



**STUDENT INVOLVEMENT &
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

2020-2021

AGAPE CENTER FOR SERVICE LEARNING

The Agape Center cultivates experiences with community partners that prepare students for lifelong service. The Agape Center does this by engaging students in credit-bearing and non-credit bearing service-learning activities. As a place, the Agape Center hosts offices for students and University personnel working to resource the campus in service and mission experiences locally, nationally, and internationally. As a program, it provides service learning opportunities both in and out of classes for students and offers service-learning resources across the disciplines to faculty and community partners.

Service and Learning Programs

Human Rights Awareness (H.R.A.)

H.R.A. educates students through programming and social media on human rights issues locally, nationally, and internationally. Based on Biblical understandings of justice and loving our neighbor, H.R.A. raises awareness and support for people suffering around the world, by connecting with campus groups, community partners, and educators.

International Service and Missions Programs

The Agape Center plans and designs international service-learning experiences for teams of students and educators during spring and summer breaks. Trips typically range between one to two weeks. The Foundations of Service, Mission, and Social Change course prepares students for international service-learning engagement and provides opportunities for financial assistance to individual students who plan 6-8 week summer experiences through approved mission and service organizations. This course is required for Agape Center international team leaders.

Outreach Teams

Outreach Teams sends small teams of students into a variety of local service-learning experiences in the greater Harrisburg region each semester. Local Service Leaders are trained on facilitating service experiences and reflection as well as maintaining relationships with community partners. We partner with approximately 13 agencies on a regular basis.

Service Learning

Messiah University is committed to providing opportunities for students to integrate service with coursework through 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 satisfies the experiential learning requirement for graduation. In addition, specific SERV service-learning courses are delivered out of the Agape Center to educate students about community engagement. Service-learning grants are available for faculty interested in developing or enhancing their courses.

Service Trips

Service Trips send teams of students to serve with partnering organizations throughout the U.S. (primarily the East Coast) over fall, January term, and spring academic breaks. Students participate in an orientation session and debrief session.

Service Learning Immersion Days

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Community Engagement Day

In memory of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the campus community participates in a day of community engagement. A special focus is put on serving at Harrisburg public schools where Messiah students have opportunities to hear from city leaders and serve alongside community partners. About 100-150 students and faculty participate in this important day.

Service Day

Each April, the University closes 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. On campus, the University hosts the Area M Special Olympics. As part of Created and Called for Community (CCC), students and faculty serve as buddies. Off campus, students and faculty join community partners during the day in service to the region.

INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS & RECREATIONAL 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

RECREATIONAL SPORTS

Recreational 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.

INTERCULTURAL OFFICE

The Intercultural Office at Messiah University gathers Off-Campus Programs, International Student Programs, and Multicultural Programs into one office committed to exploring new opportunities and synergies for global and intercultural engagement while promoting cultural awareness through education and events. The programs within the Intercultural Office serve the needs of international, missionary and third-culture students, under-represented domestic students, and students who desire to study off campus during their time at Messiah. These equally important programs work in close collaboration to carry out the overall mission of the Intercultural Office: *To embrace 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.*

OFF-CAMPUS PROGRAMS

The purpose of Off-Campus Programs is to provide holistic support to the students as they explore safe, 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. Students can travel across the ocean to Europe, the Middle East, or Africa. They can visit neighbors to the south in Latin America or discover educational adventures here in the United States. In partnership with a variety of programs on campus (such as the Agape Center for Service and Learning, the Collaboratory, and AROMA Sports Ministries), students have many opportunities to engage the world through short-term experiences – both credit-bearing and non-credit-bearing. Three-week three-credit cross-cultural courses include intensive study of the local culture through lectures and readings, as well as either extended home-stay or an ethnographic fieldwork project. Week long cocurricular service trips provide students the opportunity to serve alongside their peers while investing in long-term projects around the world. The Intercultural Office houses catalogs, brochures, course listings, applications, videos, and travel-related literature and resources. Students can also learn about costs, deadlines, and requirements, as well as obtain passport photos, passport applications, and International Student Identity Cards. For additional information, browse the Intercultural Office Homepage at: **www.messiah.edu/intercultural**.

Following are the primary off-campus programs deadlines for students to be aware of:

- Semester-long off-campus programs:
 - December 1 – Messiah’s pre-approval deadline for following fall semester (i.e. December 1, 2019 to participate in a Fall 2020 program)
 - April 1 – Messiah’s pre-approval deadline for following spring semester (i.e. April 1, 2020 to participate in a Spring 2021 program)
- Cross-cultural courses:
 - Spring semester – Courses begin recruiting students almost a year prior to the course departure (i.e., February 2020 for J-Term and May-Term 2021 courses) – individual deadlines vary by course

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS

International Student Programs seeks to understand and meet the unique needs of international, missionary and third culture students by providing

services, programs and guidance 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 immigration status.
- **International, Missionary and Third Culture Student Orientation** is an intensive educational and spiritual acculturation experience for international students and the children of missionaries and other professionals living abroad who have recently re-arrived in the United States. Orientation generally includes activities related to educational advising, housing, and working requirements.
- **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 *Adaptation to American Cultural Education* designed to provide on-going, in-depth orientation regarding cross-cultural adaptation to America in general, and to the American classroom (as experienced at Messiah University) in specific.
- **Friendship Families** provide a mutually beneficial friendship between Messiah University's international, missionary and third culture students and individuals or families that are Messiah employees. International Student Programs matches one to two participating students with a family or individual, and plans special events to encourage relationship formation.
- **Rafiki House** is special-interest housing for students committed to living in community focused on international diversity. The house also provides an intentional space for the international students and the children of parents abroad to find each other, fellowship, and hang out.

