campus-student-information/campus-security/>

## **Student Identification Cards**

Students are issued an OCU identification card prior to the start of classes. This card provides access to the residence hall, eating in the cafeteria, library services, and other campus related functions. Keep your identification card on your person at all times. Carrying another student's card or misusing your ID are subject to disciplinary action.

## **Personal Property**

The University will exercise reasonable precautions to protect personal property left on campus, but cannot assume responsibility for the loss of money, valuables, or other personal property. Please report all losses to the personnel in Campus Security and in the Office of Student Development. It is the student's responsibility to initiate contact with local authorities if deemed necessary.

## **Personal Vehicle Registration and Operation**

Anyone who drives on the Ohio Christian University campus is expected to abide by all posted regulations and use designated parking. Students are also expected to abide by all Ohio regulations. Failure to comply with state and campus regulations may result in suspension of the vehicle registration. The motor vehicle must then be removed from campus for the remainder of the academic year.

Vehicles operated on campus by a student or resident family member must be registered with the Security Office within 48 hours of its first arrival on campus. Mopeds and motorcycles are considered motor vehicles and all motor vehicle regulations apply. Student motor vehicles are not registered until all appropriate forms are completed and the campus vehicle decal is properly displayed. If the decal is not properly displayed, a fine will be issued.

When state registration plates change, or a vehicle is sold and/or the plates transferred to another vehicle, the Security Office must be notified within 48 hours. State law requires that all vehicles be insured. Failure to comply with this law will result in disciplinary action by the University and

authorities will be contacted at once. The University will not assume any responsibility for any liability or expenses involving vehicles or its contents registered or owned by students.

The maximum campus speed limit is 15 miles per hour. Vehicles are to be operated within posted speed limits. Vehicles are to be operated only on surfaced roadways. Racing or any reckless driving is prohibited on campus roadways and surrounding denominational property, including the RV Park.

Mechanically inoperative vehicles and those not bearing valid state registration plates are not permitted on campus. The vehicle owner is responsible to remove the vehicle involved at his/her own expense within 48 hours. If the above is not completed within 48 hours, the University reserves the right to remove the vehicle at owner's expense.

Parking is permitted only in the lots designated by the individual parking decal. No parking is allowed in areas that would block driveways, crosswalks, and building entrances. Handicap parking spaces are reserved at all times. Do not park on the grass.

Students should be aware that they may be asked to relocate their vehicle to another lot temporarily for certain campus events; these events will be communicated in Hall Meetings and via email. Violations and offenses will be fined and added directly to the student's bill. In compliance with insurance regulations, bicycles may not be stored in any building. Students are not permitted to use any University vehicle for personal use.

### **Firearms, Weapons, and Explosives**

There will be no discharging of firearms, weapons or explosives (fireworks) of any kind on university property. "Firearms/weapons" include rifles, shotguns, air rifles, BB/pellet guns, slingshots, paintball equipment, and bows & arrows (exceptions can be made for students enrolled in a university approved archery course). Personal defense items such as Tasers, pepper spray, and stun guns are not permitted on campus. Airsoft guns, knives over 3.5 inches, or other weapons that cause harm to another, are prohibited on University grounds at all times. The University may confiscate firearms/weapons to maintain the safety of the campus and its residents.

### **Tobacco, Drug and Alcohol Policy**

Ohio Christian University is a drug, alcohol, and tobacco free environment.

All tobacco is prohibited on the University campus at all times (this includes E-Cigs, Vapor Pens, or chewing tobacco). It is expected that any student that has a habit of tobacco use will make every effort to quit. Counseling and other assistance is available. The University reserves the right to take corrective action in response to tobacco use.

The possession, sale, and/or use of alcoholic beverages of any description, non-medical narcotics, or hallucinogenic drugs, including marijuana, is completely and strictly prohibited on the campus of Ohio Christian University or denominational property. Those in violation risk immediate dismissal and may be subject to a criminal penalty and federal financial assistance penalties as well.

