

THE STUDENT:

Our Purpose and Goal



The SCU Lifestyle

SCU opens its doors to any qualified student who is a born-again Christian and is willing to accept Jesus Christ as a role model. Students are welcome regardless of creed, denomination, race, sex, color, nationality or handicap (in compliance with *Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964* and *Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972* (Higher Education Act), This provision includes but is not limited to admission, employment, financial aid and education services. Enrollment at SCU assumes, however, that the student realizes **personal preferences may need to be modified for the best interests of the larger group**. In other words, something you may deem as acceptable may cause someone else to stumble or struggle.

The apostle Paul said it this way: “All things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be enslaved by anything (I Cor. 6:12, ESV).

The mission of the university presupposes:

1. **A strong commitment to high academic standards.** The student comes to SCU with a determination to be a learner with an attitude that makes the student teachable.
2. **An openness to cooperate faithfully with the demands of the Spiritual Life program.** Chapel attendance, appropriate resident hall and campus behavior, care and concern for one another, the development of a Great Commission vision as a servant of Christ, and participation in the extracurricular programs of the university are vital to the SCU lifestyle.

SCU encourages students to reside on campus. The university does accept commuter students, but does so on the condition that they, too, will seek to become actively involved in the richest meaning of the university lifestyle. It is the conviction of the University that an important element of its educational program is living in the residence halls.

A part of the training that leads to “professional competence” includes development of a healthy respect for the human body as the temple of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 6:18-20). Actions or habits that harm the human person are considered unacceptable to the Christian lifestyle at SCU. The SCU lifestyle is designed to honor and express a commitment to godly Christian character.

Attendance in this university, therefore, is a privilege granted to the student and not a right of the student. That privilege can be withdrawn through the established disciplinary process of the university to safeguard its ideals of scholarship, or the moral atmosphere assumed by this lifestyle. Therefore, the student’s enrollment at SCU constitutes an honor commitment to accept the standards of this lifestyle.

SCU Community Covenant

Since its inception in 1946, SCU has been an educational institution founded in the holiness, Pentecostal, and charismatic traditions committed to the transformation of students. The University is dedicated to providing a Christ-centered education that will promote the growth of the whole person. The University is Christian and it maintains a clear reliance upon a strong “campus community.” Clear expectations help the members of the community live in unity.

As part of the application process, the student will be asked to sign the Community Covenant. Failure to sign the covenant is grounds for dismissal from SCU. The university believes that as Jesus Christ becomes the center of the student’s life, the student will commit himself/herself to a lifestyle which cultivates spiritual, ethical, social, physical and academic growth.

Therefore, students are required to profess a commitment to Jesus Christ. Making the choice to attend SCU means: having a sympathetic appreciation for our guiding principles; and, choosing to abide by our community standards.

SCU Community Principles:

Community Principle #1 – I agree to affirm and honor scripture by placing the truth of God's word at the center of my life and live according to His divinely inspired instruction. I will grow in my spirit, by developing my own relationship with God. I will live in obedience to Christ in word and deed. II Timothy 3:16, Colossians 3:17

Community Principle #2 – I agree to apply myself wholeheartedly to my intellectual pursuits and to use the full powers of my mind for the glory of God. I commit to academic excellence and agree to take responsibility for the quality of my education. I will actively participate in the SCU community, to attend class, all required chapel services on campus, and my choice of church wherever God is honored and praised.

Community Principle #3 – I agree to cultivate good social relationships and seek to love others as I love myself. I will not lie; I will not steal; I will not curse; I will not be a talebearer or promote gossip. I will not cheat or plagiarize; I will do my own academic work and will not inappropriately and unethically collaborate with other students on assignments. Deuteronomy 5:10-21

Community Principle #4 – I agree to develop my body with sound healthy habits by embracing a healthy lifestyle, sound nutritional habits, and participate in wholesome physical activities. 1st Corinthians 6:19

Community Principle #5 – I agree to live with integrity and to abide by the rules and regulations that may, from time to time, be adopted by the university administration. I agree to obey the laws of the nation, state, local community, and the *SCU STUDENT HANDBOOK*. (Romans 13:1). I understand that the university reserves the right to require the withdrawal of a student at any time if, in the judgment of the President, Vice President for Student Development, President's cabinet and/or the University Discipline Committee such action is deemed necessary to safeguard SCU's ideals of scholarship or its spiritual and moral atmosphere as a Christian university. Such practices to be avoided include but are not limited to:

- Discrimination
- Tobacco & Alcohol Use
- Profanity
- Sexual Misconduct
- Homosexual Behavior
- Harassment of any kind (verbal, sexual, racial, etc.)
- Ephesians 4:25-32; 5:1-21 outline additional practices that should be avoided

I will keep the Community Covenant carefully and prayerfully. I understand that my signature is my **agreement and acceptance** of the entire Community Covenant and completes a contract between me and Southwestern Christian University, which is a prerequisite for matriculation and my continued association with the university. My signed pledge becomes a part of my permanent file. Further, my acceptance of the Community Covenant is a solemn vow and promise to God as to how I will live my life.

