

“Few issues touch more broadly or more deeply on complexity, diversity, and change in the twenty-first-century world than those related to how people who orient differently around religion interact with one another... Any college that promises to prepare global citizens has to take religious diversity seriously enough to educate their students to be interfaith leaders (AACU).

The Center for Diversity and Inclusion and its collaborating partners, the Center for Student Involvement, the Sociology Department and the Philosophy Department, are launching a non-partisan Interfaith Cooperation Program (ICP) this academic year. The purpose of the ICP is to provide opportunities for dialogue, training, partnership, education, service and celebration among students, faculty and staff of various faiths at UWG and the community at large.

According to the Interfaith Youth Core, Interfaith Cooperation is:

- coming together in a way that respects different religious identities;
- building mutually inspiring relationships across different identities and backgrounds; and
- engaging in common action around issues of shared social concern.

In the 2015 Interfaith Diversity Experiences & Attitudes Longitudinal Survey, 71 percent of incoming college freshmen in the fall of 2015 expected their institutions to provide opportunities to get to know students of diverse religious and nonreligious perspectives, and in the 2017 UWG Faculty and Staff Climate Survey, 33% of survey respondents reported being made to feel uncomfortable based on perceived/religious beliefs. Bringing together UWG community members from different religious traditions in mutual respect and cooperation will enhance students' college experiences, as well as the work environment for faculty and staff.