The University will fully cooperate with law enforcement if a member of the university community is apprehended for violating drug or alcohol laws on university property, or while participating in a university activity. Violating state or federal laws regarding alcohol or drugs is a violation of university policy and will be handled in a separate disciplinary manner by the University.

The University's Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Prevention Handbook is published biennially and distributed to all students annually in the first semester. This handbook can also be found <https://www.ohiochristian.edu/student-consumer-information/drug-and-alcohol-abuse-prevention-handbook/>

Use of illegal drugs is prohibited under Federal and State law. Federal law prohibits, among other things, the manufacturing, distributing, selling and possession of controlled substances as outlined in 21 United States Code, Sections 801 through 971. Depending on the amount, first offense maximum penalties for trafficking marijuana range from five years' imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000 to imprisonment for life and a fine of \$4 million. Again, depending on the amount, first offense maximum penalties for trafficking other controlled substances (e.g., methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, cocaine base, PCP, LSD, fentanyl and fentanyl analogue) range from five years to life imprisonment and fines range from \$2 to \$4 million. First offense penalties and sanctions for the illegal possession of small amounts of controlled substance range from up to one year in prison or a fine of at least \$1,000. Ohio has laws prohibiting the manufacturing, distributing, selling and possession of controlled substances and underage drinking, which may be misdemeanors or felonies depending on the nature of the crime. Penalties may include fines or imprisonment depending on the nature of the crime. More information about Federal and State penalties may be found in the University's Annual Security Report: <https://www.ohiochristian.edu/university/aboutocu/campus-security-fire-safety#safetystats>.

### **Visitors Policy**

The University reserves the right to limit or forbid the visitation privileges of any person. Visitation may be restricted if a person's presence on campus is threatening to any member of the University community, disrupts the educational process or limits the effectiveness of job performance of any employee. It is entirely within the University's rights to demand that said persons remove themselves from campus or be removed by the authorities. After being informed that they are to leave, individuals must seek permission from Student Development and Security if they wish to return to campus at any time. A student may not bring an individual on campus if he or she knows that visitation privileges have been removed from the individual.

### **Technology**

Students can access the internet from their rooms via the University server or OCU secured Wi-Fi. Residents are not permitted to access the internet through any other source from within the residence halls. The University prohibits students from accessing pornography and reserves the right to restrict students from accessing internet sites that are not consistent with the standards of Ohio Christian University. The University further reserves the right to monitor, randomly or systematically, individual or network use of the internet. Violations of policy will be handled through the Student Conduct Process.

BlazerTech – <https://www.ohiochristian.edu/myocu/blazertech/>

## **Social Networking Policy**

It is imperative that each student realizes the importance of using discretion when utilizing social network mediums such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, or other sites. Students are strongly encouraged to use the strongest privacy settings to prevent people from accessing personal information. Students must realize that they represent Ohio Christian University at all times. The use of public social media to air grievances or complaints against the university is inconsistent with the professional conduct expected of OCU students. Content put on the internet can have negative consequences regarding professional opportunities, status as a student, or other goals. Students who have complaints or concerns should utilize the appropriate method for submitting grievances explained in the ~~Student~~ Campus Life (Handbook).

## **Media Guidelines**

It is the policy of the University that all forms of public media (i.e., television, newspaper, radio, websites) who wish to interview any member of the University be referred to the Office of Marketing with their comments or questions.

## **Entertainment & Dancing Policy**

Attendance at dance halls, bars and nightclubs is not acceptable.

Videos, games, DVDs, television, or other media involving pornography, coarse language, adult humor/situations, nudity and excessive violence are prohibited. This includes ratings of R, Mature, AO, NR, and X, as well as PG-13 when content listed above is present. Violations will result in disciplinary action which may include forfeiture of viewing privileges and/or confiscation of the unit or media. The University reserves the right to restrict television viewing in the halls and other University facilities.

