CHAPEL AT NYACK COLLEGE

Nyack College is committed to providing quality experiences to assist students in their spiritual development. Because spiritual growth is foundational to the intellectual, social, and relational growth that students will experience at Nyack, Chapel is considered to be an integral part of the college program.

SCHEDULED ON CAMPUS CHAPEL SERVICES

Chapel credit is offered as follows:
- 11:05am – Monday, Wednesday, Friday in Bowman Gymnasium
- Departmental Chapel
- Participation in Small Groups previously approved by the Spiritual Formation Office
- Specially scheduled evening events, including the Deeper Life Series and Prayer Summit

ID scanners are located at the main entrance to record Chapel attendance. Students must scan in at the beginning of the Chapel services to be counted present. Students are responsible to verify that their ID has their correct student information and is scanning properly. Students must remain until the Chapel service is concluded.

Because of the large number of attendance opportunities available, there are no excused absences except by petition to the Dean of Students (see section on Chapel Exemptions below). The number of Chapel attendance options will cover all eventualities: e.g., illness, doctor appointments, academic field trips, extended test session, participation in intercollegiate athletics, death in the family, birth of children, appearance in court, emergencies of any kind (car breakdown, snow days, late arrival on campus from vacation, etc.).

THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE SEMESTER IS 27

Full-time students enrolled in 12 or more units of course work during a regular semester are required to attend 27 chapels per semester.

ID cards will be scanned daily until 11:15am at regular Chapel services.

Each student is responsible for the number of Chapels he/she attends and should regularly check his or her Chapel attendance on the weekly report posted outside the Dean of Students’ Office.

For questions regarding your attendance record, please see the Administrative Assistant for Spiritual Formation at the Spiritual Formation Office.

ATTENDANCE FOR SENIORS

Seniors in their last semester of college must acquire 20 chapel credits in order to walk in graduation.

Seniors who do not complete their total number of chapel attendance requirements in their last semester may not be permitted to walk in graduation.

VIOLATIONS

If a student fails to meet their Chapel attendance requirement, the following series of sanctions will be imposed:

- Chapel Warning – Failing to meet the Chapel requirement in any single given semester will result in a written warning being issued to the student.

- Chapel Probation – Failing to meet the Chapel requirement in 2 consecutive semesters will result in the student being placed on probation status with Nyack College. The student may not hold a leadership position or represent the college in any way, including intercollegiate athletics.
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- **Chapel Suspension** – Since Chapel attendance is considered a distinction of a Christian college, continued non-compliance with meeting the Chapel requirement for the semester of a student’s Chapel Probation will result in a requirement to attend Encounter from 8am-5pm on the Saturday immediately following the last day of Chapel each semester. Failing to attend Encounter will result in immediate suspension from the college for the following semester.

There is no appeal process for chapel sanctions.

**CHAPEL EXEMPTIONS**

- **Commuter Students** with no MWF class at any time before Chapel or directly after Chapel (no 8:00, 9:30, 10:00, or 12:05 class) may be exempted from the Chapel requirement for that semester. The Chapel Exemption Form is available in the Spiritual Formation Office. The completed form, with a copy of the student’s class schedule attached as verification, must be submitted to the Office of Spiritual Formation by the last day of the add/drop period. When a partial exemption is granted, an appropriately lower Chapel requirement will be imposed. The Chapel Exemption Form must be submitted to the Office of Spiritual Formation by the last day of the add/drop period of the semester where it applies.

- **Student Teachers** will automatically be exempted from the Chapel requirement during the semester of student teaching. At the beginning of each semester, the School of Education forwards a listing of current student teachers to the Office of Spiritual Formation.

**Resident Students**

If it is necessary to be excused from Chapel on a regular basis, a Chapel Exemption Form must be filed each semester with the Office of Spiritual Formation. Only those absences that must occur on a regular basis will be considered for exemption. Chapel Exemption regarding employment must include an employer letter on company letterhead verifying the student’s work schedule. A Chapel Exemption Form and employer letter (if work related) must be submitted to the Office of Spiritual Formation by the last day of the add/drop period of each semester. If new employment begins after the add/drop period, students are fully responsible for all Chapel requirements prior to new employment. An employer letter, including employment start date, with a Chapel Exemption Form must be submitted within 10 business days of new employment.

An attendance requirement of a minimum of 10 Chapel opportunities will be required of each full-time resident student whose Chapel Exemption is granted.

Exemptions will only be given for the following reasons:

- Employment
- Commuter Class Schedule
- Childcare needs for primary caregiver
- Other: Any unavoidable circumstances, such as a prolonged and severe illness will be taken into consideration. A student should submit a Chapel Exemption Form to the Office of Spiritual Formation giving exact dates and verification of the reason for absences.

The Office of Spiritual Formation will consider each Chapel Exemption Form on its own merit and make the best possible decision based on the information provided. After the application review, notice of the decision will be sent to your campus mailbox. Students submitting a Chapel Exemption Form must do so by the last day of the add/drop period of each semester. Chapel Exemptions are valid only during the semester they are issued, therefore the Chapel Exemption Form must be filled out EACH semester.

ALL CHAPEL EXEMPTION FORMS MUST BE SUBMITTED TO HEATHER GARCIA IN THE SPIRITUAL FORMATION OFFICE BY THE END OF THE ADD/DROP PERIOD.