A residential college adds significantly to the education of students when it provides the opportunity for a distinctive and dynamic learning community to develop. In such a community, Bowdoin students are encouraged, both directly and indirectly, to engage actively in a quest for knowledge both inside and outside the classroom, and to take responsibility for themselves, for others, and for their community. They are challenged to grow personally by constant contact with new experiences and different ways of viewing the world. Simultaneously, they are supported and encouraged by friends, faculty, staff, and other community members and find opportunities for spontaneous as well as structured activities. Such a community promotes the intellectual and personal growth of individuals and encourages mutual understanding and respect in the context of diversity.

The programs and services provided by the Division of Student Affairs exist to support students and the College in developing and maintaining the learning community. Staff throughout the Division of Student Affairs assist students with their studies, their leadership and social growth, their well-being, and their future. The Bowdoin College Student Handbook (https://www.bowdoin.edu/dean-of-students/student-handbook/) provides comprehensive information about student life and the programs and services of the Division of Student Affairs.

The Academic Honor and Social Codes

The Academic Honor Code plays a central role in the intellectual life at Bowdoin College and the Social Code describes certain rights and responsibilities of Bowdoin College students.