Personal music choice should be consistent with the mission and standards of Ohio Christian University: -Students should refrain from listening to music that makes use of indecent, degrading lyrics or promotes an undesirable emotional or physical response. Music that contains suggestive or coarse language is not permitted at campus sponsored events, in residence halls, or anywhere else on campus.

-Students are expected to keep the volume down on electronic devices so that the noise does not distract other students. If the noise or music can be heard in the hall or other rooms with the door closed, it is too loud. Students are encouraged to use personal earphones.

## **Standards of Dress and Appearance**

Ohio Christian University emphasizes biblical principles of modesty and holiness in dress and behavior. The standards outlined below reflect biblical principles and expectations for propriety and professional appearance for all students (campus residents, commuters, and CCP students).

- Sheer, tight-fitting, revealing clothing, or pajamas should not be worn in public areas on campus.
- Yoga pants, leggings or tights should not be worn in public areas without a covering.

- Clothing should not reveal the abdomen, midriff, back, or chest. Clothing should not be excessively short. For example: skirts/dresses should be mid-thigh, underwear should not show.
- Cosmetics and jewelry should be conservative. Only 1 nose ring is allowed, and gauged earrings are not permitted.
- Body and facial jewelry are prohibited for both genders, (third eye, etc.)
- A man's hair and facial hair must be kept neat and trim and up off the back.
- Extremes in hair styles and dye colors that do not occur naturally in humans are prohibited (blue, green, pink, etc.).
- Hats, caps, hoods, and other coverings are not allowed to be worn in University Chapel.
- Clothing with logos or writing not consistent with the Christian lifestyle are not permitted.
- Shoes must be worn in all campus buildings.

Some student organizations or ministry groups such as Chapel Ministry Teams, choir, travel groups, athletic teams, or academic programs may require participants to adhere to a specific standard of dress during those activities.

### **Clothing Restrictions**

Several items of clothing are not in keeping with the General and Modesty Guidelines of the Standard of Dress and are not permitted to be worn at any time on campus.

- Tank tops, cut-off shirts, spaghetti strap shirts, and camisoles unless properly covered.
- Modest workout clothing is permitted in areas designated for fitness and Athletics. Spandex, leggings, and tight running shorts will need a modest covering. Sheer or see through clothing is not permitted.
- Low cut shirts and shirts that expose the midriff or chest are not permitted.

### **Semi-Formal / Formal Attire**

Formal dress may be worn to designated campus events as directed by the Administration or student organizations. Men's attire should include dress shirt with tie, a coat or sweater, dress slacks, dress shoes, tuxedos, or suits. Women's gowns should emphasize modesty and not sensuality. Strapless, spaghetti straps, deep open backs, low cut fronts and high slits are not appropriate for these occasions.

### **Student Organizations**

Ohio Christian University has a number of student clubs and organizations. Student Clubs are approved by the Office of Student Development and financially sponsored by Student Council. Student Organizations are sponsored by various offices and departments of the University and generally are associated with department functions or academic programs. These organizations may receive funding support from their sponsoring department or receive no funding for operation. All Student Clubs & Organizations, once approved by their sponsoring area, are officially recognized by the University and are under the governance of the Office of Student Development.

Students desiring to start something new should set up a meeting with the Executive Director of Student Development to discuss their idea and start the club application process. Student Clubs must complete an annual review and recharting applications for continued Student Council sponsorship.

All Student Club & Organization events and fundraising functions must be approved by Student Development. Campus groups are not permitted to sign or guarantee financial contracts that obligate them or the University for club purchases or services. All contracts must be approved through the Director of Student Development. No new student clubs may be organized without approval from Student Development.

All Student Clubs must have an identified Faculty or Staff Advisor who will operate in an advisory role to the club. The Faculty or Staff Advisor should be selected by student officers of each club. In situations where student leaders cannot identify potential advisor candidates, Student Development officers may make recommended suggestions. Advisors must be full-time, professional faculty or staff of Ohio Christian University. On-campus graduate students are encouraged to be involved with clubs but may not hold student officer positions or staff advising positions.

