



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT & LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

2023-2024

AGAPE CENTER FOR LOCAL AND GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

The Agape Center is committed to cultivating experiences for students through local and global opportunities by doing the following:

- Educate students by providing transformative semester-long and short-term experiences that encourage them to reflect, learn, and grow as they navigate the complexities of becoming global citizens in a diverse world.
- Equip students through a variety of trainings and credit-bearing courses to highlight issues of power and privilege, cross-cultural understanding and best practices to prepare students for lifelong service and reflection.
- Engage with the community around them whether it is locally or globally. Opportunities include weekly community outreach, all campus service day, local and global service trips, and off-campus academic semester long and cross-cultural courses.
- Embracing the diversity of God's Creation by providing safe, transformative learning environments and opportunities for students to engage the world as reconcilers and servant leaders at home and abroad.

Engagement Opportunities

Outreach Teams

Outreach Teams sends small teams of students into a variety of local service-learning experiences in the greater Harrisburg region each semester. Service Opportunity Leaders are trained on facilitating service experiences and reflection as well as maintaining relationships with community partners. We partner with approximately 12 agencies on a regular basis.

Service Trips

Service Trips are organized experiences for teams of students and educators to serve with partnering organizations approved by the University. During fall and spring academic breaks, these experiences are domestic. During two weeks of summer break, students can participate in an international service trip organized by the Agape Center. All students will participate in orientation sessions and debrief sessions for these trips.

Credit-Bearing

Messiah University is committed to providing opportunities for students to engage the world around them; we do this through a variety of ways:

- **Cross-Cultural Courses:** 3-week courses taught by Messiah faculty traveling to a variety of destinations. Students can fulfill their third language and ELI requirement. Recruiting for these courses start almost a year prior to the course departure (i.e., March 2023 May-Term 2024 courses) – individual deadlines vary by course.
- **Semester long off-campus program:** Students can fulfill 12-18 credits at an approved domestic or international program partner. Students can fulfill their third language when studying internationally and all locations fulfill the ELI requirement.
 - December 1 – Messiah’s pre-approval deadline for following fall semester (i.e. December 1, 2023 to participate in a Fall 2024 program)
 - April 1 – Messiah’s pre-approval deadline for following spring semester (i.e. April 1, 2024 to participate in a Spring 2025 program)
- **Service Learning:** Credit-bearing service-learning and community-based research occurs in many courses throughout our curriculum using a blend of content, service and reflection that totals a minimum of 40 hours a semester and satisfied the experiential learning initiative requirement (ELI) for graduation. Service-learning grants are available for faculty interested in developing or enhancing their courses. We also offer co-curricular service-learning ELI credit by participating at an approved Agape community partner 20 hours of service + 5hrs of reflection + 5hrs of learning throughout one semester. To gain this ELI credit, students must inform the Agape Center at the beginning of the semesters.

Service Day

Each April, the University pauses to celebrate and engage in the largest community service event in the area. Since no day-classes are scheduled and many offices are closed, students and employees are expected to participate in a service activity during the day. As part of Created and Called for Community (CCC), students and faculty serve together on a designated project. Off campus, students and faculty join community partners during the day in service to the region.

Students can also learn about costs, deadlines, and requirements by browsing the Agape Center homepage at www.messiah.edu/agape

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS & INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Intercollegiate sports participation is an opportunity for developing one's physical potential, learning positive life lessons, and developing supportive relationships. Messiah is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, Division III and fields 22 intercollegiate varsity sports that compete within the Middle Atlantic Conference and Commonwealth Conference. Our tagline—Pursuing Athletic Excellence and Developing Christian Character — expresses our twin goals for those who represent Messiah in intercollegiate competition.

Men's Sports

Baseball
Basketball
Cross Country
Indoor Track and Field
Lacrosse
Outdoor Track and Field
Soccer
Swimming
Tennis
Volleyball
Wrestling

Women's Sports

Basketball
Cross Country
Field Hockey
Indoor Track and Field
Lacrosse
Outdoor Track and Field
Soccer
Softball
Swimming
Tennis
Volleyball

INTRAMURAL SPORTS

Intramural Sports leagues and tournaments are opportunities for competition, physical fitness, and fun. Leagues include soccer, flag football, volleyball, basketball, Ultimate Frisbee, and softball.

The Messiah campus and surrounding area provide opportunities for many outdoor activities, including hiking, canoeing and fishing. The Sollenberger Sports Center hosts an indoor pool, fitness center, racquetball and basketball courts, and indoor track.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS

International Student Programs seeks to understand and meet the unique needs of international students (F-1 visa students, missionary and third culture students) by providing services, programs, guidance, advocacy and support leading to personal success and meaningful engagement with the broader campus community.

