

# Restorative Practices

## Office of the Dean of Students

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### What are restorative practices?

Restorative practices are a set of tools that we use to help our community strengthen relationships, address conflict, and repair harm. Pulling on principles of restorative justice, restorative practices focus on listening, understanding, and problem-solving rather than blame or punishment. These practices promote spaces of trust and respect and can help us build a healthier, more connected campus community.

### Why might you engage with restorative practices?

People might use restorative practices when they:

- Want support navigating a conflict or misunderstanding
- Hope to repair a relationship after harm has occurred
- Want to address an incident while honoring the voices of everyone involved
- Would like a guided, collaborative conversation to clarify impact and next steps
- Want to build a stronger community or relationships
- Want to establish or maintain norms in their group, team, or organization

### What are the benefits of a restorative approach?

Restorative practices help our community by:

- Supporting healing and accountability
- Promoting empathy and communication
- Strengthening trust and belonging
- Reducing conflict and preventing future harm
- Empowering individuals to create collaborative solutions

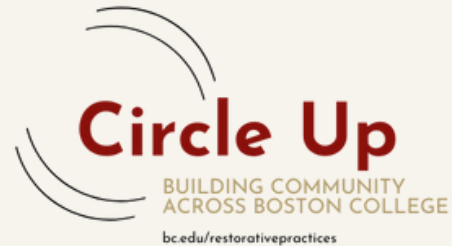


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**Community Circle** - a structured, facilitated conversation that brings community members together to build relationships, establish shared norms, and work through differences in a respectful and supportive environment.



**Restorative Dialogue** - a facilitated conversation between two individuals focused on equal parts listening and perspective-sharing to address lower-level harm or conflict.

**Restorative Conference** - a highly structured and mediated conversation between a harmed party and the offending party. The goal is to acknowledge the harm, hear impacts, and develop mutually agreed-upon steps to move forward.

**Skills Session** - presentations offered by staff in the Office of the Dean of Students. This could be a general "Restorative Practices 101" presentation, or something more tailored to your community's needs.

**Restorative Consultation** - an opportunity to consult 1:1 with a staff member in the Office of the Dean of Students to discuss restorative approaches to interpersonal conflicts, isolated incidents of harm, or community-building.

## How to request restorative services:

**Request a restorative service or consultation:**

**Visit our website:** [bc.edu/restorativepractices](https://bc.edu/restorativepractices)

**Email us:** [restorativepractices@bc.edu](mailto:restorativepractices@bc.edu)