Student groups must abide by the Campus Life (Handbook) and all OCU Student Lifestyle Standards. Any conduct within clubs or student organizations found to violate OCU Lifestyle Standards may result in a revocation of the club's status by University Administration or the Office of Student Development. Student Clubs or Organizations that are derecognized must cease all operation on campus immediately upon receiving derecognition notice.

No club or organization may be formed whose purpose can be construed as supporting or affirming a religion or lifestyle that is antithetical to the evangelical Christian faith as expressed in the University's Mission and Doctrinal Statements, as well as the University's Lifestyle Guidelines and Human Sexuality Statement.

You can contact the Office of Student Development to inquire into the current Clubs and Organizations.

## **SOCIAL LIFE**

We believe that an opportunity to develop relationships is a part of the educational journey. Ohio Christian University offers a tremendous opportunity for building friendships with other Christians that students will cherish for the rest of their lives.

### **Dating**

Dating relationships can be one of the most enjoyable and important aspects of university life. It is important, therefore, to be very wise in these decisions regarding relationships, maintaining the priority on academic, spiritual, and social maturity. All such relationships must be based on Biblical principles.



Adult students who are enrolled in the traditional campus program are not permitted to engage in dating relationships with College Credit Plus (CCP) students who are taking courses through their high schools on campus. Dating relationships that exist before the students' enrollment in the traditional program must be disclosed to the CCP Academic Director and Director of Student Development. Students must be over 18 years of age to date.

### **Public Display of Affection**

Physical expression of affection should be appropriate to the guidelines of Scripture and the policies of the University. Other behaviors, such as excessive body contact, lying with one's head in the lap of another, sitting on the lap of someone of the opposite sex, inappropriate touching to any degree, and similar activities, are inappropriate and prohibited.

### **Unauthorized Contact**

Engaging in or the appearance of indiscreet contact with members of the opposite sex is unacceptable and prohibited, whether in the residence halls or off-campus. Members of the opposite sex discovered in a student's room or who spend the night with a member of the opposite sex off campus (family members excluded) is prohibited and may be charged through the Student Conduct Process. This may include but is not limited to instances when doors are closed, lights are off, and students are not fully clothed.

### **Dormitory Visitation**

The university dorms are designed to be the living space for students. Students are not permitted beyond the lobby doors of the opposite sex dorm, or in the living room areas of townhouses except during designated visitation times. Dormitory visitation hours provide students with the opportunity to invite guests of the opposite gender into their living space. This is a privilege and students are responsible to adhere to all university policies. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action by the Conduct Committee.

Regulations for Dormitory Visitation are as follows:

- Students visiting dorms of the opposite gender will need to sign in with the Resident Life staff before entering the dorm. ID cards will be collected at the beginning of the visiting time and returned once the student leaves the building.
- Doors must be fully opened at all times.
- All rooms need to be cleaned and the lights need to be turned on.
- Appropriate behavior is expected at all times, this includes no physical contact, noise levels need to be low, and no mis-treatment of university property.
- Only the living room area in townhouses will be permitted for visitors and the window blinds will need to be opened at all times.
- Residence Life staff members have the authority to address conduct issues that are not explicitly defined in the Student Handbook.

Visitation times and hours will rotate between the dormitories and townhouses throughout the semester. The Director of Student Development and the Resident Directors will set the schedule

and inform students of times and locations. A Resident Director or Graduate Assistant, as well as Resident Assistants will be on duty to monitor the visitation hours.

### **Engagement and Marriage**

Some students will make a lifetime decision in regard to marriage while at Ohio Christian University. The time of engagement is an opportunity to learn of the high Biblical standards for marriage and to prepare for married life. Student Development personnel are available for or can direct a student to guidance and counseling.

### **Married Student Life**

We believe that the married student, the spouse, and children should be given the opportunity to be involved in the full University experience. The University experience can be very positive as a couple and as a family. It must be a team effort and commitment. This will be an experience that will stretch married couples' faith as they allow God to meet their every need. Married students should be certain to involve their families in the total University experience. Married students should conduct themselves in keeping with the standard of Scripture and the University.

