

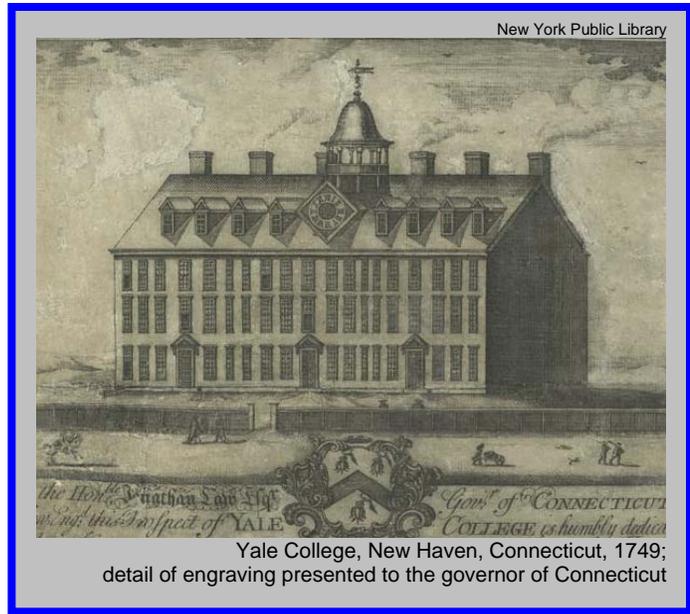


*“Every student shall write out  
 a copy of these orders.”*

# Student Regulations of Yale College

\_\_\_\_\_ early 1700s

Founded in 1701 in Connecticut, Yale College was the third institution of higher education in the British mainland colonies (after Harvard in Boston in 1636 and William & Mary in Virginia in 1693). On arriving for the first year, each student was to write his own copy of the regulations, which would then be signed by the college president. This list presents the rules as transcribed in 1726 by student Jonathan Ashley (excerpts).



Yale College, New Haven, Connecticut, 1749;  
 detail of engraving presented to the governor of Connecticut

## ORDERS AND APPOINTMENTS TO BE OBSERVED IN THE COLLEGIATE SCHOOL IN CONNECTICUT

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Such as are admitted students in the College shall in their examination, in order thereunto, be found expert in both the Greek and Latin Grammar, as also Grammatically Resolving both Latin and Greek Authors and in making Good and true Latin.</li> </ul>   | <p>Latin &amp; Greek proficiency required on admission</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Every student shall exercise himself in Reading Holy Scriptures by himself every Day, that the word of Christ may Dwell in Him richly and that he may be filled with the knowledge of the will of God in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.</li> </ul>  | <p>Required individual Bible study</p>                     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Every student shall consider the main end of his study, to wit [which is] to know God in Jesus Christ and answerably to lead a Godly sober life.</li> </ul>  | <p>Purpose of education</p>                                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ All students shall avoid the profanation of God’s Holy name, Attributes, word and ordinances, and the Holy Sabbath, and shall Carefully attend all public assemblies for Divine worship, and shall avoid all appearances of Contempt and irreverence.</li> </ul>   | <p>Blasphemy; reverent attendance at worship</p>           |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ All students shall be slow to speak and avoid, and inasmuch as in them lies, take Care that others also avoid profane swearing, lying, needless asseverations, foolish garrulings, chidings, strifes, railings, gesting, uncomely noise, spreading ill rumors, Divulging secrets and all manner of troublesome and offensive behaviour.<sup>1</sup></li> </ul> | <p>Behavior</p>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ They shall honour their natural parents, as also magistrates, elders, Rector, tutors [teachers], and all their superiors, keeping Due silence in their presence and not Disorderly gainsaying [contradicting or disputing] them, but showing them always laudable expressions of honour and Reverence, as uncovering the head, etc.</li> </ul>                 | <p>Respect for parents and those in authority</p>          |

National Humanities Center, 2009: [nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/](http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/). As transcribed in 1726 by Yale student Jonathan Ashley; printed in Franklin B. Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College, with Annals of the College History*, Vol. 1 (October 1701–May 1745), 1885, pp. 347-351. Spelling and punctuation modernized by NHC for clarity. Complete image credits at [nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/becomingamer/imagecredits.htm](http://nationalhumanitiescenter.org/pds/becomingamer/imagecredits.htm).

<sup>1</sup> *Needless asseverations*, i.e., unnecessarily emphatic statements; *foolish garrulings*, i.e., trivial chattiness; *chidings, strifes, railings, gesting*, i.e., rebukes, criticism, teasing, silliness.

- No undergraduate shall, upon pretense of Recreation or any excuse whatsoever, without the allowance [permission] of the Rector or his tutor, shall be absent from his study or appointed exercises in the school, except Half an Hour at breakfast, an Hour and Half at noon after Dinner, and after the Evening prayer, till nine of the Clock, and while he is in the school he shall studiously redeem His time, observing both the hours Common for the students to meet in the hall and those that are appointed to his own lectures, which he shall Diligently attend and be inoffensive in his attendance thereunto in word and gesture.

Presence on campus (meals, prayer, lectures, etc.)
- No student shall go into any tavern, victualling house [eating place] or inn to eat or Drink except he be Called by his parents or some sufficient person that the Rector or tutor shall except of [approve], nor spend his time there or suffer [allow] any strong Drink that is inebriating to be brought into his Chamber except in Case of necessity for Relief [medicinal purposes].

