



Elnora Bible Institute

a division of Biblical Mennonite Alliance

Student Handbook

Revised 2009

Elnora Bible Institute

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Section 1: Introduction

Welcome to the Elnora Bible Institute family! We look forward to partnering with you during your time of spiritual growth and concentrated study at EBI.

On one occasion Jesus said, "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." (John 13:34-35). We are committed to following the path of love in every area of life as we study, worship, and live together as a campus family. You will be challenged to live an authentic Christian life that makes a difference in the lives of the people around you.

Whether you are called to pastoring, missions, church planting, homemaking, education, carpentry, business, farming, or any other career, God wants to use you to reach a lost and dying world with the transforming message of Jesus Christ. Faculty and staff alike want to help you build a solid foundation so you may achieve the full potential that God has given you.

Section 2: Values for Living

As a Christian Bible Institute we are committed to using the Scriptures as our final authority in every area of life. The Bible presents absolutes that are rooted in God's character; they are timeless and

apply in all cultures and under all circumstances. These Biblical absolutes help to direct our thinking and behavior. The Bible calls us to be transformed in Christ, loving all people and treasuring mercy, justice, and humility. The Bible also directs us to be full of the Holy Spirit, and to speak to one another with kindness and respect. In addition to absolutes, the Bible is full of principles to guide our decision-making and behavior.

At EBI we are intentional about fostering a campus culture that is characterized by our love for Christ and others. This love expresses itself through the principles of holy living, purity in relationships, respect for peers and authority, and good stewardship of resources.

Holy Living

One of the marks of a believer is the transforming work of the Holy Spirit, leading us from sinfulness to holiness. Before God created the world, it was His desire that we would become holy (Ephesians 1:4). To be holy means that we are no longer enslaved to all that is sinful, impure, and morally imperfect. Rather, in Christ, we are free to honor God with our lives as we are filled with the fruit of the Holy Spirit—love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. As we surrender to the Lordship of Christ, we fulfill God’s instruction, “Be ye holy; for I am holy” (1 Peter 1:16).

Purity in Relationships

In every relationship Christians should strive to maintain high standards for purity. The principle of purity governs not only our behavior, but also our thoughts and motives. At EBI we encourage you to examine your heart and the motives that affect your speech and behavior toward others. Ephesians 5:3 reminds us, “But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints”.

Respect for Peers and Authority

Part of being a Christian is to live in peace and harmony with those around you. 1 Peter 2:17, for example, tells us: “Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.” Elnora Bible Institute is a gathering place for people from many different backgrounds and perspectives. When you join the EBI campus community, we ask that you make it your ambition to respect all

individuals, including those who are different from you. We also ask that you comply with the prescribed EBI community standards, even if they go beyond your personal preferences or convictions.

Stewardship

The principle of stewardship recognizes that everything we have is a gift from God, given to us for our enjoyment. In addition, God instructs us to use our resources to bless those around us by being generous and willing to share with those who are less fortunate (I Tim 6:17-19). In order for EBI to be a continued blessing to students, we need to take care of the physical plant and other resources that God has given us. Please respect and care for the resources of the Institute and the belongings of your fellow students.

Section 3: Loving God with Our Minds

Empowering students to strengthen their Christian worldview is one of our primary goals. Developing and renewing the mind is part of the command to love God with one's entire being, and at EBI you will be academically and intellectually stretched. We hope to deepen your understanding of the Bible. In class, you will be challenged to evaluate truth claims through the lens of the Bible. You will also be encouraged to think critically, reason analytically, write proficiently, and speak effectively so that you can honor God with your mind and leave here equipped for the Christian life in today's world.

Class Attendance

Class attendance is a very important component for successfully completing your course objectives. Students are expected to attend each class period and each faculty member will maintain an attendance record. Permission may be given by the principal to miss a given class for qualified reasons. Excusable absences are limited to weddings, funerals, and emergencies of an immediate family member and must be obtained prior to the absence. Unexcused absences will result in a decrease of the final grade.