### **Diversity Statement**

Ohio Christian University believes that every human being is created in the image of God. Additionally, a spirit of worship unifies the academic, social, and spiritual life of the student body and the campus community. Therefore, we embrace the dignity and value of each person and strive to reflect both the unity and diversity of the body of Christ, with standards of campus conduct based on biblical standards.

### **University Statement on Human Sexuality**

As an evangelical Christian university established in the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition, Ohio Christian University believes that Holy Scripture, interpreted through the lenses of Christian orthodox tradition, reason, and personal experience, occupies a privileged position as the final authority for the faith and practice of the people of God and thus, for all aspects of the Ohio Christian University community. As members of this community, we are committed to living into the fullness of salvation as taught in Scripture, characterized by holy love, reaching into all aspects of our lives, including our sexuality.

We affirm that humans are beings created, in the image of God, male and female, and are of inestimable worth. As a result, we affirm that human sexuality is intended by God to include more than the contemporary cultural emphasis upon the physical experience and is a gift of God designed to reflect the whole of our sensual and relational createdness. We believe that it is only within the context of the covenant of marriage between one man and one woman that the full expression of sexuality is to be experienced and celebrated. This understanding of covenantal marriage, and the practice of celibacy within singleness, are the means by which we may experience a life of full human flourishing while glorifying God and honoring his Word.

A faithful interpretation of Scripture affirms the principle that sexual purity honors God and that all forms of sexual intimacy that occur outside the covenant of heterosexual marriage are sinful distortions of the holiness and beauty for which God intended. As members of a larger community,

we recognize that stewarding one's expression of sexual intimacy is a trust that reaches beyond ourselves, extending even to those who may disagree with our beliefs. Therefore, we understand our responsibility to uphold biblical truth in our belief and practice, but in a way that reflects the grace that holiness produces.

We believe that the sin of sexual immorality (e.g., pre-marital sexual behavior, adultery for the heterosexually married person, polygamy, polyandry, pornography, incest, and all forms of same-sex practice) is about the behavior. As sinful fallen creatures, we are all tempted to sin, however, we do not claim those areas of temptation as right and good – and worthy of embrace and celebration. Rather, we unashamedly insist that by the grace of God we are called to live within the biblical boundaries of our sexuality and are empowered to live in obedience with God's will and alignment with His purposes as revealed in Scripture. We do not surrender the biblical standard of sexual purity to the prevailing secular Updated 07/2023| Student Handbook 29 | Page culture, nor the definition of "male" and "female" to mean something more or different than an individual's sex at birth. At the same time, we do pledge to extend compassion and care, providing accountability and assistance as we support all members of our community— students, staff and faculty—in their desire to live consistently with the Christian teaching on human sexuality as described above.

Accordingly, Ohio Christian University will not recognize or support campus groups whose aim by statement, practice, or intimation is to promote a vision of human sexuality that is contrary to this understanding of biblical teaching. Further, we believe the above affirmations to be consistent with the ancient and historic teaching of Christian scriptures around the world and remains the guiding light for our practice.

## **SPIRITUAL LIFE**

Your spiritual life is a priority at Ohio Christian University. We believe that private and public worship are necessary for full spiritual development and are a vital element in your Christian university education.

Our goal is to introduce students to an apostolic faith that lays a foundation for a lifetime of faithfully serving and abiding with Jesus Christ. We do this by modeling a faith community that acknowledges that the presence of Christ is with us at all times and in all places.

### **Church Engagement**

Attendance at a local church on a regular basis is an indication of spiritual growth and maturity and is expected of our university family. Regardless of where students attend church, they are highly encouraged to participate in activities as part of the Body of Christ and to attend church on a regular basis. Chapel is not intended to replace church. The Church body, united by the Holy Spirit across the globe, is intended to be Christ's hands and feet to bring about the Kingdom of God in our broken world. The local church is to be the place that we participate, become equipped, and are activated to that calling.

