

The Hope College Community

Community refers to a group of individuals that share a common purpose and goal. It is a group who lives, works, and interacts respectfully, with consideration of the unique qualities of the others within the community. Often diverse, this group commits to a shared experience by negotiating strategies for a healthy and productive environment, where the needs of both the individual and the group are nurtured and enhanced.

When you become a member of the Hope community, either by enrolling in classes or as faculty or staff member, you assume the responsibility of creating an atmosphere that is conducive to education and scholarship by observing the standards that have been defined. Being a member of the Hope College community has many rewards found in the quality of education, numerous co-curricular activities and vibrant Christian character. You will reap the benefits of belonging to such a community, but are expected to uphold the values and respect the individuals who also belong to this community.

Throughout this handbook, you will find helpful information about our community. Whether you live on-campus or off-campus, it is important that you are a positive influence on the campus and in the surrounding community. Hope College has established standards for conduct in order to protect the rights of every student and to ensure a community of respect. The College strives to make this campus a place where members can study, work, and reside, and where people are treated with respect.

Furthermore, all residents of the campus are an integral part of the community and, as such, will assume an active role in developing and monitoring an atmosphere which promotes success for all members. As a community member, your rights and responsibilities must be balanced with the needs of your neighbors.

Hope College aspires to be an institution which cares and engages learning to make a difference.



HOPE COLLEGE

Virtues of Conversation in the Hope College Community

Hope Colleges provides, with recognized excellence, undergraduate liberal arts education vitally informed by the historic Christian faith. Thus, Hope seeks to be an educational community in which all individuals are, as a matter of deeply held principle, treated with the respect due them as God's creatures. As an academic institution, we are also firmly committed to the exploration of a wide range of ideas, some of which will not garner wide agreement within the community.

When disagreement and controversy ensue, as they surely will at times, how do we conduct our institutional conversations? We believe the following virtues of conversation are both biblically warranted and consistent with our education mission. We recommend them to the Hope community as a means of ensuring that our conversations with one another are consistent with both our convictions regarding the worth of people and with our educational mission. These qualities of a liberally educated individual may become especially important when the pressures of controversy and disagreement might incline us to disregard them.

Humility recognizes the limitations of any one person's knowledge, and thus makes it possible to learn from the insights of others. Humility says no to the price that prevents open communication, thus encouraging a willingness to consider carefully others' opinions and perspectives. Humility does not mean, however, endorsement of every view encountered.

Hospitality is the virtue of welcoming the stranger—who might really be anyone whose ideas, beliefs, or morality might seem different, confusing, or discomfiting. Even more, it is the virtue of receiving others into our presence and offering a safe place for people to express ideas unlike our own.

Patience is the willingness and the fortitude to stay engaged, calmly persevering, with the knowledge that waiting is not merely doing nothing, but is a persistent determination that reveals and stretches our ability to understand.

Courage is the boldness to accept risks associated with honest advocacy of one's position. Courage requires the strength to freely speak one's convictions even when one's opinions may be considered dangerous or unpopular. Courage also involves the ability to listen openly as others articulate beliefs that are different from your own.

Honesty is determined commitment to discovering and speaking the truth by members of the community. Fidelity to what is the case and an unwillingness to mislead are hallmarks of honesty. Honesty fosters an open environment that encourages growth and leads to real progress.