

Statement on Sexuality, Gender and Marriage

Ouachita Baptist University

Ouachita's policy on human sexuality is grounded in the biblical and historical Christian view of marriage and sexual relationships and reflects its affiliation with and responsibility to Arkansas Baptist churches. While the university recognizes that not all students profess Christian faith, and that others may reach conclusions which differ from its biblical convictions, choosing to enroll at Ouachita carries the expectation that one will respect and live in accordance with the university's values.

As expressed in the biblical account of creation, God designed male and female as a beautiful expression of diversity and mutual dependence. Sex and gender are aspects of humanity that God created in harmony with one another. According to Scripture, both singleness and marriage are gifts of God. Marriage is a sacred covenant between one man and one woman, the exclusive context for virtuous sexual expression and procreation, and a symbol of Christ's relationship with the Church.

The following are examples of expected behaviors: stewarding sexual expression with discretion and respect for God and others; chastity in singleness and faithfulness in marriage; abstaining from pornography; living with integrity in congruence with one's birth sex, including use of pronouns; refraining from same-sex romantic or sexual relationships; and avoiding behaviors inconsistent with the university's values.

The university will strive to treat all people redemptively with dignity, compassion, and love. Such love reflects the grace of Jesus Christ, who offers forgiveness for all sins and calls us to follow Him.