The university reserves the right to interpret conduct that is in violation of these regulations.

One of the unique qualities of Christian higher education is a community that strives to follow the example of Jesus Christ and the teachings of the Bible. Therefore, practices that are wrong according to Biblical standards provide a framework for student behavior and are not acceptable for students enrolled at SCU.

Specific acts include, but are not limited to:

- Drunkenness, stealing, slander, profane language, all forms of dishonesty, lying, cheating, sexual sins such as premarital sex and homosexual behavior. In addition, attitudes such as greed, jealousy, pride, lust, bitterness, selfishness, anger, un-forgiveness, discrimination and prejudice based on race, sex, or socioeconomic status, are not acceptable.

While these attitudes are sometimes difficult to detect, they are just as damaging to the community as the more flagrant acts of contempt. The SCU community consequently repudiates these actions and attitudes and expects its students to do likewise.

Community Covenant Living

As essential members of the SCU family, students must clearly recognize that all of us have a desire to further develop and exhibit responsible and mature behavior. That goal is a basic premise of the Community Covenant.

At SCU, students pledge to endeavor to present a good appearance at all times. In both behavior and attire, students should strive to demonstrate good taste in all instances. The way they present themselves to others is of vital importance to the way others perceive Christ. An individual's conduct should never be an embarrassment to themselves, others, or the university, but should exemplify the best qualities of a mature and respectful student.

Additionally, each individual endeavors to maintain high standards in residence hall living and pledges to avoid theft and the removal or damage to others' personal property or that of SCU.

Exemplifying the highest moral commitment, SCU students refrain from profanity, smoking, gambling, alcoholic beverages, dishonesty, illegal drugs, and all behavior that would cause Christ to grieve.

As responsible learners, students should make every effort to be prompt to classes, chapel, Sunday worship and all appointments. Classes, chapel and worship services at local churches are all integral parts of the SCU lifestyle.

By providing an example for others in word and deed, each student should encourage others' adherence to the Community Covenant. Students should be sure not to incite another's violation of the covenant and should seek to strengthen the bond of trust at every opportunity.

The students and leadership at Southwestern Christian University affirm that, regardless of faith, creed or race, all students admitted to the university must agree to uphold the Community Covenant and the rules governing SCU. No time, place or circumstance gives release from the individual's initial promise. The Community Covenant is a way of life, measured by the heart and commitment of each member of the SCU family, and students should regard it as essential to development, not as an imposition or restriction.

The registration process *is incomplete* until students have formally signed the Community Covenant Pledge.

SCU General Policies & Principles

SCU is committed to creating an environment where individual and institutional responsibility combine to respect the rights of its members. Therefore, it is necessary to establish principles and policies for the campus community. It is the expectation that every member of the community demonstrates a concern for the rights of others and the institution. When a person expresses a lack of respect and cooperation, the university will take action against behavior that is deemed to be disruptive to the community atmosphere and the educational goals of the university.

Thus, the university requires members of its community to:

- Abstain from all sexual vices, gambling, and possession of, or use of, alcoholic beverages, tobacco and non-medicinal, narcotic or hallucinogenic drugs, including marijuana.
- The university has a limited tolerance policy regarding the use of alcohol. Students involved in the use or possession of any type of alcohol will receive university consequences as stated in the Student Handbook.
- The university has a no tolerance policy regarding the possession or use of drugs or illegal, banned substances. Students involved in the use or possession of any type of drug or illegal, banned substances will be expelled immediately from the university.
- Members of the university community are expected to practice discretion and restraint in the choice of television programs, music, video games, movies, videos, or drama. Video games with the rating of T (Teen) are permitted. The University reserves the right to not allow video games with the rating of M (Mature) to be played or movies with the rating of R to be viewed. These decisions will be made by Resident Assistants, Resident Chaplains, Director of Student Life, or VPSD.
- Any programming in TV, CD, computer on-line services or telephone services, etc., of pornographic/obscene and immoral content is prohibited. Abuse of these privileges will result in disciplinary action.

Access to Campus Facilities

During business hours, SCU will be open to students, parents, employees, contractors, and guests. During non-business hours, access to most of the Universities facilities is only by key, if issued.

Residence halls are secured 24 hours a day. Residence Life Staff patrol and respond to security, safety, and living issues in the dorms. Overnight guests must register with the Director of Student Life and/or Resident Assistant and are expected to abide by SCU's behavioral expectations at all times while visiting the university.