Academic Integrity:

Academic honesty is a mark of Christian character and a value

embraced by Elnora Bible Institute. Dishonesty or the attempt to deceive is not acceptable.

Types of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to:

- Cheating on exams or quizzes
- Plagiarism
- Falsifying reading reports, class attendance and the completion of class assignments.

The consequences for dishonesty range from receiving no credit for the assignment to failing the course, or even, depending on the seriousness of the offense, dismissal from EBI.

Section 4: Loving God with Our Service

“Hereby perceive we the love *of God*, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down *our* lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels *of compassion* from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.” (1 John 3:16-18) We believe that loving God and others is evidenced by serving people who are in both physical and spiritual need. When a person commits to being a student at EBI they are also committing to being actively involved in the outreach of the Institute. We believe that it is important that our students have opportunity to minister to other people, both on-campus and off-campus. Opportunities for ministry may include working in kids’ clubs, personal evangelism, visitation, teaching Sunday School, ministering to seniors, leading student prayer groups, and participating in other organized ministries.

Section 5: Living in Community

We are committed to being a place where students can step out of their normal routines for a time of spiritual and intellectual growth. We have crafted our community standards to help achieve that objective. This section is designed to help you know what to expect when you come onto campus and enter into daily life at Elnora Bible Institute. A primary rule is that we love and respect one another. Everything we do and say should be characterized by our love for Christ and others. The Apostle Paul wrote, “Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.” (Rom. 13:8).

Private Worship

You are encouraged to spend regular time in private worship, Bible reading, and prayer. Dorm living often creates a challenge for students to find time to be alone with Jesus. We encourage you to organize a schedule with your roommates to provide personal private time in your dorm room. You may also find other solitary locations around campus.

Chapel

Chapel services are an important part of our campus life. Chapels conducted by faculty, guest speakers and student leaders will be observed on a daily schedule, Monday - Friday. As an EBI student, you will be expected to regularly attend all chapel services. An excused absence may be obtained in the case of sickness.

Sunday Observance

As a community, we want to observe Sunday as a Sabbath set apart and different from other days. You will be expected to attend both Sunday morning and evening services provided on campus for the student body unless otherwise dismissed or excused. On occasion the student body will join area churches to participate in their worship services.

We want to develop an atmosphere on campus that lends itself to the Sabbath concept. In order to help achieve this goal we ask students to refrain from patronizing business establishments on Sunday - i.e. restaurants, service stations, stores, etc. We also ask th

at class dress to be worn to all services unless exceptions are announced.

Special Services

Spiritual Renewal Weekend (1st Term)

These sessions provide a focused opportunity to allow the Holy Spirit to refresh, challenge, and convict us as we grow into the likeness of Jesus. All students need to attend these meetings.

Missions Weekend (2nd Term)

These sessions are geared to help us recognize how God wants us to respond to a lost and dying world. All students need to attend these meetings.

Community Standards

EBI has developed the following community standards to create a nurturing campus environment. Our goal is to provide a positive and safe place that fosters a dynamic faith in Jesus, encourages spiritual growth, and builds godly character. We believe that our lives should reflect Christ, and ask that our students keep this goal in mind both on- and off-campus.

Community standards are in effect from the time students arrive on campus until leave they campus at the end of their enrollment period.

All members of the campus community share in the responsibility of maintaining a Christ-centered campus environment. We ask students to encourage each other to live within these guidelines.

Tobacco

Elnora Bible Institute prohibits the use of tobacco products by its students both on- and off-campus.

Drugs and Alcohol

Elnora Bible Institute prohibits the non-medicinal use of drugs and alcohol, and the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of illicit drugs and alcohol by its students. This prohibition applies to behavior both on and off-campus.

Weapons

For the safety and security of our students and campus, we prohibit guns, ammunition, explosives (including fireworks), knives, martial arts weapons, paintball equipment (including ammo), and any other weapon. These items are not to be brought onto campus or stored in student vehicles. Multi-use tools, like the "Leatherman," and small kitchen knives are permitted.

