Our Mission
The mission of College of the Ozarks is to provide the advantages of a Christian education for youth of both sexes, especially those found worthy, but who are without sufficient means to procure such training.

Our Vision
The vision of College of the Ozarks is to develop citizens of Christ-like character who are well-educated, hard-working, and patriotic.

To achieve this vision, the College has academic, vocational, Christian, patriotic, and cultural goals. Even as College of the Ozarks has evolved through secondary and junior college stages to the present four-year liberal arts institution, the fundamental goals have remained the same.

Academic Goal
To provide a sound education, based in the liberal arts

Vocational Goal
To promote a strong work ethic, encouraging the development of good character and values

Christian Goal
To foster a Christian faith through the integration of faith with learning, living, and service

Patriotic Goal
To encourage an understanding of American heritage, civic responsibilities, love of country, and willingness to defend it

Cultural Goal
To cultivate an appreciation of the fine arts, an understanding of the world, and adherence to high personal standards

Core Values
“Creating and stewarding a faithful community that fosters growth and pursues good.”

You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. You are the light of the world: a city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. 

Matthew 5:13–16

I. Steward Faithfully. God calls us to faithfully steward his gifts; therefore, we will faithfully steward the College’s mission, vision, goals, and resources (people, finances, time). This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.

1 Corinthians 4:2

II. Create community. God calls us to grow up together into Christ; therefore, we will cultivate a community that fosters personal growth and thriving by valuing, respecting, and lovingly speaking and receiving the truth from one another. Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

Ephesians 4:15–16

III. Pursue Good. God calls us to be salt and light; therefore, we will influence others for good, both inside and outside the College, through selfless service, the pursuit of excellence, and living with Christlike character and integrity. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:9–10

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Employee Commitments

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Employee Commitments

College of the Ozarks’ mission statement makes clear its intention to provide an explicitly Christian education for its students. Likewise, the College’s vision statement centers on facilitating the development of “citizens of Christ-like character.” In order to achieve them both, the College expects its faculty and staff to support and abide by its stated faith and practice commitments.

The College’s faith commitment is to the historic Christian faith and the evangelical tradition. The former is expressed theologically in the Apostles’ and Nicene Creeds. The latter is distinguished by confidence in the inspiration and authority of Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16; including the Old and New Testaments), the need for personal conversion (John 3:5–8; 2 Corinthians 5:17), and a commitment to pursuing personal and corporate holiness (Matthew 5:18; 1 Peter 2:12), made possible by the saving work of Jesus Christ through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 2:8–10; Galatians 5:25–26).

The College intentionally hires faculty and staff who hold these commitments, and expects its faculty and staff to support and live in a manner consistent with them.

The College’s practice commitments align with its faith commitment. Morally, the College is committed to traditional, biblical positions on issues disputed in the culture at large, including the sanctity of life, the sanctity of marriage, and religious freedom. The College’s positions on these moral and ethical issues are consistent with those stated in the Manhattan Declaration (2009). The College expects all of its faculty and staff to support, in word and deed, these positions.

Behaviorally, the College expects its faculty and staff to express their faith commitment through active involvement in a local church, and the living of a life that is above reproach and appropriate for those who serve as role models for college-aged students and for one another. Specific behavioral expectations are stated in the Faculty and Staff Handbooks.
The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who speaks by the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made. Who, for us and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was burried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life: who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke through the prophets. And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Biblical References (ESV)

2 Timothy 3:16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness... John 3:5-8 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you “You must be born again.” The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” 2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. Matthew 5:48 You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Summary of the Manhattan Declaration

Because the sanctity of human life, the dignity of marriage as a union of husband and wife, and the freedom of religion are foundational principles of justice and the common good, we affirm:

1. The profound, inherent, and equal dignity of every human life
2. Marriage as a union of one man and one woman
3. Religious liberty and the inherent freedom of human beings

As Evangelical Christians, we take seriously the Biblical admonition to respect and obey those in authority. Because we honor justice and the common good, we will freely and ungrudgingly render to Caesar what is Caesar’s. But under no circumstances will we render to Caesar what is God’s.

Lifestyle/Sexuality Policy

The College of the Ozarks is guided by a long-standing traditional, biblical worldview which reflects the understanding that human sexuality is a gift from God, and that:

- sex assigned at birth is a person’s God-given, objective gender, whether or not it differs from the individual’s subjective gender identity (Genesis 1:26-27; Leviticus 18:22; Matthew 19:4; Romans 1:26-27; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10);
- sexual orientations are for the purpose of the procreation of human life and the uniting and strengthening of the marital bond in self-giving love, purposes that are to be achieved solely through heterosexual partnerships in marriage (Genesis 2:24-25; Exodus 20:14; Proverbs 5:15-23; Matthew 19:5; 1 Corinthians 6:12-20; 7:2-5; 1 Thessalonians 4:3).
- Misuses of God’s gift of human sexuality will be understood to include, but not be limited to gender expression inconsistent with sex assigned at birth (transgender), gender transition, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, sexual assault, heterosexual misconduct, homosexual conduct, or possession of pornographic materials. In addition, the College considers indecent public display of affection as inappropriate behavior.

Individuals and students at College of the Ozarks are expected to conduct themselves at all times in accordance with the highest standards of Christian morality. It is particularly important to the College that high standards of sexual morality be observed among its employees and students.

Toward this end, the College may subject to disciplinary action any employee or student who engages in the following activities:

1. Gender expression inconsistent with sex assigned at birth;
2. Gender transition;
3. Sexual relations with a person other than his/her spouse;
4. Sexual relations with a person of the same sex;
5. Touching, caressing, and other physical conduct of a sexual nature with a person of the same sex;
6. Touching, caressing, and other physical conduct of a sexual nature with a person of the opposite sex that is inappropriate to the time and place in which it occurs.

Disciplinary action may include disciplinary dismissal.

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1. Religious liberty and the inherent freedom of human beings
2. Marriage as a union of one man and one woman
3. The freedom of religion are foundational principles of justice and the common good
4. Because we honor justice and the common good, we will freely and ungrudgingly render to Caesar what is Caesar’s. But under no circumstances will we render to Caesar what is God’s.

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