### **Chapel Experience**

Part of our mission at OCU is to “prepare students to serve effectively in the church and society.” We want chapel to be a place that students encounter God in a transformational way that gives them a broader understanding of who God is, how their faith touches every part of life, and their calling to build the Kingdom of God in unique, creative, and world-shaping ways.

### **Chapel Times & Attendance**

Chapels are held regularly on Tuesday and Thursday, with some special chapel events held through the week on occasion. This will be communicated via announcement the prior week.

Completing chapel attendance requirements is mandatory to be in good standing with the university. All residential students are required to attend chapel. Students enrolled in 12+ credits are required to attend chapel. Commuters have certain exceptions (See Commuter section).

### **Chapel Conduct**

Students are expected to maintain conduct that is appropriate for worship. Inappropriate conduct includes excessive talking and other disruptive behavior, physical contact (PDA), studying, sleeping, using cell phones, listening to music, earbud usage, etc. Disciplinary action may result.

### **Other Ways to Receive Chapel Attendance**

Students can receive 1.0 attendance for each Awaken bi-weekly events. Maximum of 3 attendances can be earned towards chapel attendance in this category.

### **Chapel Attendance Tracking System**

To track chapel attendance, we use an app system called iAttended. To scan out of chapel, a QR code will be presented after chapel is over. Students scan the code via the iAttended App and receive credit for attending chapel. Students arriving more than 10 minutes late for chapel or leaving chapel early will not receive credit.

### **Chapel Attendance Consequences**

Failure to obtain the required attendances will result in disciplinary action. Students will be notified of their chapel attendance through the students’ OCU online learning platform within 48 hours of the most recent chapel. A cumulative account of attendances will be posted on iAttendedapp.com at the end of each semester. Students who wish to appeal the accuracy of chapel attendance may do so by filling out an Accuracy Petition with the Spiritual Formation Department.

Students should earn a minimum of 20 to 27 chapel credits. Absences include athletic events, sickness, or other unexpected events and need to be utilized wisely. If a student has received an exemption, they will be allowed to miss according to the guidelines below. The following applicable restrictions will be administered to any student that misses chapel more than the allotted times:

<b>Chapels Required</b>	<b>Chapel Warning</b>	<b>Chapel Probation</b>
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27	19-14	13 or less
14	9-8	7 or less
9	6-5	4 or less

Chapel Warning consists of the following:

- Limit to 15 credit class load
- Loss of participation in 10% of intercollegiate athletic season
- Loss of curfew exemption
- Declared ineligible to participate on the Student Government Association, Residence Life staff, lead a student club, chapel worship team/Worship Collective, or Awaken Ministry Team.

Chapel Probation consists of the following:

- Limit to 12 credit class load
- Loss of participation in 10% of intercollegiate athletic season
- Loss of curfew exemption
- Declared ineligible to participate on the Student Government Association, Residence Life staff, lead a student club, chapel worship team/Worship Collective, or Awaken Ministry Team.

To be removed from warning/probation, a student must attend their full required amount of chapels in the semester they are serving warning/probation. Failing to do so, thereby being on warning/probation consecutive semesters, will result in a one semester suspension for the following semester.

A graduating senior must maintain good standing with their chapel attendances. Failure to do so will result in the students' diploma being withheld until satisfactory requirements are met as assigned by the Director of Spiritual Formation.

While chapel attendance is recorded in iAttended, each student is personally responsible for keeping record of their own chapel attendance. Students have the ability to check on the number of attendances in iAttended.

At the end of each semester, each student is assigned a satisfactory or unsatisfactory record for completing chapel attendance for the semester that is listed on the transcript.

All requests for consideration of circumstances or other appeals not covered by these guidelines can be submitted to the Spiritual Formation Office in the Student Development Department or through email to [spiritualformation@ohiochristian.edu](mailto:spiritualformation@ohiochristian.edu).