Damage

Christian honesty and integrity make it an individual's responsibility to report and pay for any damage that he may have

caused either accidentally or otherwise. Damage may be reported through the deans.

Personal Speech

Let no communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers (Eph. 4:29). We always want to demonstrate a type of speech that is Christ honoring and that exceeds the standards of the world around us.

Classroom Etiquette

The classroom setting proves to be one of the key components of a positive Bible school experience. EBI recognizes that the use of cell phones (texting) and misuse of the computer (browsing / surfing / messaging) while in class hinders students in understanding study material. This type of distraction is not welcome.

Relationships

In small communities of this type, the way in which we interact with each other tends to affect the broader community. The nature of any relationship should not interfere with an individual's spiritual, intellectual and social development. Students are expected to be thoughtful and courteous, maintaining Christian standards of conduct and respect.

We encourage participation and interaction in group activities. In order to focus on our pursuit of God, we ask students not to date or develop couple relationships until after the school year is completed. Couples who have been dating prior to coming to the Bible Institute must submit signed written consent from both fathers at the start of their time as students. Students who present consent forms will be allowed one date every two weeks. Permission will not be granted during or between terms.

Listed below are minimum guidelines that can apply to both casual and couple relationships in helping us develop a sense of wholesome Christian community:

- Avoid exclusivity, such as sitting together in class and chapel, cafeteria, lounge and/or spending excessive time together.
- Avoid public displays of physical affection.

- Avoid “the appearance of evil” and the temptations associated with spending time in private. We reserve the right to help students manage their relationship if it is marked by immaturity, excessive time, and physical contact; if it negatively impacts student life; or if there are other factors that merit intervention.

Entertainment and Media

We understand that Christians hold many different views on the topic of media and entertainment. During your time at EBI, you are asked to look beyond your own personal views of media use for the sake of campus unity. In order to continue developing an atmosphere of harmony and a campus environment conducive to spiritual growth and maturity, the following guidelines have been established concerning media and entertainment.

Personal Computers

We invite you to bring your computer along with you to campus as an aid for your studies. While computers are a profound blessing, they can also become a distraction to relationship-building and the completion of academic requirements. In addition, computers can also be a serious source of temptation. In an effort to aid the development of Biblical values, EBI provides an accountable filtered Web service. The following guidelines have also been established to help maintain these values:

- Illegal downloads need to be deleted before coming to campus.
- Accessories used only for gaming purposes should not be brought to campus.
- Storage, downloading or use of pornography is not permitted.
- Inter-student computer networking (including wireless) is not permitted on campus.
- Surfing/messaging is not appropriate in the class setting.
- Computer use is not intended for the general viewing of videos, DVDs, sports, etc. Allowance has been made for viewing personal home-generated video and news clips.

Music

As a Bible Institute, the primary goal is the disciplined training of young Christians as disciples of Jesus who will be equipped to serve Christ by serving the church. As such, we seek to foster an appreciation for quality church music both in hymnody and choral music.

1. Worship music used for the Bible Institute's formal times of assembly should predominantly support the tradition of quality hymnody and psalm singing.
2. The choral music program of the school will focus on sacred a cappella choral music.
3. Musical instruments brought to the school are to be limited to acoustical instruments that are primarily melodic and harmonic, excluding instruments that are primarily percussion or amplified electronically. Exceptions to this must be preapproved by the principal.
4. Personal music brought to the school should meet the following criteria:
 - It should support the overall goals and objectives of the Bible Institute.
 - The qualities of beauty, goodness and truth should be clearly present in such a way as to encourage thoughtful spiritual development.
 - It should only be used in ways that honor and respect the larger student body.

While not labeling all other music as bad or wrong, we are calling for an intentionally focused use of music to support and nurture the spiritual maturity of students at the Bible Institute.

Listening to personal music chosen under these guidelines should be limited to headphones or earbud-style listening devices.