Programs and services include:

- **F-1 Visa Advising** informs and educates international students

here on an F-1 visa about U.S. government regulations and assists them in achieving positive results in maintaining their status.

- **International Student Orientation** is a holistic experience for our international students to acclimate and adjust to this new chapter of life in the United States and at Messiah University. This experience is available for all first-year international students (those on an F-1 visa, missionary, and third culture kid students) and their families. Orientation generally includes activities related to educational advising, academic processes, financial awareness, as well as fun programs and events and partnership with Multicultural Student Programs to foster a sense of belonging for our international students.
- **Academic Support** is offered to international students in collaboration with students' academic advisors. In addition, new international students arriving from abroad for the fall semester enroll in a 1-credit course called *Adjusting to Life in the US (GEST 140)* designed to provide on-going, in-depth orientation regarding cross-cultural adjustment to the United States in general, and specifically to the United States classroom (as experienced at Messiah University).
- **Friendship Families** provide a mutually beneficial friendship between Messiah University's international students and individuals or families that are Messiah employees. The Office of International Student Programs matches one to two participating students with a family or individual, and plans special events to encourage organic relationship formation.
- **The Rafiki House** is special-interest housing for students committed to living in community focused on multicultural and international diversity. The very word "Rafiki" means friendship in Swahili and this house has a rich history at Messiah University. The house also provides an intentional space for multicultural and international students to find each other, fellowship, and spend time together in an informal setting.

MULTICULTURAL STUDENT PROGRAMS

The purpose of Multicultural Student Programs is to meet the unique needs of domestic under-represented students by providing holistic support through mentoring, diversity education and exploration, as well as safe and transformative learning environments for all members of the university community. Programs include:

Scholarship Programs:

- **Martin Scholars**

The Martin Scholars program seeks to foster scholars in the areas of academics, service, and leadership while encouraging a critical awareness of race and diversity as well as promoting reconciliation. Through the Multicultural Programs staff and student leaders, Martin Scholars are equipped with the tools necessary to successfully and efficiently engage in university related activities. Martin Scholars are also connected with faculty mentors for the purpose of establishing healthy lifestyles with respect to opportunities for service, exploring a major or field of study, career goals and personal and/or spiritual growth. Students are encouraged to utilize this knowledge and experiences to promote justice and equity both on campus and beyond.

- **R.H. Flowers Scholars**

Through a structured cocurriculum, students in the R.H. Flowers Scholars program are provided opportunities to reflect on a variety of issues related to race, ethnicity and culture which shape modern-day society. These scholars are then able to identify and facilitate effective strategies to create greater awareness across campus and in the community at large.

Multicultural Clubs, Organizations and Events

The Multicultural Council is comprised of the presidents of the African Student Union, Asian Student Association, Black Student Union, Caribbean Student Association, International Student Association/MuKappa, and La Alianza Latina. Our goal is to foster a common knowledge of cultures in the Messiah University community, with the mission of serving the entire student body through efforts at improving campus life for students from underrepresented racial/ethnic populations. Traditional campus wide events include Hispanic Heritage Month and Black History Month. These programs incorporate films, discussions, speakers, and cultural celebrations to provide a forum for learning about unspoken histories in the United States, and add different perspectives to the retellings of our past.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration invites the campus community to reflect on the prophetic ministry and vision of Dr. King, and the call of God for all Christians to respond to the contemporary

suffering of God's creation and human struggles for justice, reconciliation, and peace.

Leadership Development

Multicultural Student Programs fosters opportunities to enhance relationships among students, leaders in multicultural student organizations and the overall community. This program provides fall and spring leadership training available to leaders in the Multicultural Council organizations.

OFFICE OF STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

The Office of Student Engagement exists to promote student engagement, provide intentional leadership development experiences, and encourage thoughtful dialogue while promoting a sense of belonging for all students.

Visit the Office of Student Engagement (SE) website at www.messiah.edu/studentengagement for more details and up-to-date information.

SERVICES

Larsen Student Union

Larsen Student Union functions as a central social location for students on campus. In addition to the full service Union Café, there are pool tables, booths and tables, meeting rooms, and board games available for all students at the front desk. Larsen is home to a number of offices, services and program areas, including the Student Government Association, Student Activities Board, Multicultural Council, The Pulse Media Hub, Multicultural Student Programs, International Student Programs, the Office of Student Engagement, and Sexuality and Gender Education (SAGE).

