

About the HxA Campus Community Network

Updated March 2025

If you still have questions, please contact CampusCommunities@heterodoxacademy.org.



Campus Community Network

Shared Commitments

Clear expectations from the start will help HxA members decide if starting a Campus Community is the right choice. All participating groups are asked to affirm these key guidelines:

Live the mission. Campus Community messages and activities should be crafted to elevate the discourse, in keeping with [The HxA Way](#). Partisanship, single-issue campaigns, echo chambers, and provocation-for-its-own-sake may have their place, but an HxA Campus Community is not that place.

Build community. A new Campus Community can lay a strong foundation by recruiting members, developing relationships, and thinking deeply about campus-specific issues. That's why Campus Communities will start with a founding period, making them better prepared for deep work and potential controversies ahead.

Speak up with courage and charity. There are many ways to influence campus culture and policy, and sometimes those include taking a public stand. Each Campus Community will consider when and how it will communicate as individuals and as a group, and how it will handle internal disagreements.

Share the learning. As part of a national (or international) network, each Campus Community can help all HxA members learn about what works, and what doesn't, when it comes to changing the culture of colleges and universities.

Respect the process. To protect everyone involved, Campus Community co-chairs will agree to follow college/university policies; respect the nonprofit status and trademarks of Heterodox Academy; take care of the people and funding involved in this work; and keep the HxA team in the loop about events/programs, controversies, successes and challenges.

Organizations and Finances

In most cases, a Campus Community will start as “a chapter of” Heterodox Academy, a tax-exempt nonprofit organization, with HxA paying approved expenses directly. For example, when a Campus Community holds its first series of member meetings, expenses such as meals and speaker fees would either be charged directly to HxA or paid for by the group and reimbursed.

Over time, material support from HxA may take the form of in-kind goods and services; direct-paid expenses; grants to groups or organizations; and/or payments to individuals. HxA will cultivate donors to support the work of the Campus Community Network at a specific campus of their choice. Gifts to HxA may be designated to support a particular Campus Community; a portion of such gifts may be used to cover HxA's administrative costs directly relevant to the Campus Community Network.

Because perceptions about our financial support can influence HxA's brand identity and effectiveness around the world, HxA reserves the right to decline or limit any gift, or to limit Campus Community donations to donors affiliated with each institution.

Naming and Branding

Internally to HxA's staff and membership, each Campus Community will be known simply as "(Institution Name), a HxA Campus Community," but official names may vary according to local rules and the preferences of each Campus Community. Please note that:

- There may be local limits on the use of university names and trademarks, especially before (or without) official university recognition;
- The Campus Community should describe itself as "a Heterodox Academy Campus Community" or "an HxA Campus Community" wherever possible.
- In the event that a Campus Community and HxA choose to part ways in the future, the continuing group would be required to stop using the trademarked terms "Heterodox Academy," "Heterodox," and "HxA."

HxA will provide further resources for using the HxA name and logo in campus-facing communications.

Memorandum of Understanding

The rules and relationships described above will be formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding between HxA and each Campus Community co-chair once they are accepted into the Network.

FAQs About HxA and Campus Communities

What is Heterodox Academy?

Heterodox Academy (HxA) is a nonpartisan nonprofit that works to improve the quality of research and education by promoting open inquiry, viewpoint diversity, and constructive disagreement in institutions of higher learning. [Learn more about our work.](#)

Why did HxA start a Campus Community Network?

HxA has long supported specific [member communities](#), many of whom have hosted events/programs and conducted research on campus. In their work to improve higher education from within, HxA members have increasingly sought ways to connect in-person and engage with questions of policy and thought leadership that are central to campus culture. Creating the HxA Campus Community Network was a natural next step.

How is HxA different from other outside groups who come to campus?

We aren't an outside group. HxA is a collaborative of professors, administrators, staff, and students, and each HxA Campus Community comprises members from that specific college or university. That "insider" perspective and dedication to the academy shapes HxA's approach to every conversation about improving intellectual life.

Does this mean HxA will be reducing its support for the existing HxCommunities?

Not in the least. HxA's disciplinary and regional communities will continue to be fully supported, and new opportunities for these groups will be announced on an ongoing basis. As a membership organization at a pivotal moment for higher education, HxA seeks to connect more members, in more ways, for more impact.

I'm an alumnus/alumna. How can I help bring an HxA Campus Community to my alma mater?