## **Personal Spiritual Formation**

There are many ways for students to deepen their relationships with God during their time at OCU. If students wish to take their spiritual lives to the next level, we encourage students to maintain a daily devotion time that consists of prayer and reading God's Word. OCU also offers other means for spiritual growth through discipleship groups which are led by faculty members, or through the bi-weekly student leader led worship nights known as Awaken. This is a time to intentionally challenge one another to regularly encounter Christ and encourage one another to passionately join God's mission in this world.

## **Faith Statement**

For our full statement of faith, please visit <https://www.ohiochristian.edu/about/faith>

## **Harmonious Worship Guidelines - OCU Position on Speaking in Tongues**

Ohio Christian University is committed to the Wesleyan-Arminian interpretation of the Scriptures. The Churches of Christ in Christian Union, the supporting denomination of OCU, has adopted the following theological position on glossolalia (speaking in tongues). We accept the Biblical record of glossolalia as reported in Acts and I Corinthians. The gift was given as a means of communication: "Every man heard them speak in his own language" (Acts 2:6). The Apostle Paul considered glossolalia as the lesser of the spiritual gifts (I Corinthians 12:28-31). Since the gift is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit, the gift is not to be sought but is the prerogative of the Holy Spirit. There is Biblical evidence that speaking in tongues is not a prerequisite to the baptism of, or being filled with, the Holy Spirit.

To maintain a strong spiritual community and harmony in worship, OCU feels a responsibility to students, parents, pastors, churches, and denominations which send students to us. These policies are in place to encourage harmonious interaction among students.

Students at OCU should abstain from the public practice or promotion of speaking in tongues on the Circleville campus or at any University-sponsored event. Students representing the University, whether on campus or on traveling teams, should not advocate theological positions that are inconsistent with the sponsoring denomination of OCU.

- Ohio Christian University does not encourage or promote the act of speaking in tongues or prayer languages.
- No student shall engage in the use of tongues speaking or prayer language in the presence or within the hearing of any other member of the University.
- Group prayer meetings or Bible study sessions are not permitted to engage in the practice of tongues speaking or prayer languages anywhere on the University campus. University sponsored small groups should follow these same guidelines anytime and anywhere they meet.

## **GENERAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES**

### **University Policies**

Ohio Christian University has adopted varying policies designed to address the safety and wellbeing regarding areas of campus and student conduct. Each of these policies are laid out and addressed in this section. These policies are authorized by the President's Administrative Cabinet and by the Ohio Christian University Board of Trustees. They are administered by University Personnel.

### **Readmission of Continuing Students**

Readmission is not granted automatically. If the University believes that a student's readmission would compromise the lifestyle and/or academic standards of the University or not be in the student's best interest, the appropriate committee will review his or her record for the purpose of granting or denying continued enrollment.

### **Nondiscrimination Policy**

Ohio Christian University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, national origin, ancestry, age, disability, military status, genetic information, or any other category protected by applicable federal, state, or local laws. This policy applies to all aspects of the University's programs and activities, including admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and athletic and other school administered programs.

<https://www.ohiochristian.edu/about/about-ocu/disability-services-non-discrimination-equal-access-to-education/>

### **Child Abuse**

The University will not tolerate child abuse on campus or by any member of the University community. State law and University policy require a student to report any such incident to the Title IX Coordinator via email at [TitleIX@ohiochristian.edu](mailto:TitleIX@ohiochristian.edu) and to Campus Security.

### **Mandated Reporting Policy**

All members of the University community are expected to report any crime that they are aware of regardless of the status (visitor, student, faculty member) of the survivor of the crime. Failing to report a crime may also be a crime under state law. The University commitment to the safety of the campus community is a top priority, and student(s) who are found to have failed to report a crime to the proper authority may be subject to discipline.

Students should refer to the Annual Security Report for reporting procedures. This report can be found at <http://www.ohiochristian.edu/about-ocu/campus-security-fire-safety>.