Over extended breaks, all university buildings and doors are secured 24 hours a day. Some facilities may have individual hours, which may vary at different times of the year. Examples are the University Library and Pickens/Springer Gymnasium. In these cases, facilities will be secured according to schedules developed by the department responsible for the facility. Their rules of access are to be followed.

Emergencies may necessitate changes or alterations to any posted schedules.

Address/Name Change

In order for SCU to maintain accurate student records, a student who changes his/her name, marital status, local address, permanent address, or phone number must notify the registrar.

Alcohol

Promotion, distribution, sale, possession, use and/or consumption of alcohol on campus or at University-sponsored events is prohibited. Campus standards do not allow alcoholic beverages, including alcoholic containers, on campus.

Any incident in which a student is found to be in possession of alcohol will be documented as a University violation. All alcohol and items containing alcohol will be disposed of and/or confiscated by University officials (Resident Director, Resident Assistants etc.).

Use or possession of alcohol by students off campus is subject to local laws and University disciplinary action which may result in probation, suspension or expulsion.

Undesirable behavior resulting from on or off-campus use of alcohol is subject to University disciplinary action which may result in probation, suspension or expulsion.

No alcohol or similarly offensive posters, stickers, lights, etc. may be displayed in residence hall windows or on the outside of doors. Bottle caps are not allowed on ceilings or walls. Additionally, being under the influence of or in possession of alcohol on campus or at any University-sponsored events is considered a violation and is prohibited.

Campus Crime Statistics

Any parent, student, or guest that is interested in viewing SCU's campus crime report may contact the Vice President for Student Development's office at 405.789.7661 x 3424.

Campus Visitors

Any individual visiting the campus who is involved in activities that violate university policies, threatens university property, or infringe on the rights of students, faculty, or staff shall be asked to leave by a university representative. If the individual refuses to leave, the individual shall be informed that he/she is trespassing and shall be asked to leave again. Failure to leave as requested will result in a university official and/or the Bethany Police being summoned.

Children on campus and in classrooms

Minor children are not allowed on campus unsupervised. They must be in the presence of a parent or responsible adult. No infant or child will be permitted in a regularly scheduled class.

Clubs and Organizations

Any student interested in forming a club or organization must register the group with the Office of Student Development. The registration process consists of: 1) Petition for Formal Recognition to include club's purpose, roster of officers and participants and club name, 2) Arrange for an Organization Advisor.

SCU Guidelines and University Recognition

A club or organization must follow certain guidelines in order to be recognized. Among the guidelines for University approval is the requirement that the club or organization is approved by the Vice President for Student Development. Once a club, or organization, is approved and officially recognized by the University, the club is eligible for campus posting and publicity privileges, including use of Campus facilities, including vans and rooms for meetings or events; and funding from the University when appropriate. In order to be officially recognized as a Club or Organization by the University, the following must be adhered to:

1. Each club or organization must have formal approval by the Vice President for Student Development.
2. Fraternities and Sororities are not permitted at SCU unless they are Academic or spiritual in nature.
3. All clubs and organizations must register annually with the Office of Student Development.

Each club or organization must have an on-campus advisor (faculty, staff, or Administration) who plays an active role in club meetings and events.

Each group is expected to be nondiscriminatory in its practices and policies. Clubs or organizations that violate campus policy will be subject to University disciplinary action including suspension of the club or organization. Individual members of clubs or organizations are subject to University disciplinary action.

Religious organizations must be registered with the Office of Student Life.

Academic organizations must be registered with the Office of Academic Affairs.

Community Accountability

Any member of the University community may report student misconduct. Reports should be submitted as soon as possible after the event takes place, **preferably within 5 days of the event**. The following is the proper chain for reporting misconduct.

1. Any student reporting misconduct should direct them to the Resident Assistant or Resident Chaplain. In the case one is not available, direct misconducts to the Director of Student Life.
2. The Resident Assistant or Resident Chaplain reserves the right to handle certain types of misconduct. If necessary, Resident Assistant and Resident Chaplain should direct misconduct to the Director of Student Life.
3. The Director of Student Life reserves the right to handle most misconduct complaints. Director of Student Life will direct all other complaints to the VPSD.
4. Administration, Faculty, Staff and any other member of the community should direct all misconduct complaints to the VPSD.

Crime Prevention

Both residential and commuter students are given information about campus safety and security during the first week of school. Campus security is discussed in staff and faculty meetings as needs arise.

Crime and sexual assault prevention programs are offered through the Office of Student Life. A common theme of all awareness and crime prevention programs is to encourage students and employees to be aware of their responsibilities for their own safety and security. When time is of the essence, information is released to the University community through security alerts posted promptly throughout campus and through emails and e-alerts.

