

Office of the Chaplaincy
Religious Life Policy
Revised June 2011

The University of Richmond and the Office of the Chaplaincy are dedicated to creating an inclusive community in a way that seeks to uphold the diversity of UR community members' backgrounds and experiences. We recognize that within such a community there will be numerous religious expressions. We seek to affirm the religious and spiritual vitality that is central to a well-rounded college experience.

In that spirit, the following are expectations for how religious organizations will function at the University of Richmond.

Expectations

- Only those religious organizations approved as Campus Ministries through the Office of the Chaplaincy may be active on campus.
- Campus Ministers must be under the direct supervision of a regional, national, or international denomination or religious organization.
- Any unauthorized individual or organization will be asked to leave the campus premises.
- A Campus Ministry may sponsor outside speakers/organizations for no more than three campus visits in an academic year.
- If an individual or organization is invited to campus by an approved Campus Ministry, the respective Campus Minister is responsible for that person's or organization's behavior while on campus. All such individuals and/or organizations are required to clearly and explicitly state the identity of the group or groups they represent in any literature, display, or publicity. They are also required to uphold the Chaplaincy's Covenant of Mutual Respect and Understanding.
- In accordance with the University of Richmond's Student Handbook, the University limits the sale of items or solicitation of any business in residence halls / apartments. This policy extends to religious outreach as well. (Please see page 80 in Student Handbook).
- Any form of harassment or proselytizing is prohibited.

Obtaining Campus Ministry Status

The Office of the Chaplaincy works to maintain a campus ministry program which reflects the diversity of the University of Richmond community.

New campus ministries are established only by the invitation of the Office of the Chaplaincy. Such invitations will be issued in the following manner:

- The Office of the Chaplaincy will determine the need for a new campus ministry by evaluating campus demographics and student petitions for a new group.
- The Office of the Chaplaincy will seek to recruit new campus ministry leadership through relationships with larger regional, national, or international denominations or religious organizations.

All new campus ministries must submit an application provided by the Office of the Chaplaincy. This application includes a statement of expectations for all campus ministers.

Requirements for nominated campus ministers:

- Endorsement by the organization prepared to supervise and assume ultimate responsibility for the Campus Minister's activity.
- Ordination and/or good standing with a regional / national religious organization.
- If not ordained, the nominated Campus Minister should be professionally trained for religious work. A completed B.A. or B.S. degree is required. In addition, a candidate will need one of the following: M.Div., M.A. in theology or religion (or equivalent), or special coursework or certifications through the regional, national, or international sponsoring organization. The candidate should have experience in campus ministry or related areas (youth work, congregational ministry, teaching, etc). Proof of educational background and training will be required.
- Signed Application and Agreement Form.
- Signed Covenant of Mutual Respect and Understanding to be completed at yearly Campus Ministry Orientation.

*Once all materials have been received, the new Campus Minister must make an appointment with Human Resources to complete all necessary steps to begin work as a campus volunteer. The Office of the Chaplaincy will provide guidelines for beginning this process. **No Campus Minister will be allowed to begin work on campus until this process is completed.***

We seek to maintain a diversity of theological perspectives and faith traditions at all times.