

PRINCIPLE ❁ SEVEN

Seeks dialogue among religious traditions and with contemporary culture to clarify beliefs and to foster mutual understanding in the midst of tensions and ambiguities.

{ Notes }

Student affairs professionals who work in the Catholic tradition and serve in institutions of higher learning have a twofold call: to articulate a compelling truth as we understand it and to search for an informed truth as we explore it. While the first is supported by the rich heritage and reflection of a faith community, the second entails openness to other traditions and experiences. Educational institutions thrive on dialogue respectful of differences of points of view, and the consequent uncertainties and tensions are vital to the learning mission of colleges and universities. Thus student affairs professionals serving in Catholic colleges and universities honor other faith traditions and experiences and invite them into dialogue for purposes of exploration and insight.

Assessing This Principle

1. What does this principle **mean** for the institution?
2. How do you **apply** this principle through programs, policies & practices?
 - a. In what ways are students exposed to religious traditions through curricular and co-curricular offerings, and through contact with faculty, staff, and fellow students?
 - b. How are students engaged in reaching mutual understanding between and among religious traditions and between their own faith (Catholic or other) and contemporary culture?
 - c. How is dialogue respectful of different points of view implemented?
 - d. To what extent are student affairs staff prepared to sponsor and encourage dialogue and mutual understanding?
 - e. What interfaith space(s) are available for students on campus?
3. What **evidence** do you have to judge the effectiveness of your efforts?
4. What does this evidence tell you about your **effectiveness**?
5. What will you **do** with the information you have gathered about effectiveness?