

Community Life Statement

Living in Community

Desiring to implement the teachings of Christ, Westmont encourages true fellowship, in the whole body of Christ, including the local church, for when we love each other we imitate Christ's love for us. As we seek to follow God in truth, certain choices make for greater peace: a respect for others as they make decisions contrary to ours, a readiness to listen carefully to those who represent situations or cultures unfamiliar to us, and a concern for how our preferences affect the lives of those around us.

Scripture supports these attitudes and principles. It promotes relationships based on the ideals of trust, compassion, and forbearance, and praises actions that manifest sacrificial giving and sincere faith. Scripture also forbids attitudes such as pride and jealousy, and prohibits such actions as drunkenness, sexual promiscuity, and dishonesty, in part because of their negative impacts on the community which God desire use to have with one another and with God. In keeping with these standards, the Westmont community has agreed to certain guidelines in the Student, Staff, and Faculty Handbooks.

Community is built upon other-centered practices. It flourishes in a place where love for God and neighbor is cultivated and nurtured. It grows strong when members practice integrity, confession, and forgiveness, attempt to live in reconciled relationships, accept responsibility for their actions and words, and submit to biblical instructions for communal life.

Learning depends on truth-centered attitudes. It thrives in an atmosphere of discriminating openness to ideas, a condition that is characterized by a measure of modesty toward one's own views, the desire to affirm the true, and the courage to examine the unfamiliar. As convictions are expressed, one enters into the "great conversation" of collegiate life, a task best approached with a willingness to confront and be confronted with sound thinking.

Hospitality is a primary part of the Christian tradition. Hospitality is a posture that cultivates an environment where others are welcome to join as they are and expresses an understanding that change and growth occurs in community.

Our spiritual lives are interwoven within our being. Our faith and connection with God grows as we consciously submit and allow God to refine us and mold us in God's image. This sanctification takes place via the explicitly Christian expression of worship (i.e. prayer, music, service), but also through the normal actions and liturgies of life (i.e. loving our neigh-

bor, using kind language, seeking wisdom). Given this focus, our social, intellectual, and spiritual growth needs freedom for exploration complemented by a commitment to goodwill, graciousness, and personal discipline.

Affirming the qualities of this relationship is vital. As students, staff, and professors learn to live together, we recognize the dual manifestations of love in justice and mercy. We attempt to work out what it means to live justly and mercifully in common agreements such as this one. We understand that life together will give priority and honor to the wise development of the mind.

The simplicity of the Christ articulation of the greatest commandment, "Love one another as I have loved you," and "Love your neighbor as yourself," comes with a great deal of intentionality and complex relationships.

We are committed to inquiry as well as pronouncement, rigorous study as well as kindred friendship, challenging teaching as well as reflective learning. Sometimes these tensions will lead to conflict. To live in unity, we must set ourselves to the practical task of discerning daily how to love well, how to embody the biblical call to justice and mercy. As we do so, our life together at Westmont will begin to resemble the community God has envisioned for us.

Behavioral Expectations

The Westmont community chooses, freely and willingly, to impose upon itself rules for behavior which serve both the long range interests of the institution and the immediate good of its individual members. While we do not view these expectations as an index to maturity in Christ, we do regard violations as a serious breach of integrity within the community because each member has voluntarily chosen to associate with it and to accept its standards.

Consistent with Scripture, the college establishes the following specific expectations for the trustees, administration, faculty, staff, and students of the Westmont community:

- The college does not condone practices that Scripture forbids. Such activities include but are not limited to occult practices, drunkenness, theft, profanity, dishonesty and sexual relations outside of marriage. Westmont further recognizes that Scripture condemns "sins of the spirit" such as covetousness, jealousy, pride, and lust. By their very nature, these sins are more difficult to discern. Because they lie at the heart of the relationship between the individual and God they are of central concern to the Westmont community.

- The college upholds integrity as a core value of the community. Members are expected to take responsibility for their own violations of all behavioral guidelines and demonstrate commitment to the value of integrity in word and deed.
- The college is committed to providing a learning and work environment free of harassment.
- The college expects our members who choose to marry to abide by the commitment to lifelong heterosexual marriage, and, whether single or married, to strive to maintain healthy family relationships.
- The college upholds the laws of the local community, the nation, and the state of California that prohibit the possession or use of illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia, against purchasing or consuming alcoholic beverages by persons under the age of 21, drunkenness, and driving under the influence of alcohol.
- The college recognizes that the use of tobacco products and alcoholic beverages presents a danger to personal health. It condemns their abuse, and raises questions about the use of tobacco and alcohol. Under no circumstances shall any member of the community use or possess these products on campus or when attending a college-related student activity.
- Westmont will establish other rules and regulations necessary for orderly community life and will list them in appropriate handbooks. You will find information which further explains the specifics of the Behavioral Expectations in others sections of the Trailhead Student Handbook.

