Renaissance Men are...

WELL-READ • WELL-TRAVELED • WELL-SPOKEN

WELL-DRESSED • WELL-BALANCED

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE
...Allow me to expand for a moment on what I mean by Morehouse students becoming Renaissance men with a social conscience. There are five characteristics that I wish to hold above your heads along with the crown you will someday wear. I want each of you to memorize these five pillars of our renaissance.

First, I invite you as men of Morehouse, Renaissance men in the making, to become well-read. Well-read students possess a breadth of knowledge and sophistication in contrast to the parochialism of those who specialize too soon in their intellectual careers. Well-read men should be acquainted with the classic texts, issues, and questions within both the sciences and humanities. I want your bookshelves to reflect your diversity of interest. For there we should find physics and philosophy next to finance and poetry. When you are well-read, you will have something valuable to contribute to any conversation.

Second, I want you to become well-traveled. Well-read and well-traveled students who have been reared in the United States must travel to other countries in North America and beyond in order to experience the essential “decentering” that comes from leaving home and looking back to assess and understand one’s origins. We are blessed to have many international students who know this and can assist the rest of us. The Ghanaian scholar Kofi Opoku says, “Do not say that your mother’s stew is the best in the world if you have never left your village.” Travel to the edges of the world and take the Morehouse banner with you. Stand on the Great Wall of China as you study globalization and send us a text message saying, “Morehouse is here.” Venture to the most isolated islands of French Polynesia to examine water quality and send us a postcard stamped “Morehouse is in Bora Bora.” And if you venture to Mars, please do not place a collect call to your favorite dean. Just plant our maroon and white flag on the red planet. Get out of your parent’s house and out of Morehouse to see the world.

Third, I want each of you to become well-spoken. Well-read, well-traveled, well-spoken Renaissance men always have something valuable to say. Equally important, I want you to say it well. You will develop the capacity to express yourselves with precision, grace and style, both verbally and in writing. So please, in this week of orientation, lose the phrase from your vocabulary, “Yo, yo, you know what I’m saying?” No! We don’t know what you’re saying. That’s why you’ve come here to learn to put those complex emotions and ideas into elegant words. And when you become good, as good as the men who performed and challenged us last night, you’ll be able to talk the sugar out of a sweet roll without touching the crust. Aristotle called that “the art of rhetoric.”

Fourth, I want you to be well-dressed. Well-read, well-traveled, well-spoken and well-dressed. Brothers, these are awesome traits when combined. As a prestigious college that produces leaders, we have an obligation to inform and guide you regarding how best to present yourselves in public. We want you to make the right first impression. And, whether you like it or not, people see you coming down the street or corridor before they meet you and hear your brilliant and charming conversation. So, brothers, there is a time and a place for everything. With love and respect I say to you, college classes, offices, the cafeteria and chapel are not the place for hats. Nor do we wish to see you in trousers sagging below your waistline. No do-rags. No pajamas in the classroom. If you must wear that costume, please limit it to your room. But, when you enter the public to represent Morehouse, please look like the future decision makers, servant leaders and power brokers that you are. You are men of Morehouse. You are better than that. We will be watching and expecting class from you.

Finally, I want you to become well-balanced. Morehouse teaches us to possess healthy minds that reside within healthy bodies governed by healthy values. Remember that phrase, healthy minds inside healthy bodies governed by healthy values. This affirms the importance of a well rounded existence built upon the wise allocation of time and effort. To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under the sun. A time for relaxation and a time (a lot of time) for study; a time for sports and recreation and a time for worship and spiritual nourishment. Dr. DuBois said that university should be a place for “hard work and hard play.”
Renaissance Men are...

WELL-READ

“...Well-read men possess a breadth of knowledge and sophistication and are acquainted with the classic texts, issues, and questions within both the sciences and humanities. Your bookshelves should reflect your diversity of interest—physics and philosophy next to finance and poetry. When you are well-read, you will have something valuable to contribute to any conversation.”

—Dr. Robert M. Franklin Jr. ’75
President, Morehouse College
Students who have been reared in the United States must travel to other countries in order to experience the essential 'decentering' that comes from leaving home and looking back to assess and understand one's origins.

As the planet 'grows smaller' and its citizens become more interdependent, it is more important than ever for each of us to develop broad perspectives, skills, and leadership that consider the population of the entire globe; this is the making of the global citizen.

Dr. Robert M. Franklin Jr. '75
President, Monmouth College
Renaissance Men are...

WELL-SPOKEN

“Focus on developing the capacity to express yourself with precision, grace and style—both orally and in writing. Put complex emotions and ideas into elegant words. Always have something valuable to say, and then say it well.

One effective way to begin is to become familiar with and memorize excerpts from some well-crafted, well-delivered orations. Find great proclamations and become familiar with them.”

-Dr. Robert M. Franklin Jr. ’75
President, Morehouse College
Renaissance Men are...

WELL-DRESSED

“We want you to make the right first impression. There is a time and place for every cultural costume; some of them—such as pants sagging below your waistline—have no place in the classroom or in the workplace.

Do not self-penalize by entering the public square in the equivalent of a black tuxedo with brown shoes. Whether you like it not, people see you approaching before they experience your brilliant and charming conversation.”

-Dr. Robert M. Franklin Jr. ’75
President, Morehouse College
Renaissance Men are...

WELL-BALANCED

“There is a time for relaxation and a time for study, a time for sports and recreation, and a time for worship and spiritual nourishment.”

This semester, pursue a new recreational interest—golf or chess. Visit a new worship center or explore a religious tradition that is unfamiliar to you. You’ll find your horizons permanently broadened.”

-Dr. Robert M. Franklin Jr. ’75
President, Morehouse College
Morehouse College sits on a sprawling 66-acre campus in the heart of Atlanta, a city with more than 40 colleges and universities in the metropolitan area. The College is part of the largest consortium of historically black colleges and universities in the world, the Atlanta University Center. The consortium, along with the Robert W. Woodruff Library, allows Morehouse students the benefit of a university setting, while nestled in a small-college atmosphere.

DESCRIPTION
Founded in 1867 as the Augusta Institute in Augusta, Georgia, Morehouse College is the nation’s largest liberal arts college for men. Morehouse graduates approximately 500 students each year, historically conferring bachelor’s degrees on more African American men than any other college or university in the United States. The 66-acre campus is located just three miles southwest of downtown Atlanta.

MISSION
The mission of Morehouse College is to provide a comprehensive academic, social and spiritual experience that prepares its students for leadership and success in the larger society.

PRESIDENT
Dr. Robert Michael Franklin Jr. ’75 is the 10th president of Morehouse College. He is a former president of the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC). At Emory University, Franklin served as the Presidential Distinguished Professor of Social Ethics and was a senior fellow at the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at the law school.

ENROLLMENT
With an enrollment of approximately 2,800, the student body represents more than 40 states and 20 foreign countries.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS
Morehouse operates under the semester system offering the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees. The College offers 26 majors in three academic divisions: Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Mathematics, and Business Administration and Economics, and a dual-degree program in engineering with the Georgia Institute of Technology.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS
Special programs include Phi Beta Kappa, Honors, Study Abroad, The Andrew Young Center for International Affairs and Research Careers. The College also houses the Morehouse Research Institute, The Martin Luther King Jr. International Chapel, Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection, The Leadership Center at Morehouse College, and the Journal of Negro History.

FACULTY
172 full-time
62 part-time
100% of tenured and tenure-track faculty holds terminal degrees