### **Student Conduct**

Ohio Christian University students are expected to conduct themselves in compliance with the Campus Life Handbook and in such a way as to reflect a growing relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose of student conduct and discipline at Ohio Christian University is to assist in

the maturing of its members and to aid the University in maintaining an atmosphere conducive to Christian growth. It is intended to be developmental and redemptive rather than merely punitive. If a student is having difficulty adjusting to the Ohio Christian University lifestyle, the Executive Director of Student Development may arrange for the student to meet with the Student Life Committee in an attempt to resolve the problem before any disciplinary measures are required.

### **Good Samaritan Policy**

Because Ohio Christian University believes that student safety and health are of high importance, this policy was implemented to encourage students to take immediate action during times of medical emergencies or other crises. The University encourages students to take active steps to protect the safety and well-being of the OCU community. OCU is aware that the Code of Conduct or Lifestyle Agreement can cause students to be reluctant to seek medical help or other assistance for themselves or others out of fear that they will be punished for their actions by the University. During crisis situations involving drugs, alcohol, sexual misconduct (rape, sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, etc.), OCU urges students to take positive action to care for themselves or others who need immediate care. Because of this, no University disciplinary sanctions will be issued to either the reporting student(s) or to the student(s) in need of assistance related to the violations that occurred at or near the time of the incident. A student violating University policy may not avoid discipline by reporting their own violation of policy if their conduct risks the health and safety of others.

This policy applies to students who report sexual misconduct or participate as key witnesses in sexual misconduct investigations, or who seek medical assistance for themselves or another by contacting an appropriate official (Resident Assistant, Resident Director, Campus Security, or by calling 911). It should be noted the incident will be documented and that educational or health interventions may be deemed appropriate and considered in place of disciplinary sanctions.

### **Amnesty**

We know that students can sometimes be fearful of asking for help, so we have established an Amnesty Process. Through this process, you can admit your struggles, accept accountability for them, and receive the help and support you need to work through your issues. If you ask for help for issues such as drug or alcohol dependency or smoking, you will be asked to abstain from the behavior and may be asked to sign a behavioral agreement and/or to seek professional help.

When you request to be part of this process, you will not be suspended for the behavior(s) you requested Amnesty for, which occurred prior to beginning the process, but you will have to embrace the change process. This policy allows students who want to receive help and support to work through these issues and accept accountability for these behaviors without going through the normal discipline process. Those students who seek help from the Office of Student Development receive appropriate assistance. Students requesting help are asked to abstain from the behavior and may be asked to sign a behavioral agreement and/or required to seek professional help. Students must request this before any disciplinary confrontation addressing the specific inappropriate behavior(s) occurs. The University can help you do that through counseling, mentoring, discipleship programs, accountability software, behavioral agreements and more. Students who



wish to have more information on the amnesty process must speak directly with the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

It should be noted that the Amnesty and Good Samaritan Policy does not cover an individual's actions that put the health or safety of another people at risk of endangerment.

## **Links**

Students are responsible for reading the following links:

### **FERPA**

<https://www.ohiochristian.edu/myocu/university-registrar/resources/ferpa-information/>

### **Service Animals**

[https://ocuwebsite.blob.core.windows.net/public-www/media/documents/Service Animals Policy 2024-25.pdf](https://ocuwebsite.blob.core.windows.net/public-www/media/documents/Service_Animals_Policy_2024-25.pdf)

### **TITLE IX: Sexual Discrimination / Sexual Harassment –**

<https://www.ohiochristian.edu/about/title-ix/>

### **Anti-Hazing Policy**

<https://www.ohiochristian.edu/student-consumer-information/anti-hazing-policy/>

### **Disciplinary Process**

[https://ocuwebsite.blob.core.windows.net/public-www/media/documents/Disciplinary Process 2024-25.pdf](https://ocuwebsite.blob.core.windows.net/public-www/media/documents/Disciplinary_Process_2024-25.pdf)

### **Appeal Process**

[https://ocuwebsite.blob.core.windows.net/public-www/media/documents/Appeals Process 2024-25.pdf](https://ocuwebsite.blob.core.windows.net/public-www/media/documents/Appeals_Process_2024-25.pdf)