Five boundaries

Because the Trailhead program is an intensive academic program, we do not have the same ability to engage in student behavior issues as we would during the normal academic year. Moreover, given the competitiveness of the program, we expect that Trailhead would hold themselves to the highest standards. Based on these factors, we have established a list of five behavioral issues that can result in immediate dismissal from the program.

- Sexual Misconduct
- Illegal Actions (including drugs/alcohol)
- Physical Violence or Threats (includes harassment or abusive language)
- Academic Dishonesty Cheating/Plagiarism
- Repetitive deviance/defiance

If a student violates the community values in these ways, the student(s) will meet with the program administrators, his/her guardian will be contacted and, if necessary, dismissal will be considered.

Residential Support and Emergencies

Trailhead students are typically experiencing campus life for the first time and the program's faculty and staff are here to support their success. The key contributors to this support are the Resident Director, Head Resident Assistant, and Student Mentors. The essential roles of the Student Mentors are to support students' physical, emotional and spiritual well-being and to foster strong and healthy community among students. RAs will organize and lead extracurricular events including off-campus excursions and on-campus social and spiritual activities. They are students' first point of contact in case of emergencies or medical or emotional needs. Finally, they nurture the students' life in community by encouraging student behavior that supports the goals of our community life statement and providing accountability to program policies.

Some things that might occur where you would need the support of your Student Mentor or the Resident Director are:

Medical Emergencies

First dial 911, and then inform a Student Mentor or the Resident Director. If none are immediately available contact Westmont College Public Safety (805-565-6222 or extension 6222 from a campus phone).

Campus-Wide Emergencies

The Westmont campus is in an area prone to wildfire and earthquake. In case of wildfire Trailhead staff or faculty will instruct you to gather at the gymnasium to evacuate the campus, or to shelter there in the gym if evacuation presents greater dangers. In case of earthquake leave the building you are in and do not enter any building until it has been deemed safe to enter.

Health Care

In cases of less serious illness or injury the Student Mentors can assist you in getting the care you need. If they are not available, contact the Resident Director. If your condition needs professional attention they will accompany you to a local clinic or hospital. If you face a physical or emotional health crisis that makes you unable to continue in the program, Trailhead staff will help you to arrange to return home, or to make other appropriate accommodations.

Presence on Campus and in Rooms

Program staff is also responsible for insuring a safe and healthy community life. In an effort to insure students' safety, students may not leave the Westmont campus without prior permission or without the company of a Student Mentor, and must be in their residence hall by 10pm and their section between 11pm and 7am on Sunday through Thursday and midnight and 7am on Friday and Saturday. Overnight guests are not permitted in the residence hall. To insure the privacy and comfort of the students, no student may be in the opposite gender's section of the residence hall, except

during scheduled open houses. Because dating can complicate group dynamics, we ask that students refrain from entering dating relationships.

Dismissal from the Program

Behavior that undermines safe and healthy community life will be taken very seriously and may result in dismissal from the program. Such behavior includes: unauthorized absence from program activities, leaving campus without prior permission, unauthorized entry into the opposite gender's residence hall section, violation of curfew, use of alcohol, tobacco or illegal drugs, unlawful or offensive computer use, harassment, sexual misconduct, theft, vandalism, and violence. Parents will be contacted immediately if their student violates program policies, and that student may face immediate dismissal from the program with no refund. A student's dismissal from the program is at the discretion of the Resident Director.

Residential and Community Life Policies

Balls/Athletic Equipment

Do not play with any athletic equipment or balls inside of the residence hall. We have a selection of balls and sports equipment that you may check out from your Student Mentor during free time.

Hallways

Hallways should be clear of any clothes, shoes, bags, trash, etc.

Doors

Please do not prop the exterior doors (the alarms will go off if you do). Also, please make sure that the door to your room is locked when you are gone. This is to provide protection for your property and personal space.

Meals

Trailhead participants will eat meals together. On-campus meals will be at the following times:

- Breakfast: 8:30am (Armington C Lounge)
- Lunch: 12:45pm (Dining Commons)
- Dinner: 5:45pm (Dining Commons)

Move-Out

You should leave your room in the same condition as you found it. Westmont will assess charges for all damage. Leaving your room in unsatisfactory condition may result in a fine to cover the cost of repair or additional cleaning.