Movies

Engaging our culture through the media creates a challenge for the Christian community. Hollywood is having a tremendous impact on the shaping of our culture by advocating a secular worldview that often runs contrary to Christian faith. To help maintain a positive and nurturing campus environment with limited media influence, we are asking you not to attend the cinema or to watch movies on personal computers. This policy also frees up additional time for study, spiritual growth and interactive group activities.

Gambling

EBI does not permit any type of poker, or gambling in any form.

Video Games

EBI is a place to build deep relationships with God and other people. Spending disproportionate amounts of time gaming seriously hinders relationship-building and the learning process. Elnora Bible Institute has chosen not to allow game boxes and other similar gaming devices on campus. Computer equipment designed solely for gaming should not be brought to campus.

Television

To limit the negative influence of media in our spiritual lives, EBI does not provide or allow television viewing. This includes the viewing of professional sports such as the NFL SuperBowl.

Appearance and Dress Standards

As a Christian institution, EBI is committed to promoting the principles of modesty, propriety, and decorum in its dress standards. Since the students attending Elnora Bible Institute come from diverse congregations with varying practices and understanding of what is appropriate, the following guidelines have been established to ensure a campus environment that is acceptable and comfortable across our student constituency. We also affirm the authority of parents and home congregations. Students are expected to abide by the standards of their home or church where they exceed that of this Institution.

General:

Clothes should not be tight-fitting and should be free of holes or tears. Imprints on clothing should be in harmony with Biblical values. Footwear is to be worn when inside all buildings—dorms excluded.

Gentlemen:

Gentlemen should groom their hair neatly, avoiding fashion extremes. The hair should be above the collar and the entire ear should be visible. Wearing a hat is to be reserved for outside of the main school building. All shirts which are made to be tucked in should be tucked in. When leaning forward or stretching, the back and stomach should remain covered. Pants should be comfortably loose-fitting and underwear should never be exposed.

Ladies:

Dresses and skirts are to be modestly full and of sufficient length to

cover the knees when sitting. Clothing should not be sheer or form-revealing and should not have low necklines or slits. When leaning forward or stretching, the chest, back, and stomach should remain covered, and underwear should never be exposed.

Ladies should wear their hair neatly up, avoiding fashion extremes. We affirm the Biblical teaching of naturally long hair for women and of the veiled head as the symbol of her submission to the divine order of headship. Traditional Mennonite coverings or hanging veils are to be of substantial size to cover the head and worn consistently. Hanging veils must reach at least from the crown of the head to the hairline on the neck. Hairstyles and veils should be simple and tasteful, meeting the approval of home congregations and the Bible Institute. The BMA standard of naturally long hair for women should be maintained. In unusual cases, such as when application is made by the recently converted, exceptions may be made at the discretion of the principal, provided complete willingness is shown on the part of the applicant to let her hair grow to natural length.

Please refrain from cosmetics which alter the natural appearance, and from nail coloring.

Class Dress (during class hours):

We want to promote a formal and studious atmosphere during class hours and all services. The following guidelines provide some general expectations while still allowing room for personal style preferences.

Class dress should be clean, neat and appropriate, avoiding style extremes. Shoes are to be worn during class hours and for all public occasions. Blue denim clothing should be reserved for after class hours, but denim of other colors is acceptable.

Gentlemen:

Dress shirts or collared sport shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts, slacks (no blue jeans, T-shirts, flip-flops or hats) Neckties are not to be worn.

Ladies:

Skirts, dresses, shirts, sweaters, sweatshirts (no blue denim clothing, T-shirts, flip-flops or hats)

Casual Dress Standard (after class hours):

Casual dress should be clean, neat and appropriate, avoiding style extremes. All T-shirts must have sleeves. Culottes and shorts may be worn only in the dorm. For ladies, long dresses or skirts may be worn for recreation.

Jewelry:

Students are to refrain from wearing jewelry or similar items for the sake of appearance, including wristbands.

