



3.2.003 Religious Activity

Subject	Religious activity, proselytizing, evangelizing
Effective Date	n/a
Revision Date	December 6, 2023
Approvals	Dean of Students Office
Responsible Office	Dean of Students Office
Owner/Creator(s)	Dean of Students Office

I. PURPOSE and SCOPE

This policy is to inform students, faculty and staff of the expectations and prohibited behavior as it pertains to religious activities and the prohibition of unauthorized religious recruitment.

II. DEFINITIONS:

Element	Definition
Proselytization	Any attempt to unjustly influence people and their faith convictions in a way that deprives them of their inherent values as a person.

III. POLICY STATEMENT

MSOE encourages spiritual exploration and moral and ethical formation as desirable components of students' personal growth and development. On the other hand, the university asserts every individual's right to make spiritual choices freely, and to form religious associations without coercion or constraint. At minimum, certainly, MSOE must insist as an academic institution that all members of the campus community – students, faculty, and staff – be able to pursue their educational and professional objectives without harassment or undue distraction.

No matter how worthy the cause or idealistic the motive, evangelizing efforts and/or "spiritual recruitment" activities that are uninvited, and that are aggressive and persistent to a degree that is unacceptable and unwelcome, cannot be condoned. Moreover, no individual or organization, either internal or external to the university, may carry on activities on campus with the specific purpose to "proselytize" – that is, to make converts of – members of the campus community to a specific church or religious affiliation. Activities that may be considered proselytizing include, but are not limited to:

- Making unfounded or inappropriate commentary on others' beliefs;

- Persuasive promotional techniques that bring about feelings of pressure to convert or conform;
- Dismissing the beliefs and traditions of other religions, faiths or spiritualities.

IV. PROCEDURE

Any student or other member of the MSOE community having a complaint in this regard, or desiring more information regarding this policy, should contact the vice president of student affairs and campus inclusion or dean of students. Further, any student or student organization recognized or unrecognized, who is found in violation of this policy, will be referred to the office of the dean of students for code of conduct proceedings.

V. EXCEPTIONS/APPEALS

None

VI. ASSOCIATED LEGISLATION/REGULATIONS/ACCREDITATION STANDARD

Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Core Component 1.C and 2.D

VII. LIFECYCLE

Reviewed biennially or as needed.

VIII. APPENDICES

This section to be completed by the Records Manager		
Related Policies	Faculty Handbook	
Date Due for Review	2025	
Public Location(s)	MSOE Policy Library and linked in Online Student Handbook	
Record Manager	Dr. Melodie Fox, Assistant VP of Curriculum & Knowledge Management	
Version History		
Date approved	Amendment Summary	Date(s) cross locations updated and past version archived
Dean of Students: December 6, 2023	Policy Library format. Added examples of proselytization and expanded procedure to include VP of student affairs and campus inclusion and code of conduct proceedings.	
n.d.	As a section on the Whole Student Handbook	