Disability Issues

SCU does not discriminate on the basis of disability in the admissions process, employment at the University, or participation in SCU activities. Prospective and admitted students who need information about programs, services and accommodations should contact the Office of Student Development. *The Vice President for Student Development or his/her designee is the Disability Officer for Southwestern Christian University.*

Dishonesty

Dishonesty in any form, including but not limited to, plagiarism, cheating on assignments or examinations; to knowingly give out false information; forgery, alteration or misuse of documents, records, keys or ID cards is not tolerated at SCU.

Disorderly Assembly

Students are forbidden to gather in a manner that disturbs the public peace, excites public alarm, results in violence to a person or property, disrupts the function of the university, interferes with faculty or staff in the performance of their duties, or brings disgrace or disrepute to the university. A student who encourages or participates in the formulation or prolonging of such a gathering may be subject to disciplinary action and/or immediate suspension from the university. Students who: disturb the peace, destroy, molest, deface, or remove property, or injure a person under the guise of initiation, student celebration, or for any other purpose may be subject to disciplinary action and assessed damage by the Vice President of Student Development. This applies to individuals and groups of students.

Dress Code

The Dress Code at SCU is designed to help students prepare to relate to professional life, ministry, leisure and athletic activities. Students are to attend classes, academic functions and religious services in appropriate attire.

Personal appearance, including hair and clothing, should be neat, modest and should reflect a person who is well-groomed. SCU understands that the dress code is not necessarily reflective of one's personal character or spiritual integrity. However, students should remember that they are representatives of the institution. The following section lists specific requirements regarding clothing.

- **Shorts** may be worn any time of the day or evening with the following guidelines:
 - Appropriate length shorts may be worn to class, library or chapel.
 - Shorts may not rise **above mid-thigh**.

- **Midriff shirts** are **NOT** acceptable at any time.
 - **Tank tops** are **NOT** acceptable in class, or the cafeteria.
 - Spaghetti strap tank tops should be covered with another shirt.
 - **Shirts** with inappropriate advertisements, show too much or contain inappropriate messages are **NOT** acceptable.
 - **Plain white t-shirts** (undershirts) are **NOT** permitted in chapel or classroom settings.

- **Jeans** should be neat. Inappropriately **torn or tattered** jeans where underclothing is exposed are **NOT** acceptable.

- **Body piercing** and **body art** are **discouraged**, but not **prohibited** at SCU. All body art must be appropriate and not include depictions of explicit violence, sexual content or other inappropriate images.

There will be special occasions when the student body will be asked to conform to a specific dress code. These occasions will be announced in chapel and compliance is expected. Sponsors of extracurricular activities will have the right to determine the appropriate dress code for those activities. Any student who is not in compliance with the above regulations will be confronted.

The Administration, faculty and staff may recommend action to be taken against any student who is willfully violating what is considered to be acceptable dress. If there are any questions regarding appropriate dress, please seek advice from the Vice President of Student Development or the Resident Director. The Student Development Committee and the President's Cabinet of SCU have the authority to interpret and make adjustments in the dress code during the course of a school year.

Drugs/Controlled Substance

Promotion, distribution, sale, possession, and/or use of any drugs/controlled substance on campus, off campus or at University-sponsored events is prohibited. The use, possession, or trafficking of non-prescription amphetamines and barbiturates, narcotics, LSD, marijuana, hallucinogenic agents or drugs of any kind is a violation of local, state and federal laws. The possession, usage and/or trafficking of any of the above agents on campus or off campus is in violation of SCU policy and can result in probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. All drugs will be confiscated and turned over to local authorities.

No drug related, or similarly offensive posters, stickers, lights, etc. may be displayed in residence hall windows or on the outside of doors. Possession of drug related paraphernalia is considered a violation of this policy and, will be confiscated and destroyed. Other sanctions may be imposed at SCU's discretion.

Additionally, being under the influence of drugs on campus or at any University-sponsored events is considered a violation and is prohibited.

Email

All SCU students are assigned a university email address. If a student does not want to utilize SCU's email address, it is the student's responsibility to link their personal email to SCU's assigned email. Students will receive important notices from advisors, professors, staff, and administration via campus email. It is the student's responsibility to check their SCU email account on a regular basis. See the Library Director for help in using, accessing, or forwarding email.

False Accusations Regarding Harassment

Because false accusations regarding harassment, sexual harassment, or hate crimes can have serious effects on the person being accused, any false accusation will result in disciplinary action up to and including expulsion/dismissal from the university as well as any local or state laws that have been violated.

Federal Campus Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act

Annually, SCU makes every attempt to comply with the Jeanne Cleary Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act and the Drug-Free School and Communities Act Amendments. Information is reviewed and updated annually. If you have any information you want to include or have any questions, comments or remarks, please contact the Vice President of Student Development at 405.789.7661 x3424 or jeffrey.keeney@swcu.edu.