



CHESTERTON COLLEGE
o f A r t s a n d L e t t e r s

Pledge of Theological and Behavioral Conformity

2017-2018



This document intends to present and explain the theological and behavioral responsibilities placed upon students and faculty enrolled at Chesterton College. The following must be agreed to and signed by students and faculty before being accepted for admission into the college.

The spirit of this pledge is to commit to a standard of intellectual and behavioral excellence, which best glorifies God and serves our neighbor. Learning, especially of the sort taking place at Chesterton College, is considered a sacred and gifted endeavor, done in community with our neighbor and *coram Deo*.

Theological Criteria

1. There is one almighty God, an eternal Father to his eternal Son, sharing his substance in the begetting of the Son and the procession of the Holy Spirit.
2. God made man to love God and neighbor, to glorify God and enjoy him forever.
3. Of our own fault we turn from God and neighbor, inviting God's just condemnation.
4. God reveals himself to man, drawing him back by his Word and revelation in Jesus Christ.
5. The Scriptures are God's Word written: inspired by the Holy Spirit, authoritative for doctrine, containing all things necessary to salvation.
6. Jesus Christ is God's Word incarnate: the eternal Son born of a virgin, who performed miracles, lived without sin, and proclaimed the coming of God's kingdom.
7. Jesus died on the cross for our sake, atoning for the sins of the world.
8. Jesus rose again, appearing to women and his disciples, commissioning them to proclaim the gospel and to teach the way of salvation, ascending and being seated at the right hand of the Father in power and glory.
9. Salvation is by grace through faith, and faith without works is dead.
10. Through repentance, belief, and the regeneration of the Holy Spirit, Christians share in Christ's body, look for Christ's return in glory, and hope for eternal life.
11. Our studies are aimed at becoming a people for the glory of God and the good of all mankind.
12. Our studies are successful only when they lead us to love God and love our neighbor as commanded.



Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the use or theft of intellectual property without attribution, both a moral and educational transgression. Students are required to affirm academic integrity in writing when submitting all course work: Students pledge that they will neither give nor take improper assistance in completing all assignment.

Grading

The grading system at Chesterton College employs a unique, qualitative terminology; the chart below is a translation guide to that of other grading systems.

Mark	4.0 Equivalent	Letter Equivalent	Percentage	Latin	English
SCL	4	A	94.0 – 100	<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	With Greatest Praise
CL	3.7	A-	90.0 – 93.9	<i>Cum Laude</i>	With Praise
SCH	3.3	B+	87.0 – 89.9	<i>Summo Cum Honore</i>	With Greatest Honor
CH	3	B	84.0 – 86.9	<i>Cum Honore</i>	With Honor
MCH	2.7	B-	80.0 – 83.9	<i>Minimo Cum Honore</i>	With Lesser Honor
SCS	2.3	C+	77.0 – 79.9	<i>Summa Cum Sufficientia</i>	With Greatest Adequacy
CS	2	C	74.0 – 76.9	<i>Cum Sufficientia</i>	With Adequacy
MCS	1.7	C-	70.0 – 73.9	<i>Minima Cum Sufficientia</i>	With Lesser Adequacy
M	0	F	00.0 – 69.9	<i>Minime</i>	Not Adequate
AUD		AUD			Audit; no credit
W		W			Withdrew
I		I			Incomplete
IP		IP			In Progress
P		P			Pass
F		F			Fail

Payment

Tuition is divided between the first two and second two terms. The first payment is to be made before the first day of the first term. The second payment is to be made before the first day of the third term. Payment may be mail to or dropped off at the college offices. Exceptions to the two-payments will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Tuition is a full year commitment which we offer in a two payment plan. Since we budget and hire teachers based upon tuition income, students are responsible for the full tuition, even if the student voluntarily withdraws or is dismissed from the college mid-year.



Attendance

Timely attendance is very important. In-class presence and participation with fellow students and instructors cannot be easily replaced with other modes of instruction. Therefore, a student may not be absent more than three classes per term per course. In excess of two absences, punitive consequences will follow. After accumulation of excessive absences, the administration will meet with the student to determine the student's future with Chesterton College.

Since classes meet only two days a week, it is important that students arrange doctor's appointments and other obligations during times that do not conflict with the students' participation in class. We understand that life sometimes follows its own course and we cannot control illnesses, deaths, or emergencies. But we ask students to limit their absences to these categories.

Church Attendance

All students are expected to participate actively and regularly in a local congregation. If membership elsewhere is justified, "watchcare" status in a local church is an acceptable alternative when supported by both the home and local church.

Christian Conduct

Though academic study can be challenging, students are enjoined to shun anxiety and to always rejoice in the Lord (Philippians 4). Collegiate life provides an opportunity for mutual encouragement and illumination, to which end it is especially important that students give themselves to one another, bearing with one another in patience, forbearance, and love.

