



THE ACADEMY



WHAT IT IS

Where on campus can you discuss ‘deep’ topics openly with people from different perspectives? Is it possible to share thoughts and experiences with others in an intelligent way without contentious debate or getting into a yelling match? We think so...

Some leaders from [Gator Christian Life](#) & [Gator Freethought](#) hope that *The Academy* is that place!

real students | diverse perspectives | honest dialogue

Named after Plato’s Academy founded in 387 BC, we hope this forum will be a place to hold thoughtful and philosophical dialogue between different peoples and opinions. His Academy, like ours, is a place for lovers of truth, wisdom, and knowledge. The format has student panelists from participating groups responding to topics of mutual interest. We will also invite our audience members to participate via questions and feedback.

WHEN & WHERE IT IS

Friday, 7/13/07 from 6-8 pm in [Reitz Union](#) Room 282 ([link](#))

HOW IT IS: THE RULES

We have rules of order that we abide by and ask you to as well. You will not have a voice in the Academy for long if you refuse to abide by the following:

- I. *Respect panel members and other students with differing viewpoints*
 - No name-calling or *ad hominem* ‘attacking the messenger’ on other perspectives will be allowed
 - Allow people to clarify or adjust their point of view, this is not a debate
 - Our purpose is not ‘winning’, it is personally coming to a clearer understanding of our own beliefs and the beliefs of others

- II. *Maintain a sense of logical order*
 - One topic will be discussed at a time, but may digress into other sub-questions or topics, so long as a thread of continuity is maintained
 - Questions for future discussion that are submitted in the suggestion box or brought up in discussion and will be placed in a queue
 - There are no time limits, but topics are discussed as long as the panel and questioner want to continue discussion on a given topic. However, the facilitator may institute a change in topic at any time to keep discussion flowing in an interesting and orderly way

- III. *Topics should all address ‘deep’ subjects*
 - Taboo topics: Political ‘hot-button issues’ (e.g., abortion), church denominational issues, and any other deemed by the facilitator as inappropriate for the queue
 - Suggested topics: The existence/nature of God, man, death and an afterlife, moral absolutes, moral relativism, the origins of man, beauty, goodness, &c.