We'd love to talk! Please reach the HxA team at CampusCommunities@heterodoxacademy.org.

Program Design

How many Campus Communities will be part of each cohort?

There is no predetermined number for each cohort. HxA will consider all completed applications and approve Campus Communities based on available resources and applicant readiness.

Will the program be the same on every campus?

No. The mission and core activities will be the same everywhere but the specific format and focus of different Campus Communities will vary based on local needs, interests, and circumstances.

Will HxA continue to provide financial support after the first year?

Yes. As your Campus Community grows, HxA will continue to support it with staff time and resources but more details are not available regarding ongoing financial support at this time.

What if my campus is particularly hostile to certain kinds of public events?

Don't be discouraged from starting a Campus Community. Where, when, and how to offer public events will be something to consider with help from HxA.

I would like a specific guest speaker to come to my campus. Can I count on that?

Unfortunately, no. HxA can't guarantee any particular speaker, but the HxA team can support Campus Community leaders in planning for, inviting, and hosting interesting speakers.

Will every Campus Community member be required to join HxA?

Co-chairs are required to be HxA members. Learn more and apply to become a member [here](#). Campus Communities are encouraged to invite regular participants to become HxA members, and a larger group of HxA members will be helpful in gaining access to certain opportunities. That being said, HxA Campus Communities and their activities should be “porous” and welcoming to all, particularly at campus-wide events/programs.

Lead Applicant / Co-Chair Role

Will the co-chairs of Campus Communities be financially compensated?

No, serving as a co-chair is a volunteer role.

Will Campus Community co-chairs' names be publicly listed?

Yes. Our website includes landing pages for each Campus Community, which will list each co-chair (name and professional title).

Will co-chairs need to accept funds personally and/or pay taxes on those funds?

No. HxA will pay for program expenses directly at first, and in some cases transition to a formal funding agreement with a formal organization.

What if a co-chair leaves the group or the campus?

Academic life includes graduations, sabbaticals, and other changes, which may or may not be predictable. HxA asks that lead applicants/co-chairs make a good-faith commitment to staying actively involved for two years, and to seek a replacement if a vacancy occurs.

Will Campus Community co-chairs be expected to spend time raising money?

No. Co-chairs are welcome to connect with interested alumni and other supporters, but the typical co-chair will be a busy person who focuses time on group development, improving campus policies and operations, and planning programming and events.

Eligibility and Application Process

How can I find HxA members on my campus?

Please search the [HxA Member Directory](#).

I'm not an HxA member yet. Can I join now and be a lead applicant/co-chair?

Yes. Lead applicants/co-chairs should be HxA members or have an application pending at the time of submission. [Learn more and apply to become a member](#).

My institution is outside the United States. Can I still put together an applicant group and apply?

We have members across the world, and if you're on a campus outside the U.S., Canada, or the U.K., we ask that you reach out to us at CampusCommunities@heterodoxacademy.org.

I'm a university executive or administrator. Can I be a lead applicant?

Yes.

I am active on campus now but I plan to retire in the next 2-3 years. Can I still be a lead applicant?

Yes.

I'm an undergraduate student. How can I get involved?

Unfortunately, undergraduate students are currently not eligible for HxA membership as of October 2024. That being said, you are still able to be involved with a Campus Community at your institution by attending programs & events and/or encouraging student groups to partner with a Campus Community. Connect with professors, administrators, staff, and graduate students on your campus to gauge their interest in starting a Campus Community and discuss ways you might support and partner with them!

I have an existing campus faculty group. Can we become a Campus Community?

It depends on the specifics of the existing group's structure and membership. Please inquire by email to CampusCommunities@heterodoxacademy.org.

What if more than one group applies from my institution?

HxA will support one Campus Community per college or university. If multiple applications are submitted from the same place, HxA will coordinate with both/all of them to consider a joint effort.

What counts as a single college or university? Can lead applicants come from different parts of the same larger system?

Campus Communities are meant to bring together members of the same institution, including for in-person meetings and events. A state university system is probably too large for a single Campus Community, but an institution with nearby extension campuses might be just fine.

I am already promoting open inquiry on my campus. How do I connect with HxA?

If you have already started a group, program, or other effort to promote HxA values on your campus, we'd love to hear from you! Together we can determine whether starting an HxA Campus Community is right for you. Please send us details at CampusCommunities@heterodoxacademy.org.