

Introduction to the
Principles of Good Practice for Student Affairs at Catholic Colleges and Universities

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Purpose:

“The purpose of these Principles is to provide a framework for reflection and conversation, planning, staff development, and assessment for student affairs professionals who work at Catholic colleges and universities. These Principles articulate specific expectations, recognizing that Catholic colleges and universities are diverse institutions that will implement these ideals in various ways.”

Context:

1899: Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) founded.
1954: JASPA founded as the Conference of Jesuit Student Personnel Administrators.
1989: ACCU annual conference focuses on student life issues.
1989: Publication of *The Ignatian Perspective: The Role of Student Affairs in Jesuit Higher Education* by Rev. Andrew J. Thon, S.J.
1990: Publication of the apostolic constitution, *Ex Corde Ecclesiae*.
1995: Student affairs panel included in the program of the Catholic Higher Education: Practice and Promise national symposium at the University of St. Thomas (MN).
1995-1999: Institute for Student Affairs at Catholic Colleges and Universities (ISACC).
1996: ACPA and NASPA sponsor process that results in *Principles of Good Practice*.
1999: The Association for Student Affairs at Catholic Colleges and Universities (ASACCU) founded as an outgrowth of ISACC.
2002: Publication of *Understanding Student Affairs at Catholic Colleges and Universities: A Comprehensive Resource* by Sandra M. Estanek (ed.).
2002: ACCU sponsors national symposium on student life at Catholic colleges and universities.
2005: ACCU and AJCU sponsor a meeting of directors of master’s level student affairs preparation programs at Catholic colleges and universities at Wye River, MD.
2006: ACCU sponsors first annual Rome Seminar.

Developing the Principles:

It is important to understand that the Principles emerge from the context created by the above events. However, the following is a timeline of the steps taken in the document’s creation and implementation.

2006: Conversation with the Congregation for Catholic Education during the ACCU Rome Seminar sparks the idea for the *Principles* initiative.
2006: Sponsorship of the project secured from the leadership of ACCU, ASACCU, and JASPA.
2006: Grant secured from national foundation to support the project.
November 17-19, 2006: Writers meet for weekend retreat at Wye River to develop first draft of the *Principles* using the 1996 ACPA/NASPA process as a model.
2007: Draft document shared for feedback at national meetings of ACCU, ASACCU, and JASPA.
December, 2007: Final document sent to presidents and senior student affairs officers of all Catholic colleges and universities in North America.
March, 2008: *Principles* receive the JASPA Contribution to Scholarship award.
2009: *Principles* assessment project authorized by ACCU, ASACCU, and JASPA
April, 2009: Grant for *Principles* assessment project received.
November, 2009: *Principles* assessment retreat at Wye River.
2010: Vetting the diagnostic queries and preparing the second edition
2011: Anticipated publication of second edition of the *Principles* with diagnostic queries