MULTICULTURAL PROGRAMS

The purpose of the Multicultural Programs Office 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, 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, Native American Heritage Month, Black History Month, and Asian/Pacific Islander Heritage 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 Programs fosters opportunities to enhance relationships among students, leaders in multicultural student organizations and the overall community. The office provides a fall and spring leadership training available to leaders in the multicultural council organizations, as well as inclusivity training for student leaders offered in the fall and customizable follow up sessions in the spring semester.

STUDENT INVOLVEMENT & LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

The Office of Student Involvement & Leadership Programs exists to promote student involvement and provide leadership development experiences in a welcoming and student-centered learning environment. Visit the Office of Student Involvement & Leadership Programs (SILP) website at www.messiah.edu/silp for more details and up-to-date information.

NEW STUDENT PROGRAMS

Welcome Week

This week 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.

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

Winter Orientation

This orientation occurs prior to spring term and is intentional in its efforts to welcome students to the University and provide them with the necessary tools in order for them to be successful.

Orientation Groups

Every new student is assigned to an orientation group that in most cases consists of the same students 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.

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, the Intercultural Office, the Office of Student Involvement & Leadership Programs, Sexuality and Gender Education (SAGE) and Commuter Student Services.

Student Break Shuttle

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

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, and the Student Review Board, SGA works hard to represent the needs and concerns of all students. For details, visit www.messiah.edu/sga.

Adventure Programming and The Loft

The Loft serves Messiah University by providing opportunities for leadership development and teambuilding through adventure programming. Adventure programming events include caving, rock climbing, paddling, high challenge course, team problem solving initiatives, and spring break trips. 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.

Loft Facilitators

Each year, students are selected to serve as Loft Facilitators. These students serve as facilitators of teambuilding and leadership development activities using experiential education and adventure programming to serve our campus. This group of students is trained and mentored by the Coordinator of Cocurricular Adventure Programming.

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, and a number of other special activities throughout the year. For details, visit www.messiah.edu/sab.

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 Student Involvement & Leadership Programs to provide enthusiastic support for new students in their transition to university.

Mentoring and Leadership Development Opportunities

Educators and other staff members assist students in assuming leadership positions on campus and offer encouragement as they serve and lead. A Student Leadership Retreat is hosted in the fall to provide training and development for student leaders. Ongoing efforts throughout the year seek to strengthen students' leadership experience in the areas of character, calling, and competency.

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).
- 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 a full-time Messiah University employee whom has agreed to serve as the advisor of the organization.
 - 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 University Ministries office.
 - g. Student organizations that exist primarily for the purpose of athletic competition against non-Messiah University opponents are required to submit a letter of recommendation from the athletic administrative staff.

4. 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 Involvement and Leadership Programs. 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
- b. Present the Application for Recognition to the Director of Student Involvement and Leadership Programs. The Director of Student Involvement and Leadership Programs will conduct an initial screening to determine if the guidelines have been followed. If the application is complete, it will be forwarded to the Cocurricular Education Council.
- c. The application will be reviewed and subsequently approved or denied by the Cocurricular Education Council based upon the established criteria.
- d. 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.
- e. New student organizations for which the proposed primary purpose is Christian fellowship, teaching, worship and/or theological exploration must include a letter of recommendation from the University Ministries pastoral staff.
- f. New student organizations for which the proposed primary purpose is athletic competition against non-Messiah University opponents are required to submit a letter of recommendation from the athletic administrative staff.
- g. 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 Service and Learning staff.

5. Presently Established Organizations

By April 15 of each year, every student organization will submit an application for renewal to the Office of Student Involvement and Leadership Programs, 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 exist primarily for the purpose of Christian fellowship, teaching, worship and/or theological exploration are

required to meet with a member of the University Ministries pastoral staff for a yearly review. The University Ministries department will submit a letter of recommendation to the Cocurricular Education Council regarding the future of the organization.

Student organizations that exist primarily for the purpose of athletic competition against non-Messiah University opponents are required to meet with the associate athletic director for a yearly review. The athletic department will submit a letter of recommendation to the Cocurricular Education Council regarding the future of the organization.

Student organizations that exist primarily for the purpose of community service, missions, or support of external non-profit organizations are required to meet with Agape Center staff for a yearly review. The Agape Center will submit a letter of recommendation to the Cocurricular Education Council regarding the future of the organization.

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 Involvement and Leadership Programs to determine responsibility and appropriate sanctions. Appeals can be made to the Cocurricular Education Council.

Last Updated: 6/2016 Governance Path: Cocurricular Education Council/Community of Educators Senate