



COLORADO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Grace and Truth

Lifestyle Covenant

The CCU community seeks to encourage individuals to understand and use their unique, God-given gifts and abilities. Our hope is to see growth in the areas of spiritual and emotional maturity, interpersonal relationships, social awareness, and intellectual abilities, producing students centered in Jesus Christ. We intend for students to be intellectually prepared to pursue a career where they can individually serve others, live out their faith, and affect change in the world around them.

The Lifestyle Covenant expresses a commitment to educate men and women in the process of integrating their faith and education. This agreement also expresses our commitment to providing an atmosphere for study, personal exploration, involvement in interpersonal relationships, spiritual life, and growth that is conducive to students achieving goals, while enjoying living and learning in community.

Living a Biblical Lifestyle

Central to our foundation is the hope that each student will strive to deepen their relationship with the Lord while deepening their understanding of a particular academic discipline. It is our expectation that each student commit to growing spiritually in the following ways:

◆ **Chapel Attendance** – Chapel sets the tone for the spiritual atmosphere on campus through the promotion and enrichment of community by teaching the Bible and lifting up the Lord in corporate worship. Since chapel is essential to the total learning process at CCU, it is required. Students are required to obtain 180 chapel credits (or an average of 45 a year for transfer students) in order to graduate.

◆ **Church Attendance** – The University encourages and expects every student to become involved in a local church or fellowship on a weekly basis while attending CCU.

◆ **Ministry** – The University is deeply committed to the role that service plays in the Christian life. Just as Christ came to serve, not to be served, CCU feels that service is one of the pillars of our faith. To this end all students are required to complete 180 hours of community service before graduation. Transfer students must complete 45 hours for every year they attend CCU. Ministry hours must be documented with the Office of Service Learning.

Our Responsibilities for Relationships

Living in daily fellowship with others in the Christian community is a privilege and an expression of God's grace. In recognition of this privilege, we place great value on the quality of relationships in our community. We believe the greatest expression of fellowship and the highest principle for relationships is love.

"We should love one another. This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers . . . let us not love with words or tongue, but with actions and in truth. Since God so loved us, we ought to love one another. Whoever loves God must also love his brothers." 1 John 3:11-16, 18, 4:11, 21.

We exemplify this love in the following ways:

◆ **Through serving one another** – *"We who are strong ought to bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up." Romans 15:1-2.*

◆ **Through supporting one another** – *"Clothe yourself with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another." Colossians 3:12.*

◆ **Through healing broken relationships** – *" . . . and He (Christ) has given us the ministry of reconciliation . . . and He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. II Corinthians 5:18-19.*

◆ **Through mutual accountability** – *"Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother." Mathew 18:15*

CCU realizes that struggles occur in relationships and believes that it is through continual effort and accountability will foster an atmosphere of loving one another enough to forgive, heal, and grow exists.

Responsibilities for Behavior

One of the distinctions of Christian higher education is the pursuit of a community that follows the example of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Bible. Such a community requires enforceable standards that reflect our institutional mission and provide a framework for student behavior. The Bible teaches the lordship of Jesus Christ over all; the care of our whole being as temples of the Holy Spirit; the careful stewardship of the mind, time, abilities, funds, and opportunities; loving God with all of our being and loving your neighbor as yourself; personal righteousness; the practice of justice; evangelistic outreach through word and life; and the responsible exercise of our freedom.

Students are expected to be aware of and follow the guidelines in the Student Handbook, to act in consideration of others, and to exercise personal restraint when dealing with issues not specifically addressed in the Bible. To this end we have highlighted some of the student expectations found in the Handbook.

◆ **A commitment to honoring God with the use of our minds and bodies.** CCU students are expected to abstain from the use of illicit or non-medical drugs, narcotics, and other controlled substances. CCU expects that its' students will not be involved in situations where such activities are present. The use of alcohol or tobacco on campus is strictly prohibited, any underage drinking off campus, or public intoxication either on or off campus by any student, is prohibited. Of age students engaged in alcohol consumption off campus are expected to discourage underage drinking in those settings and become role models to underclassmen. It is our hope that students would seek the Lord's leading and be in prayer about how the use of these substances might reflect on their testimony.

◆ **A commitment to the purity of sexual relationships.** Grounded in Christ-centered traditions and principles, CCU's community values define sexual intercourse and other forms of intensely interpersonal sexual activity as well as cohabitation, as the unique expression of the covenanted love within a heterosexual marriage. Sexual activity outside of marriage is inappropriate for CCU students whether living on or off campus.

◆ **A commitment to a life that is sensitive to our Christian witness.** It is important that we commit ourselves to expressing Christian values in responsible decisions and actions. CCU asks its students to use good judgment in their entertainment and recreation choices especially in the areas of music, movies, videos, magazines, and access to the Internet. Pornography is strictly prohibited and is not to be used, possessed, distributed, or accessed over the Internet.

◆ **A commitment to the confrontation of community members when they stray from the values, morals, and commitments** that are set forth by the University and its members in the Student Handbook, as well as a commitment to involve the University when students, after being confronted, continue with inappropriate behavior. This mutual accountability commitment challenges all students to hold each other's behavior accountable within a Christian Community framework that fosters the academic and spiritual growth of its members.

◆ **A commitment to Academic Integrity.** As a community seeking to live by the truth of Jesus Christ, CCU values personal integrity and academic honesty as vital components of a Christian educational experience. We believe that trust among community members is essential for both scholarship and the effective operations of the university. As members of this community, all students, faculty, staff, and administrators are responsible for ensuring that their behavior is consistent with the highest standards of integrity. As outlined in the academic catalogue and student handbook, academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following categories: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, multiple submissions without faculty permission, obtaining unfair advantage, aiding and abetting, and unauthorized access to academic or administrative records or systems.

With this understanding of our benefits and responsibilities as members of the Colorado Christian University community, we covenant together as a body of believer-scholars to pursue the challenge of living out this covenant.

Colossians 3:12-17 provides an appropriate summary of the goals for our community:

"Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against each other. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all of these virtues, put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom . . . with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father."

All students in the College of Undergraduates Studies (CUS) will be required to sign before attending classes.