

He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

Community Covenant

 JOHN BROWN UNIVERSITY
2000 West University Street
Siloam Springs, AR 72761

10-11
Community Covenant

Preamble

Since its inception in the summer of 1919, John Brown University has been an educational institution committed to the transformation of students. The university equips people in their intellectual, spiritual, and practical lives by providing Christ-centered liberal arts and professional education.

The university is Christian and its influence has a clear connection and reliance on a strong "campus community." Clear expectations help the members of the community live in unity. Therefore, while students are not required to profess personal Christian faith, making the choice to attend JBU means having a sympathetic appreciation for our guiding principles and choosing to abide by our community expectations.

Core guiding principles for our Community Lifestyle Expectations

The university community has developed four guiding principles that represent our core values. Below are the four Core Guiding Principles, along with illustrative statements to illuminate their meaning and practical lifestyle expectations that we request our traditional program undergraduate students to abide by.

1 We affirm and honor **SCRIPTURE**.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.
2 Tim. 3:16

In the context of God's grace we: Desire to place Jesus Christ at the center of our belief and practice; Derive the principles for our life together from scripture and live according to its authoritative instruction; Value our interdenominational foundation within the evangelical heritage.

Community expectation: We agree that the Scripture is JBU's authority for faith and life. Therefore, we agree to submit to its instruction regarding practices. Galatians 5:19-21 outlines some of the practices to be avoided, such as occult practices, sex outside of marriage, and theft (including copyrighted material).

2 We strive to live with **INTEGRITY**.

The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.
Proverbs 11:3

(See also: Psalm 26; Proverbs 20:7; Philippians 2:3)

In the context of God's grace we: Strive to live our lives with honesty, willing to share our struggles and victories while attempting to align our actions with Christian principles; Engage in our academic work with honesty and integrity; Seek out mutual accountability through supportive relationships.

Community expectation: We agree that the laws of the nation, state, and local community are to be obeyed (Rom 13:1). The only exception to this submission to legally constituted authority would be the very rare occasion when obedience to civil authorities would require disobedience to the moral law of God.

3 We support and care for individual **UNIQUENESS**.

Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.
Romans 12:4-5

(See also: Eph. 4; Rom. 12; Micah 6:8)

In the context of God's grace we: Value the racial, ethnic, gender, and religious diversity of our community, honoring the unique gifts and dignity of each person; Show redemptive grace and compassion to each other by speaking the truth in love; Foster an environment of transparency, authenticity, and unconditional love.

Community expectation: We agree that preserving human dignity and protecting each other honors God, and that harassment of any kind (verbal, sexual, racial, ethnic, etc.) will not be tolerated. Likewise, pornographic material has no place in a Christian community that seeks to honor God.

4 We actively participate within the **COMMUNITY**.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
Galatians 5:22-23

(See also: Eph. 4:23)

In the context of God's grace we: Endeavor to love God with our whole being and our neighbors as ourselves; Encourage one another to engage in the building of our community for the good of all and the glory of God; Put the good of the community above our individual desires, encouraging each other to live lives of purity and holiness.

Community expectation: We agree that the life of Christian faith is one of sacrifice and servanthood. In addition to encouraging each other to seek lives of purity and holiness, we also agree to avoid practices that will harm ourselves, one another, or the community as a whole. Such practices include tobacco use, profanity, and gambling. The JBU community has also adopted prudential rules that are consistent with but not required by Scripture (i.e., prohibiting the use of alcohol) in order to guide and encourage the Christian conduct of undergraduate students.

Guiding responsibilities

All JBU community members are encouraged to use wisdom and Scriptural guidance when making choices regarding movies and television, video games, computer use, outward appearance/dress, media-generated material, and off-campus entertainment. We are expected to show responsibility for each other, both by example and by challenging others to obedience.

Students in the traditional undergraduate program are called to abide by the community expectations listed above when the university is in session (including the semester breaks, e.g. Christmas Break, Thanksgiving Break, and Spring Break). Students are under the Community Covenant from the day they arrive on campus for the fall semester through the end of second semester. The Community Covenant is also in effect during May term, study abroad programs, summer sessions, and other university programs for students participating in those terms or programs.

JBU recognizes the governance of the home and does not intend to infringe on the family structure. Students who are in the presence of their parents/guardians are assumed to be part of the family unit and under the direction of their parents/guardians.

Covenant Affirmation

As a student and member of the John Brown University community, I have read the covenant above and agree with fellow university community members to live by its direction.

Print Name _____ Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Admissions Policy

John Brown University admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, or sex to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to the students. This institution does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin, physical handicap, or sex in administration of education policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic, and other school-administered programs. The Family Educational Rights Act of 1974 extended to all former students and presently enrolled students at John Brown University the right of access to certain educational records maintained by the institution. Student rights include: (a) inspection and review, (b) explanation and interpretation of contents, (c) duplication of the record at a standard fee, (d) a formal hearing, if necessary, to challenge the contents of any such record. For purposes of this Act, all students are assumed to be dependents unless the student has submitted evidence of emancipation. Further information may be obtained by contacting the President's Office.

What life have you if you have not life together? There is no life that is not in community, and no community not lived in praise of God.

T. S. Eliot, "Choruses from 'the Rock'"
The Complete Poems and Plays, 1909-1950

Community Covenant