

# THE OHIO COLLEGIATE ALLIANCE FOR CHARACTER

## ABOUT US

The Ohio Collegiate Alliance for Character (OCAC) is an alliance of colleges and universities within the State of Ohio working together to facilitate the character development of our students, faculty, staff and administrators.

The purpose of this Alliance is to share best practices to collaborate on assessment and to hold each other mutually accountable for our progress. The Alliance will provide fundamental principles consistent with the guidelines provided by the "[\*Principles and Practices for Promoting Character Development in College\*](#)" by Dr. John Dalton from the Center for the study of College Student Values at the Florida Sate University, Character Education Partnership and the American Center for Civic Character's character ethics framework, UncommonSense. By design, the Alliance encourages each institution to pursue character development in ways that are consistent with their own institutional mission and culture.

Participation in the Alliance is voluntary and the OCAC will assist each institution in developing their own unique blueprint for implementing character-building initiatives using the following steps:

1. Developing its own clear defined character development outcomes similar to those outlined in [UncommonSense](#)<sup>TM</sup>.
2. Developing the institution's philosophy of character development.
3. Publishing a brief description of programs to encourage and measure character development.
4. Develop a means of recognizing and rewarding high standards of character-building efforts.

Additionally, as a group we will collaborate on the assessment of our progress and meet annually to share best practices among member institutions.

*"The Office of the Ohio Secretary of State, led by Secretary J. Kenneth Blackwell, sponsors the Ohio Center for Civic Character which is proud to support the OCAC. The Ohio Center for Civic Character provides learning resources that challenge Ohioans to be character-, citizen- and community-builders." See [www.OhioSpirit.org](http://www.OhioSpirit.org).*

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## CONTACT US

### OCAC Advisory Team

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## OHIO CAMPUS BLUEPRINTS

The following links represent current efforts by OCAC member institutions and include descriptions of character-building programs. Keep in mind the importance of building character development programs that reflect the specific institution's stated mission and goals. The Ohio Collegiate Alliance for Character welcomes submissions from all participating colleges and universities. [Please refer to the "Contact Us" page to request additional information.](#)

Again, participation in the Alliance is voluntary and the OCAC will assist each institution in developing a blueprint:

To submit your Campus Blueprint, please send to Chip Weiant, American Center for Civic Character, at [chip.weiant@sbcglobal.net](mailto:chip.weiant@sbcglobal.net) with the following information included: Contact Name / Title, phone and email address.

- [Cedarville University](#)
- [Franciscan University of Steubenville](#)
- [Mount Vernon Nazarene University](#)

If you need Adobe Acrobat Reader 7.0, please [click here](#) for the latest free version.

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## CHARACTER-BUILDING LINKS

### Association Ethics:

These links represent a variety of related organizations and institutions which serve in our efforts to further intentional character development. Please refer to the "Contact Us" page to submit additional suggested links.

- [The American Center for Civic Character](#)
- [Journal of College and Character](#)
- [National Character Education Center](#)
- [Ohio Campus Compact](#)

### Ethical Standards of Professional Organizations

These links represent professional ethical statements and standards for various academic disciplines. The list is not exhaustive and submissions and suggestions are welcome. Again, please refer to the "Contact Us" page to submit recommendations for inclusion of ethics statements not listed here.

- [Principles and Practices for Promoting Character Development in College \(A Guide to Character Development for Colleges and Universities\)](#)
- Accounting
  - [www.aicpa.org/members/div/ethics/index.htm](http://www.aicpa.org/members/div/ethics/index.htm)
  - [www.ima.org/ima/sec.asp?TRACKID=&SID=1&VID=1&CID=84&DID=119](http://www.ima.org/ima/sec.asp?TRACKID=&SID=1&VID=1&CID=84&DID=119)
- [American Psychological Association \(APA\) - \(http://www.apa.org/ethics/\)](http://www.apa.org/ethics/)
- [Christian Association for Psychological Studies \(CAPS\) - \(http://www.caps.net/join.htm#ethics\)](http://www.caps.net/join.htm#ethics)
- [American Association of Christian Counseling \(AACC\) - \(http://www.aacc.net/\)](http://www.aacc.net/)
- [Public Relations Society of America - \(http://www.prsa.org/About/ethics/index.asp?ident=eth\)](http://www.prsa.org/About/ethics/index.asp?ident=eth)
- [Nursing - \(www.nursingworld.org/readroom/position/ethics/etcode.htm\)](http://www.nursingworld.org/readroom/position/ethics/etcode.htm)
- [Social Work - \(http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp\)](http://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/code/code.asp)
- [The Institute for Business, Technology, and Ethics - \(http://www.ethix.org/\)](http://www.ethix.org/)