Candles

No candles or open flames are allowed in the residence halls.

Fire Alarm

The residence halls at Westmont College are equipped with fire alarms and protection devices. Residents may not tamper with any one of them. If a fire alarm goes off, take it seriously, exit the building, and go to the lawn where you initially checked in (behind Armington B).

Free Time

We will often have free time between the end of program activities and dinner. We will have casual activities occurring (games, sports, walks, etc.); although it is not required that you participate, we encourage you to do so.

Residence Hall Nightly Check-In

You are to check in to your section with your Student Mentor at 10pm each night.

Open Hours

Open hours in the residence hall rooms on Sunday through Thursday are from noon to 10pm; on Friday and Saturday evenings open hours are extended until 11:30pm. During this time students of the opposite gender may be in each other's rooms. If a student of the opposite gender is in the room the door must be open. You are to be in your section at 11pm each weekday night and midnight each weekend night (unless accompanied by a Student Mentor). Violating these policies may result in a loss of open hour privileges.

Damage to or Loss of Personal Property

The college assumes no responsibility for and does not provide insurance or any other financial protection for your personal property or that of your guests. Please lock your room to prevent theft.

Laundry Facilities

For your convenience, card-operated laundry facilities are available in your residence hall. Student Mentors will have a key card and laundry soap for you use. You will need to pay for each load you do.

Keys

If you lose your room key, report the loss immediately to your Student Mentor, who will issue a replacement. The lost key charge is \$30. In order to prevent non-occupants from gaining unauthorized access to your room, do not attach your room key to any kind of identification card.

Personal Items in Bathrooms and Lounges

In consideration of other residents, you should not leave personal items in common areas in the residence hall; this includes leaving toiletries in bathrooms.

Quiet Hours

Quiet hours are from 1pm to 7am. However, non-Quiet Hours are considered Courtesy Hours which means that residents should extend courtesy and sensitivity to others' needs for quiet due to illness, reflection time, etc. Residents are expected to be aware of other residents, and they do not have the license to play music at such volume that disturbs others.

Room Arranging and Decorating

You may not affix any decorations to your walls, doors or furniture with tape. Please use sticky-tack or 3M Command strips. Please make every effort to return your room to its original condition after you leave.

Trash and Recycling

It is your responsibility to bring out your own recycling and trashcans to the recycling and trash dumpsters located outside your residence hall.

Transportation

Participants are not permitted to use their personal vehicles during the program. Transportation to all off-campus events will be provided by the program.

Site Visits and Other Off-Campus Trips

Each Trailhead module includes an off-campus site visit; we will also occasionally take recreational trips to locations in town. Unless program staff explicitly state otherwise, all students are expected to attend these activities, as they are part of the program.

Westmont Staff Access to Rooms

Westmont reserves the right to have authorized personnel enter any room for the purpose of inspection, repairs or other official business. Authorized personnel may also enter rooms when they have reason to believe that the well-being or safety of the occupants of the building are in jeopardy or a college policy is being violated.

Withdrawal From Program

If a student is contemplating withdrawing from the program, he or she should speak with a member of the Trailhead staff. The Resident Director should be informed promptly.

Campus Services

Internet

We encourage you to use the Trailhead experience as an opportunity to "unplug" from the demands of mobile-digital life. We ask that you take appropriate measures to remain in touch with your family or guardian(s), but refrain from extensive messaging, social media use, etc. You may connect your own computer or devices to the internet via the "Conference" connection.

Bookstore

The bookstore offers a selection of books as well as computer supplies, insignia items, clothing, gifts, cards, electronics, and a selection of snacks and drinks. The bookstore is open from 8:30am to 4:30pm, Monday - Friday.

Post Office

The campus post office processes all inbound and outbound letters and parcels via U.S. mail, UPS, FedEx, and other carriers. All your letters and parcels should be addressed as follows:

Your name
Trailhead
Westmont College
955 La Paz Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93108-1023

You may purchase stamps and envelopes and ship parcel packages at the walkup customer service counter between 10am and 4pm Monday through Friday.

Fitness Center

The Fitness Center is open to us Monday - Friday, 6am - 8am and 3pm - 9:45pm. Check <http://blogs.westmont.edu/athletics/fitness-center-hours/> for weekend times. We recommend going with a friend.

Pool

The pool is open for student use 1:00pm-6:00pm every day. Please go with a friend.

Racquetball and Tennis Courts

Racquetball and tennis courts are available for use on a first-come, first-served basis.