The Promise of Interfaith Friendships
Interfaith friendships flourish in college but may not prepare students to navigate deep differences.

93% of students reported at least one interfaith friendship by their fourth year of college;
49% reported having five or more friends of other religious or nonreligious perspectives.

59% of fourth-year students never had a disagreement with friends about religion, even though those differences likely exist within interfaith friendships.

Insights from IDEALS might help explain student hesitancy when it comes to disagreements about religion:
Only 65% of students agreed that they felt confident navigating conversations involving deep disagreement.
63% felt people on campus interacted primarily within their own religious or worldview communities, therefore avoiding differences altogether.

Yet IDEALS also suggests that interfaith friendships aren’t reliant on the ability to provide meaningful opportunities for growth.
Among the 41% of students who had disagreed with a friend about religious matters, the vast majority said they remained friends after the disagreement.

Percentage of students who “somewhat agreed” or “strongly agreed” that...

The Intersection of Religion and Politics
After promising growth in the first year, student attitudes toward political conservativism steadily declined more steeply than attitudes toward any other identity group.

Change in positive attitudes toward political conservatism from the second to fourth year of college among...

Campus Climate
Students’ experiences of the campus climate for worldview diversity differ depending on their religious identity, with some groups feeling unwelcome and unsupported.

Percentage of religious minority students who “somewhat agreed” or “strongly agreed” that their campus was welcoming of religious diversity...