

## An Environment of Acceptance

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I continue to choose a Mennonite institution because of the atmosphere of acceptance and grace that I am welcomed with at CMU. Each of my classes not only teach me critical information about relevant issues, but they also allow me to explore my own opinions and thoughts about what is occurring in the world. I can ask profound and heavy questions without any fear of being condemned for them. The fact that CMU offers theology courses gives me an outlet to explore my beliefs in a non-judgmental atmosphere.

For instance, in the Biblical Literature and Themes course that I took this past year, the professor would open the floor at the end of each class for us to ask any questions we had. I really appreciated this opportunity to raise some of the doubts and confusion I had about the Bible and Christianity. My questions led to rich classroom discussions which made learning much more invigorating.

This aspect of attending a Mennonite institution translates into residence life as well. I was lucky to be able to live in dorm at CMU, which meant that I was surrounded by a plethora of unique and inspiring students. Conversations from the classroom continued during study breaks, at mealtimes, or during late night philosophical conversations in the lounges. The atmosphere in residence portrayed the same lack of judgment as the rest of CMU. I continue to choose a Mennonite institution because of the opportunities it affords to have these conversations about important topics such as faith in such an accepting environment.