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## PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES FOR BUILDING CHARACTER IN COLLEGIATE SETTINGS

[Download these Principles in PDF](#)

1. ***Principle: The college makes a deliberate and comprehensive effort to communicate its core values and ethical standards to students, faculty, staff, and other key constituents.***
  - A. Practice: Your institution has a mission statement or statement of guiding principles that articulates core ethical values.
  - B. Practice: Your institution's orientation program for new students educates them about the core values and moral norms of behavior for the campus.
  - C. Practice: Your institution's orientation program for new faculty and staff educates them about the core values and moral norms of behavior for the campus.
  - D. Practice: Your institution widely disseminates its core values and ethical standards through official publications and communications.
  - E. Practice: Your institution provides for campus coordination of character development efforts.
  
2. ***Principle: The institution models its core ethical values in its leadership and operations.***
  - A. Practice: Institutional leaders publicly champion the institution's core ethical values.
  - B. Practice: Operating values in institutional governance and administrative decision-making are consistent with espoused values.
  - C. Practice: Institutional rules, policies, and procedures are consistent with core ethical values.
  - D. Practice: There is an institutional ethos that fosters moral integrity and responsibility.

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**3. Principle: *The institution's core values are integrated into academic programs.***

- A. Practice: Courses are offered that provide in-depth opportunities for students to examine and reflect upon core values and ethical issues
- B. Practice: Your institution has a general education curriculum that integrates core ethical values.
- C. Practice: Your institution's core ethical values are included in academic majors.
- D. Practice: Your institution gives high priority to faculty - student contact and mentoring relationships that encourage students to reflect upon core values and ethical issues.
- E. Practice: Students' extracurricular experiences are linked with academic learning and intentionally utilized to enhance opportunities for moral and civic learning.

**4. Principle: *The institution defines its core ethical values in terms of conduct guidelines and behaviors that can be observed and affirmed in campus life.***

- A. Practice: Your institution has a student conduct code that clearly defines students' rights, duties, and responsible citizenship linked to the institution's core ethical principles.
- B. Practice: Your institution has an academic honor code that promotes academic honesty and integrity among students and faculty.
- C. Practice: Your institution has a student ethics creed, covenant, or compact that articulates core values and encourages students to affirm them as part of their membership in the campus community.

**5. Principle: *The institution promotes public discussion and dialogue about core values and ethical issues.***

- A. Practice: Your institution sponsors campus speakers, events, and activities that foster a culture of concern for moral and ethical discourse.
- B. Practice: Your institution actively promotes freedom of speech and intellectual inquiry.
- C. Practice: Your institution has special initiatives that focus on ethics, values, human rights, and social justice.

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**6. Principle: *The institution takes deliberate steps to help students act upon core values.***

- A. Practice: Campus governance structures provide for active student participation and shared responsibility.
- B. Practice: Your institution provides formal incentives and structured opportunities for community service.
- C. Practice: Your institution provides opportunities for students and staff to celebrate and renew commitment to core ethical values through traditions, rituals, and special events.
- D. Practice: Your institution offers students structured opportunities for development of ethical leadership skills.

**7. Principle: *The institution promotes a caring and inclusive campus community.***

- A. Practice: Students in the institution have many opportunities for contact and interaction with a diverse faculty, staff, and student body.
- B. Practice: Your campus culture promotes caring and respectful relationships among students, faculty and staff.
- C. Practice: Your institution provides educational programs and services designed to encourage multicultural learning.

**8. Principle: *The institution is committed to the holistic learning and development of students.***

- A. Practice: Recognition and support are provided for students' spiritual and religious life in a manner appropriate to the institution's mission.
- B. Practice: A program of health and wellness is provided as an integral part of students' life and learning.

**9. Principle: *The institution assesses efforts related to ethics and core values.***

- A. Practice: Your institution conducts assessment efforts to evaluate the extent to which core ethical values are manifested in students' learning and development.

**10. Principle: *The institution honors achievements of moral and civic character.***

- A. Practice: Your institution provides a visible and effective program of rewards and recognition for exemplary students, faculty, staff, and organizations that model core values.

[These Principles were Developed by Dr. Jon C. Dalton, Center for the Study of College Student Values at the Florida State University.](#)