Student Break Shuttle

In order to meet the needs of students, the Office of Student Engagement coordinates a free-of-charge van shuttle to Harrisburg area train and bus stations, as well as the Harrisburg International Airport. This service is provided for fall, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and spring breaks. For details, visit: <https://www.messiah.edu/transportation>.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Student Government Association (SGA)

The Student Government Association serves as the official representative body for Messiah University students. Specifically, SGA coordinates student representation to University committees, allocates the student activities fee to student organizations, officially recognizes and charters student organizations, and provides the official student representative voice to University administration and faculty. Organized through the Executive Cabinet, Student Senate and Committees, the Student Review Board, the Student Diplomatic Core, and the Student Engagement Council, SGA works hard to represent the needs and concerns of all students. For details, visit www.messiah.edu/sga.

Student Activities Board (SAB)

SAB exists to provide diverse activities designed to encourage active student engagement on campus and in popular culture, reconciling the relationship between culture and God. With funding from student activities fees, and through the work of student executives and volunteers, SAB regularly hosts concerts, dances, films, variety shows, excursions, cultural engagement experiences, and a number of other special activities throughout the year. For details, visit www.messiah.edu/sab.

Mentoring and Leadership Development Opportunities

Educators and other staff members serve as advisors and assist students in assuming leadership positions on campus to offer encouragement as they serve and lead. The Student Engagement Office supports both students and advisors in ongoing efforts throughout the year seek to strengthen students' leadership experience in the areas of character, calling, and competency.

FIRST YEAR EXPERIENCE

Welcome Week

This orientation program is designed to provide a holistic transition experience for new first-year and transfer students that is characterized by safety, inclusion, and a warm welcome to the campus community. This program usually lasts a week and includes arrival, check-in, academic sessions, social programs, and informational sessions for all new students at the University at the outset of the Fall Term.

For details visit: www.messiah.edu/welcomeweek.

Winter Orientation

This orientation occurs prior to spring term. Like Welcome Week, this orientation aims to welcome students to the University in a safe and welcoming environment. In this case, the target students are those who enroll or transfer at Messiah University midyear. We use our Winter Orientation programs to provide these students with the tools that will help them succeed at Messiah.

Orientation Groups

Every new student is assigned to an orientation group that typically consists of the students enrolled in their First-Year Seminar class. Through participation in orientation groups, led by student orientation leaders, new students will feel a connection to the Messiah community, will become knowledgeable of the culture and opportunities on campus, and will be equipped to succeed academically, socially, and spiritually at Messiah.

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Team Building and Group Facilitations

The Office of Student Engagement serves Messiah University by providing opportunities for leadership development and teambuilding. Programming events include team problem solving initiatives, group functionality assessment, goalsetting workshops, and conflict mediation. Staff and student leaders focus on proper technical and group facilitation skills. Understanding the significance of group process, God's creation, and the challenge at hand are all integral elements of the program. These experiences also provide an opportunity to take students out of their comfort zone and to more holistically pursue the issues of leadership, identity, and spirituality.

Orientation Leaders

Leaders are selected based on their prior leadership experiences, academic record, and ability to serve as a mentor to first-year students. Typically, orientation leaders are sophomores and juniors who work closely with First-Year Seminar instructors and the Office of Engagement to provide enthusiastic support for new students in their transition to university.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Messiah University recognizes that students have many interests and abilities. Messiah seeks to facilitate programs and activities which foster personal, academic, social, and spiritual growth, and enhance vocational development. A list of recognized student organizations that exist for the purpose of fulfilling such outcomes in a way that is consistent with the mission and identity of the University is online: www.messiah.edu/clubs.

Policy for Recognizing Student Organizations

1. Relationship between Student Organizations and Messiah University

All student organizations existing at Messiah University are encouraged to be recognized by the University. Recognition is a clear indication that the organization supports the mission, identity, and objectives of Messiah University. Student organizations and their activities are viewed as sponsored by the University as opposed to being conducted by the University. This distinction has implications for both the tax deductibility of potential donations to student organizations and for the University's financial reporting. Finally, student organizations are not permitted to maintain off-campus bank accounts; rather they will receive an account in the Business Office.

2. Rights, Privileges, and Student Organization Guidelines

Student organizations must be recognized in order to be afforded the following rights and privileges:

- a. The use of the University name, mascot (name and image), word mark, and letterhead
- b. Reservation of classrooms and other spaces in University-owned property
- c. Safekeeping accounts at the Business Office (student organizations are not permitted to maintain off-campus bank accounts)
- d. Opportunity to advertise on campus (official network email account, mass emails, University website, etc.)
- e. Able to fundraise (must be approved)
- f. Invitation to Opportunity Fairs and Admissions Open Houses
- g. Official listing in University publications and yearbook
- h. Administrative support for programming and event planning and execution

3. Criteria Used to Approve New Organizations

- a. All student organizations must demonstrate support for the educational mission, identity, values, outcomes, and Community Covenant of Messiah University. When reviewing organizations and determining if an organization should be recognized, the