Section 6: Residence Life

Dorm life has proven to be a crucial part of a student's overall experience in this type of setting. In the dorms you will forge new friendships, learn self-discipline and deference for peers, mature in your faith, and experience what only a dorm setting can offer. EBI fosters a dorm environment that promotes optimum growth for each student. It is your responsibility to respect people: space, time and belongings. It is our hope that you will take this opportunity to develop mature habits that promote healthy relationships, mental discipline, and spiritual growth.

Dorm Meetings

A variety of dorm meetings will be planned by the deans every Tuesday evening. All students need to attend these meetings unless prior approval has been given by the dean.

Dorm Rooms

Rooms normally house 4 students. Each room is equipped with 2 sets of bunk beds, 2 chests of drawers, 2 closets, 2 sinks and a shower and toilet room.

Decorations, posters, pictures, etc., should be consistent with Christian values. Decorations may be hung using straight pins. Avoid the use of tape, sticky tack, nails, etc., as they could damage the walls. Each student is responsible to clean and maintain his/her own room. The deans will weekly inspect each dorm room. The rooms will be checked for general appearance of neatness: beds made, floor free of debris, sink / shower / toilet areas clean, and trash can not overflowing.

Each student pays a deposit fee when enrolling at EBI. A portion of this fee will be deducted for any damage incurred during the

term. Remaining funds will be returned at the end of each term upon a satisfactory room inspection.

Laundry

The school provides a shared laundry room equipped with washers and dryers, ironing boards, and irons. The cost is \$.25 for washing and \$.25 for drying. A schedule for men and women is posted on the laundry room door.

Facility Care

EBI values cleanliness and asks you to partner with us in keeping our campus looking clean. Please clean up after yourself and discard all trash in a trash container. As a student you will participate in kitchen privileges (KP) after some meals as well as assist in an occasional cleaning duty.

Schedule

Meals:

Breakfast	7:00 - 7:30 am
Lunch	12:30 pm
Supper	5:15 pm
Sat. Brunch	10:30 am
Sat. Supper	4:30 pm

Dorm:

Dorm time	
Sun.-Thrus.	9:30 pm
Fri.	10:30 pm
Sat.	10:00 pm
Quiet / Room Time	
Sun.-Thrus	10:30 pm
Fri.	11:30 pm
Sat.	11:00 pm
Lights out	
Sun.-Thrus.	11:00 pm
Fri.	12:00 am
Sat.	11:30 pm

Dorm Time

All students are to be in their respective dorms at dorm time. Leaving the dorm after dorm time is considered a serious violation of school policy. If you need to leave the dorm for any legitimate reason after these hours, you need to clear it with your dean prior to leaving.

Room / Quiet Time

During quiet time, students should be in their rooms and noise should be kept to a minimum. Conversations should not be audible in the hallways.

Lights-out

All lights are to be turned off including small personal lights and the room should be quiet except for whispers. Cell phones are not to be used after lights-out.

Late Arrivals

Students encountering unforeseen delays that may cause them to be late in arriving back on campus should contact their dorm dean as soon as possible. Consideration will be given to the time of notice and the circumstances related to the lateness.

Student Sign-Out

For accountability and emergency purposes, students are asked to sign out when going off-campus at any time. A designated folder is located near the main entrance of the school building. Individuals going off-campus to a local destination, as well as those representing the school in other communities, are expected to abide by the guidelines of the Bible Institute.

Students wanting to leave campus for the weekend should clear this with their dean in advance, and are expected to return by dorm time Sunday evening.

Overnight Guests

If room permits, you are welcome to invite your traveling guests to stay overnight. Students are responsible for helping their guests understand appropriate behavioral expectations on our campus. Guests are expected to abide by standards of conduct during their stay. Guests involved in inappropriate behavior may be asked to leave our campus immediately.

In the event that traveling guests elect to find off-campus lodging, students need to remain on campus.

Fire Prevention

Candles, fireworks (including sparklers), incense, flammable liquids, or anything that smolders or burns with an open flame are not to be used at anytime in the dorms or elsewhere on campus (except for camp fires in existing campfire rings). You should identify where fire extinguishers are located and know how to use them. Instructions are found on each unit.