When conflicts arise, resolution and reconciliation is best accomplished in Christian love with candid communication (Matthew 18). If intractable, Christian mediation should be sought apart from secular litigation (1 Corinthians 6). Students should seek resolution through the grievance process within institutional channels, apart from the public view.

Respect for persons is expected of community members, and is incompatible with lying, gossiping, profanity, slander, hateful actions or any threats to personal safety, including hazing, stalking or any kind of harassment. Biblical stewardship of property and resources is expected. Respect for private and public property precludes theft or vandalism. Financial malfeasance cannot be tolerated, such as neglect of economic obligations or gambling. Activity that violates federal, state or local laws is unacceptable in accordance with instruction for obedience to governing authorities (Rom 13, 1 Pet 2).

Human sexuality is meant for Godly devotion, expressed through chastity in singleness, fidelity in marriage, and the purity of the eyes and the heart. Sexual misconduct includes premarital sex, homosexual activity, and marital infidelity, but also the use of pornography, sexual harassment, or sexual assault (1 Cor 6 & 7). Persistent cross-dressing or transgender identity also suggest a troubled relationship with God and will launch a similar review process as that for sexual misconduct. Any incidences of sexual misconduct, by faculty, staff, or students should be reported to the administration for redress.



Dress Code

Students are required to dress appropriately for all Chesterton College's meetings and gatherings. This includes all Classes, Meetings, Events, etc. In all respects the students must strive to have their dress be neat, clean, modest, not casual, and not outlandish. We recognize that any specific dress code can always be circumvented in effect while obeyed in the letter. Therefore we urge our students to work at establishing a Christian culture and a care for the spirit of the guidelines, not only in our cultivation of mind, but also in our manners and appearance.

Appropriate male dress includes a button down shirt tucked into pants with a belt and dress shoes. "Pants" are restricted to the following: khakis, corduroys, slacks, and other dress pants (no jeans). An appropriate necktie is also required. Optional dress-ups include a sweater or sweater vest, a jacket/blazer.

Appropriate female dress should be beautiful, modest, and professional. The base principle is that a woman should not look out of place at the same event as a man who is wearing a coat and tie. Appropriate female dress includes a dress, skirt & nice blouse, or dress pants & nice blouse, and dress shoes. Leggings, tights, or "yoga pants" may not be worn in place of pants. Appropriate dress-up items include jewelry, dressy scarves, heels and blazers. Hair styles and makeup can also dress an outfit up or down, but these should be considered part of the foundation rather than as add-ons.

These guidelines describe a minimum requirement of dress that is meant to inform the students' understanding of the dress code. Again, please remember that a student may technically follow these guidelines without achieving the appropriate standard of dress. When faculty or staff members believe a student's pattern of dress and behavior violates the intent of the dress policy, they will inform the administration, who will meet with the student and prescribe appropriate corrective actions. If the student fails to follow the prescribed corrective actions and/or continues conduct which violates the dress policy in his or her pattern of dress and behavior, the administration will bring the student before the Board. The Board will hear the accusation and supporting evidence, and will also hear any denial or other remarks, if any, from the student. The Board will then make a final determination on the matter.

Sexuality and Gender Identity

In employment and in student life, we regard sex at birth as the identification of the given biological sex of each member of our constituency. Any blurring of the boundary between maleness and femaleness, such as identifying oneself as a transvestite, transsexual, or transgendered, is contrary to biblical wisdom and common sense. We must view the actions or intentions of those seeking fundamental changes of any kind from one's sex at birth as a rejection of the biblical and theological understandings to which Chesterton College is committed, and hence as grounds for removal from consideration for employment for an employment applicant and/or from consideration for enrollment for a student applicant, and as grounds for termination of employment for a current employee (faculty or staff) and/or termination of enrollment of a current student. The same is true for persistent or exaggerated examples of cross-dressing, or other expressions or actions that are deliberately discordant with birth sex. All students and employees are responsible for notifying the College of any violation of this policy, past or present. Decisions will be handled on a case-by-case basis in a pastorally sensitive manner.



When faculty or staff members believe a student's pattern of doctrine or behavior violates the spirit or letter of this pledge, they will inform the administration, who will meet with the student and prescribe appropriate corrective actions. If the student fails to follow the prescribed corrective actions and/or continues conduct which violates this pledge in his or her pattern of doctrine or behavior, the administration will bring the student before the Board. The Board will hear the accusation and supporting evidence, and will also hear any denial or other remarks, if any, from the student. The Board will then make a final determination on the student's continuation at Chesterton College.

By signing this Pledge of Theological and Behavioral Conformity, I agree to abide by the guidelines written herein.

Student Name (printed)

Date

Student Signature

Date