- University's mission and identity, as well as the university-wide educational objectives, will be compared to the stated mission, goals, and objectives of the petitioning organization.
- b. Student organizations must have a well-developed plan for continued funding. There are four primary funding sources:
 - i. Student Government Association (SGA) allocations (only if SGA grants the organization chartership and the SGA Finance Committee approves the organization's budget). Please note this is not available within the first year of recognition.
 - ii. Fundraising efforts by the organization (only if there is adherence to University fundraising guidelines).
 - iii. Funds from budgeted University departments who are cooperating with and/or are supportive of the activities being carried out by an organization.
 - iv. Tax-deductible donations can happen indirectly by means of a gift registered to the program of a cooperating department existing within the University's operating budget.
 - c. Student organizations must demonstrate that they are providing a new opportunity for the University community. Every effort will be made to limit the number of organizations that have identical or very similar objectives. University departments that have similar goals and objectives must support and affirm the goals of the proposed student organization (e.g., Philosophy Club and Department of Philosophy; touring choirs and the Department of Music).
 - d. Organizations must provide evidence that there is ample student interest to support the organization.
 - e. Student organizations must demonstrate that they have the support of an advisor. This person must be a full-time Messiah University educator with experience or expertise aligning with the club's mission. An employee with expertise in the club's mission who is not a full-time educator may also serve as a club's advisor instead, pending CEC approval.
 - f. Student organizations that exist primarily for the purpose of Christian fellowship, teaching, worship and/or theological exploration are required to initiate and maintain communication with the Campus Ministries Office. This includes securing the support of Campus Ministries for their proposed organization.
 - g. Student organizations that exist primarily for the purpose of athletic competition against non-Messiah University opponents are required to work with the Office of Student Engagement and Athletics administrative staff to regularly complete requirements.

- h. New student organizations for which the proposed primary purpose is community service, missions, or support of external non-profit organizations (i.e. fundraising, campus chapters, etc.) are required to submit a letter of recommendation from the Agape Center for Local and Global Engagement.

4. Process for starting a New Organization

Any group desiring to organize and be recognized as a student organization should follow the following procedures:

- a. Obtain and complete an Application for Recognition from the Office of Student Engagement website or contact the SGA VP of Organizations. The application will include the following:
 - i. Organization's purpose statement
 - ii. Statement that demonstrates how the proposed organization supports the mission and objectives of Messiah University
 - iii. Names and roles of officers/leaders
 - iv. Example of organization's events and activities
 - v. Financial plan
 - vi. Written letter or signed advisor document confirming the full-time employee who is willing to serve as the organization's advisor
 - vii. Signatures from at least 15 students demonstrating interest in the organization
- b. Present the Application for Recognition to the SGA VP of Orgs. The SGA VP of Orgs will conduct an initial screening to determine if the guidelines have been followed. If the application is complete, it will be forwarded to the Office of Student Engagement.
- c. The Director of the Office of Student Engagement or the Vice Provost of Student Success and Engagement will then meet with the applicant(s) prior to submitting the application to the Cocurricular Education Council.
- d. The application will be reviewed and subsequently approved or denied by the Cocurricular Education Council based upon the established criteria.
- e. A year after receiving official recognition, student clubs may then apply for SGA chartership. This is a separate and distinct process that is governed by the Student Government Association.
- f. Additional letters of support may be required from campus offices that overlap with the mission of the club. See criteria in section 3.

5. Presently Established Organizations

By April 15 of each year, every student organization will submit an application for renewal to the Office of Student Engagement, which may require an annual report summarizing the prior year's programming,

names of the new officers and the advisor for the next year, any changes to the organization's structure or bylaws, an accurate student involvement roster (including fall and/or spring semester membership), and future plans and initiatives. If an application for renewal has not been submitted by the posted deadline, it will be presumed that the organization is terminated, and the organization will be removed from the roster of recognized organizations for the upcoming academic year.

Student organizations that were required to seek the approval of a particular office or department, as part of their recognition, must continue to receive approval from that office/department as part of their recognition. See section 3 for details.

6. Revoking of Recognition Status and Sanctions

If an organization does not adhere to established University guidelines regarding fundraising, programming, and event planning, it may be removed from the list of recognized organizations. In addition, if an organization's practices are counterproductive to the University's mission and objectives, it may face sanctions or disciplinary action, and its status as a recognized organization may be revoked. In cases where responsibility needs to be determined, the organization's officers and advisor of the organization will have a hearing with the Director of Student Engagement to determine responsibility and appropriate sanctions. Appeals can be made to the Cocurricular Education Council. The Student Government Association maintains a separate review process and reserves the right to enforce probation, suspension, and revocation of any student organization's status should they fail to meet the standards and expectations of all student organizations.

Last Updated: 4/2023 Governance Path: Cocurricular Education Council/Community of Educators Senate