In the event of a fire, congregate on the outside basketball court. Never enter a burning building to retrieve personal belongings. Tampering with, destroying, or disabling fire safety equipment is considered a serious offense and will result in a \$100.00 fine in addition to damage costs and other possible disciplinary action.

Bicycles, etc.

For the safety of others, bicycles, scooters, roller-skates, rollerblades, etc. are not to be used inside any building.

Windows

Climbing in or out of a window is not permitted, and objects should not be thrown from windows. For modesty, students should maintain adequate distance from dorm windows and care should be taken to avoid seeing into the rooms of the opposite gender. To avoid embarrassment to yourself and others, please close the blind in your room after dusk.

Library

Our library's primary goal is to support EBI classes. Reference works, circulating books, magazines, journals, and electronic resources are available. Books may be signed out of the library, but they must not leave campus. The library also provides opportunities for devotional and leisure reading. Since a library is a place for study, a quiet and orderly atmosphere should be maintained.

Mail Service

EBI provides basic mail service for students. Student mailboxes are located in the cafeteria near the student lounge. Personal outgoing mail may be placed in a drop box in the school office. Mail is collected and received on a daily basis.

Recreation

Getting exercise while you are at EBI will help bring an important balance to your life. During the evening those who enjoy recreation may participate in optional intra mural sports. The school provides a gym that may be used for basketball, volleyball, ping-pong etc. The gym is kept quiet during class hours to help foster a studious atmosphere. Students are not required to participate in intra mural activities.

Health Care

Elnora Bible Institute will not assume responsibility for medical expenses incurred while enrolled at EBI. All medical expenses are the responsibility of the student, including medications, health supplies, doctor's office visits, hospital fees, and dental work, etc.

Food Services

Food should not be taken from the dining room and kitchen area. Individuals not employed by EBI are not to be in the kitchen or food storage areas unless authorized by the head cook.

Automobiles

You are welcome to bring your vehicle to campus. Elnora Bible Institute does not carry liability insurance on student vehicles and will not be liable for accidents or injuries of students, including those incurred while participating in school activities. Please use discretion and consider all relevant risks when allowing others to use your vehicle. EBI expects drivers to abide by the applicable driving laws and to drive in a manner that is consistent with a good Christian testimony.

Lost & Found

EBI maintains a collection box of lost and found items located in the school office. Please check this box regularly as unclaimed items will be appropriately discarded or given away.

Section 7: Discipline & Restoration

One of our desires as an institution is to maintain a safe and nurturing campus environment, which will aid us in accomplishing the stated goals of Elnora Bible Institute:

1. To provide an opportunity for students to do systematic Bible study and to develop their faith in the inspiration and authority of the Word of God.
2. To lead students to an enthusiastic loyalty to Christ and involvement in evangelism and missions.
3. To encourage and equip individuals for humble service to God and to their fellow men in the context of their spiritual gifts and callings.
4. To help each student become an effective member of the local congregation and aid in its ministry.

We also seek to empower students to develop self-discipline that will complement their call into the work of the kingdom. During the course of a student's time at EBI, it may be necessary to use discipline to help guide an individual in his Christian walk. Disciplinary action may take on a variety of forms, depending on the nature of the offense, and may include counseling, verbal warnings, written warnings, campus work duty, fines, restitution, campus restriction, disciplinary probation, suspension, non-return, and dismissal from Elnora Bible Institute. In the event of a student's dismissal from EBI, the principal will be in consultation with the faculty and the student's senior pastor or the board chairman.

Our goal is for all discipline to lead to the restoration of the student. We will seek to be redemptive by providing pastoral care to students who are struggling, so that they may find the freedom offered by Christ.

Concluding Comments

Membership in any group, Christian or secular, necessitates guidelines to help provide order and direction. Even though we are individuals, we cannot live together peacefully if “everyone does what is right in his own eyes.” Thank you for committing yourself to being a part of our small focused community. We pray that you will find Elnora Bible Institute to be a place of accelerated spiritual growth and challenge as you pursue Christ.