Avoidance of taverns, alcohol, etc.
- No student shall under any pretense use the Company or familiar acquaintance of [persons of] a Dissolute and unquiet life, nor intermeddle [with other] men's business, nor intrude himself into the Chambers of students, nor shall any undergraduate go at Courts, elections, Keeping high Days, or go a hunting or fowling without leave from the Rector or tutors, nor shall any student be absent from his Chamber after nine a Clock nor have light in his Chamber after eleven nor before four in the morning, except [upon] some extraordinary occasion. . . .

Behavior
- All undergraduates shall be bound to Continue or be Resident in the school, and shall not have liberty granted him of absence from it longer than two months within the Compass of a year, unless upon such Reasons and Grounds as shall be approved of by the Rector or tutor or two trustees . . . .

Rules for extended absence
- Seeing [that] God is the giver of all wisdom, every student shall, beside secret [private] prayer wherein everyone is bound to ask wisdom for himself, shall be present morning and evening at public prayer in the Hall at the Accustomed [hour] which is usually at six a Clock in the morning, from the tenth of March at sun Rising, and between four and five of the Clock at night all the year.

Prayer (private & public)
- It is appointed that some part of the Holy Scriptures be Read in morning and evening prayer in the hall, and exposition be made thereon by the Rector, and all undergraduates shall be present and attend thereunto, and their absence from it shall be punishable, as well as their absence from prayer; and there shall be an [scriptural] analysis which shall be Read by one of the bachelors [freshmen] or sophisters [upperclassmen] in their Course thrice [three times] in a fortnight [two weeks], whereby their skill in logic and rhetoric may be increased.

Bible study & analysis (group)
- All undergraduates, except freshmen, who shall Read [translate] English into Greek, shall Read some part of the Old Testament out of Hebrew into Greek in the morning, and shall turn some part of the New Testament out of the English or Latin into the Greek at evening, at the time of Recitation, before they begin to Recite the original tongues [languages]. . . .

Bible translation
- All students shall, after they have Done reciting rhetoric and ethics on Fridays, recite Wolebius theology, and on Saturday morning they shall Recite Ames theology thesis in his Medulla, and on Saturday evening the Assemblies' shorter Catechism in Latin, and on Sabbath Day attend the explication of Ames's Cases of Conscience.

Theology examinations
- In the first year after admission, on the four first Days of the week, all students shall

Monday-Thursday:

be exercised [examined] in the Greek and Hebrew tongues, only beginning Logic in the morning at the end of the year, unless their tutors see cause by Reason of their Ripeness in the tongues to Read Logic to them sooner; they shall spend the second year in Logic with the exercise of themselves in the tongues: the third year principally in Physics; and the fourth year in Metaphysics and Mathematics, still Carrying on the former studies: but in all Classes the last Days of the week are allowed perpetually for Rhetoric, Oratory, and Divinity and in teaching of both tongues, and Arts, and such Authors are to be used as shall be approved of by the Rector and tutors for their special Care is to be exercised and their Directions Attended. . . .

Greek, Hebrew,  
Logic, Physics,  
Metaphysics,  
Rhetoric,  
Oratory,  
Divinity, Arts

- No scholar shall use the English tongue in the College with his fellow scholars unless he be Called to public exercise proper to be attended in the English tongue, but scholars in their Chambers and when they are together shall talk Latin. . . .
- For the prevention of irreligion and Idleness, and other immoralities in the students, it is ordered that every non-Graduate,
  - without sufficient Reason absenting himself from the public worship of God on Sabbath or public lectures in the town, under what Denomination soever as fasts, thanksgivings, &c., shall be amored by the Rector or tutor: for every such Default not above eight pence.
  - for omission of College prayer without sufficient Reasons: two pence
  - for each time and the Delinquent for every such fault of omission of an appointed exercise shall be fined by his Rector or tutor: not above five pence.

No English to  
be spoken  
unless in  
recitation

Behavior  
violations,  
and fines &  
punishments

And punishment is to be inflicted on every fault according to the merit of the Crime, by extraordinarily imposing school exercises or Degrading them in their several Classes, or by public Rebuke, Confession, Admonition, or Amercement [monetary penalty] not exceeding five shillings, for each time according to the merit of the same; And Record is to be made of such Delinquencies from time to time, and an account to be Given to the parents of such students or to the gardiners [guardians] of such persons. . . .

- To prevent the Growth of Disorder, excess and inconformity to the many good laws made in Hartford [Harvard] College, the trustees Do prohibit the non-graduated students making on their own or others' Commencement, provision of inebriating Drink of any kind whatsoever, upon the penalty of being Degraded as the trustees shall see Cause and as the merit of the Crime shall Deserve, Reserving liberty for the Delinquent to appeal as is elsewhere expressed.
- It is ordered from time to time the students being resident and undergraduates at the College shall seek and obtain the approbation of the Reverend Rector, and tutor or tutors, in first taking up and afterwards Changing their lodging and Diet. . . .
- Every student, in order to his admission, shall write out a copy of these orders and appointments, whereunto his admittatur shall be annexed and signed by the Rector and tutor or tutors.
- It is ordered that the highest scholar in the hall at meal time shall ask a blessing and turn thanks, except the tutor or some graduate be there [who would then say the blessing]. . . .

Alcohol  
prohibited  
during  
commence-  
ment period

Approval  
required to  
change lodging  
& meals

Copy of  
college  
rules

Blessing  
before meals

Admittatur in Collegium Yalense Connecticutensium quod est  
Novi Porti. Jonathan Ashley die [this day] Nov<sup>br.</sup> 22<sup>d.</sup>, 1726.  
*E. Williams*—Rector.  
*D. Edwards*—Tutor.