

The Character of Our College

The Community Life Covenant of Tabor College



Founded in 1908, Tabor College is an educational community that is committed to shaping the lives of all its members. The mission of Tabor is to prepare people for a life of learning, work and service for Christ and his Kingdom.

Tabor is a Christian college. It is expected that all who choose to attend Tabor will have a sympathetic appreciation for our foundational principles and a willingness to abide by our community standards.

Tabor intends to provide an environment that supports and enables the educational journey. Tabor's seal identifies four foundational principles for our community: faith, knowledge, character, and truth. As such, we believe that the following commitments will enable our campus to honor God and facilitate a life-transforming educational experience.

Our Foundational Principles

Every community needs a clear foundation. The following principles provide guidance and deliberate direction to the Tabor Community:

1. We affirm the historic Christian faith.

- We believe and affirm the Christian faith, devoting ourselves to following Jesus in both our personal lives and community living.
- Therefore, we commit to
Understanding the Christian faith; pursuing Christian spirituality; appreciating the diversity of thought within the Christian faith; valuing Tabor's Mennonite Brethren heritage; attending chapel consistently; and living a life of service that honors and blesses others.

2. We celebrate the pursuit of knowledge.

- We believe that learning and study are a celebration of the world that God has created.
- Therefore, we commit to
Engaging in the pursuit of wisdom and knowledge; asking questions and searching for answers; demonstrating integrity in all academic work and exams; creating time and space for contemplation and reflection; and striving to integrate faith, living, and learning.

3. We strive to live with character.

- We believe that living in a Christian educational community includes striving together to promote and develop virtuous personal character.
- Therefore, we commit to
Pursuing Christian growth and maturity; developing a life of virtue, integrity, and honesty; ongoing self-examination; honoring the dignity of self and others, including restraint from harassment or discrimination of any kind, and from the use and possession of all forms of pornographic materials; the wise use of words, including their use to build others up, rather than to tear down; the wise stewardship of personal and community resources (such as time, finances, and property), including restraint from gambling; demonstrating care for ourselves and others by refraining from the use, possession, or sale of illegal drugs, alcohol, and tobacco products (including the inappropriate use of medication), and through promoting the overall safety and well-being of all members of the community; and submitting to the laws of the governing authorities.

4. We are guided by the truth of the Scriptures.

- We believe that the Scriptures provide the authority in the Christian community for belief, thinking, and practice.
- Therefore, we commit to
Being guided by biblical teaching; Bible reading and reflection; studying the Scriptures in our academic courses; pursuing biblical wisdom in the choice of entertainment; having lifestyles and relationships that are virtuous and honor biblical instruction, including the pursuit of healthy sexuality that celebrates sexual intimacy only within the marriage covenant between a man and a woman; and following biblical instruction as interpreted by the MB Confession of Faith* in the ways romantic relationships are pursued and practiced within our community. We commit to dialogue and to receive instruction, input, and direction from the Student Life Department and the Tabor Community as a whole.

*<https://usmb.org/confession-of-faith-4/>

Our Community Responsibilities

- Community is a place of great privilege as well as great responsibility. We recognize that the quality of our life together is largely dependent upon the willingness of each individual member to relinquish his or her personal rights or preferences so that the community as a whole can flourish. The Scriptures remind us of this:
"Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of others"
- *Philippians 2:3-4.*
- In this spirit, each member of our community is called to show responsibility for others through his or her own example and through challenging others to live with integrity in respect to these, our common commitments.

In addition to this covenant, Tabor College students are responsible for all policies outlined in the Student Handbook.

Students enrolled in the traditional, undergraduate program are called to abide by the lifestyle expectations listed above when they are enrolled and Tabor is in session, from the first day they arrive at school each fall semester through the end of the second semester, including all breaks and any time they participate in a Tabor College program. When students are in the presence of their parents/guardians off campus, they are considered to be a part of their family unit and under the direction of their parents/guardians.