

A CIVIL CLIMATE FOR LEARNING: (page 5 in Graduate Bullition)

Statement of Expectations

The University of Akron is an educational community of diverse peoples, processes, and programs. While all of us have our individual backgrounds, outlooks, values, and styles, we all share certain principles of personal responsibility, mutual respect, and common decency. Our campus culture requires that we maintain and extend those principles, for without them we cannot thrive as a humane and worthwhile university. To keep ourselves aware of these shared principles, this statement articulates some of the expectations and responsibilities of a civil climate for learning on our campus.

Principles of Our Campus Culture

Our campus culture acknowledges the importance of all in our community for their participation in our common enterprise as a university. We value the contributions and we respect the needs of students, faculty, contract professionals, staff, administrators, maintenance and service personnel, and everyone else whose work and dedication enables us to pursue our individual and collective academic goals.

Together we maintain an intellectual culture that is accessible, disciplined, free, safe, and committed to excellence. By our behavior with one another we endorse a culture of diversity, celebrating the uniqueness of the individual and developing our understanding and tolerance of differences in gender, ethnicity, age, spiritual belief, sexual orientation, and physical or mental potential. We take responsibility for sustaining a caring culture, nurturing growth and fulfillment in one another and in the larger communities of which we are a part. We insist on a culture of civility, united in our rejection of violence, coercion, deceit, or terrorism. We work to increase collaboration, cooperation, and consensus within rational dialogue characterized by mutual respect and consideration. Ours is a responsible culture. We expect each member of our community to carry out responsibly his or her duties for preserving the integrity, quality, and decency of our environment and our discourse.

Expectations and Responsibilities

To preserve and propagate the Culture of The University of Akron, everyone must engage in certain specific behaviors. Anyone new to this campus must be aware of the expectations we have of each other and be committed to fulfilling his/her responsibility in maintaining our culture.

Inside the Classroom

Inside the classroom, faculty is expected to respect the sanctity of the teaching/learning process by honoring their commitment to students in terms of time, fairness, and enthusiasm. It is the responsibility of faculty to set and enforce the classroom rules of conduct. Faculty members are expected to treat men and women, persons of all colors and ethnicities, and persons with varying abilities, spiritual preference, or sexual orientation with equitable respect and consideration. Faculty should value and pursue excellence in teaching as well as research. Faculty shall not engage in sexual or other forms of harassment or engage in inappropriate dual relationships with students. Faculty must not tolerate academic dishonesty nor discrimination or harassment from students to other students.

Students are expected to respect the sanctity of the teaching/learning process by expressing respect for the faculty member as the organizer and guide through this learning experience, as well as for fellow students. Disruptive, disrespectful, discriminatory, harassing, violent and/or threatening behavior is explicitly prohibited. Academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning and, in return, can expect responsible teaching from the faculty member. Students should report unprofessional behavior on the part of faculty members. Students have a right to expect that they will not be sexually otherwise harassed, intimidated, or threatened.

On the Campus

On the campus, everyone is expected to respect and protect the dignity and freedom of each other. There must be the opportunity for expression of all points of view, free from name-calling or ridicule. All members of the University family are expected to be civil and tolerant of others. It is the responsibility of each member of the University community to express dissatisfaction with anyone who fails to meet the responsibility of civility and to request that they do so. In the event that cooperation cannot be attained, proper authorities must be involved to insist upon these minimum

expectations. Only by campus-wide compliance to these expectations can we achieve a clear sense of our campus culture and, accordingly, a sense of mutual pride.

Students can expect that all representatives of all departmental and administrative offices will treat them with respect, a sense of cooperation and with concern for their welfare. Students can also expect appropriate coordination of services among departments.