



<b>Policy</b>	Policy on Ethics in Theological Education and Formation <sup>1</sup>
<b>Approved By</b>	Board of Governors
<b>Last Update</b>	February 15, 2024
<b>Applies To</b>	Students, Staff, Faculty, Board
<b>Related Policies</b>	Policy on Psychological and Sexual Harassment; Leading with Care; Complaints Policy

1. The Presbyterian College is a theological college in the Reformed Tradition of Christianity and is committed to embodying, upholding, and critically engaging with this tradition through teaching, research, pastoral formation, lay education programs, and community life.
2. The Presbyterian College welcomes those of other theological traditions as students or participants within its life and programming.
3. The Presbyterian College stands in the theological tradition of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic church. We are committed to helping students and program participants relate positively to their own tradition and to also reflect critically in relation to their own tradition, in an ecumenical context. Our goal is not to ensure that all have a single set of beliefs or think the same way about the Christian tradition. Rather, we respect a diversity of opinions, views, and approaches to the Christian tradition.
4. The path of theological education, whether this is oriented toward a vocation of pastoral ministry or another vocation, entails integration of the various dimensions of our lives and selves. Our programs and life as a college are therefore oriented toward the integration of theological knowledge, ministry formation, personal maturity, and spiritual growth in the way of Jesus and among his people.
5. The Presbyterian College is a learning community, which means that we are formed not only as individuals but in relation to one another and as a community. We are an instance or expression of the Body of Christ, and we are formed together in Christ.
6. As participants in a learning community, our conversations and shared learning should be defined primarily by curiosity in relation to the views and theology of others, rather than by an effort to change the other's mind or views. Students are enjoined to deal with controversial issues through a fair consideration of the various interpretations and points of view, and with sensitivity to different understandings and experiences.

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<sup>1</sup> This policy is adapted from a similar policy of the Montreal School of Theology. The current policy, however, and its implementation, is independent of the institutional processes and procedures of the Montreal School of Theology.

7. As an academic institution, The Presbyterian College is committed to the principles of academic freedom. The college is committed to respectful debate and inquiry, even on controversial, personal, or morally challenging topics. The college does not prevent or limit scholarly inquiry or debate on questions that are part of the academic discourse in theological education, but encourages and expects respectful, careful, and compassionate participation in any such discourse.
8. Respectful and generous engagement with others requires that we refrain from any form of written or verbal communication or other actions that demean or discriminate against an individual or group. Demeaning and discriminatory behaviour can occur in relation to various aspects of an individual's identity or membership in a group, including but not limited to: life experience, health status, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, or ethnicity.
9. The Presbyterian College is committed to upholding the principles of academic integrity, and students and faculty are subject to policies related to academic integrity in their courses and programs at the college and/or in the Montreal School of Theology and McGill University.
10. Within the college life and programs, the following behaviours or actions are prohibited: endangering the health or physical safety of others, using college facilities or equipment without permission, making false accusations against others in the community, encouraging or aiding any prohibited conduct, use of drugs or alcohol contrary to provincial laws or college policies, disrupting college activities or programming, and related behaviours or actions.
11. This policy on Ethics in Theological Education and Formation is closely related to the college's Policy on Psychological and Sexual Harassment, and to The Presbyterian Church in Canada's policy on Leading with Care (which also applies in the context of the college).
12. The Presbyterian College, acting through its Faculty, has the right to initiate disciplinary proceedings in relation to students who, in its assessment, have violated the ethical and academic standards, and pattern of theological learning, described in this policy. Such disciplinary processes shall be conducted according to principles of procedural fairness and with attention to other relevant policies of the college.
13. The Presbyterian College, acting through the Principal or the Board of Governors may initiate disciplinary proceedings in relation to faculty or other members of the college community who violate the above ethical and academic standards, according to principles of procedural fairness and subject to the terms of relevant employment contracts and relevant employment standards in the Province of Quebec.