

Spiritual Life

Southwestern Christian University offers its students a quality academic education as well as an opportunity to develop the total person (spiritual, intellectual, communal and physical). The spiritual life program allows each student to formulate a plan to meet their spiritual needs. Our goal is to offer and monitor more opportunities for students so that they can engage in discipleship, prayer, worship, and other spiritual disciplines which would enhance their spiritual development.

Church

Christian fellowship and worship are vital components of the Christian life; therefore, all Southwestern Christian University students are encouraged to faithfully attend and participate in churches from their own traditions.

Campus Spiritual Life Program

The Office of Spiritual Life is pleased to introduce our new spiritual life program called Koinonia. Koinonia is a Greek word that means Christian Fellowship. SCU Professor, Ken Young, described Koinonia as “fellowship in every sense, not only shaking hands and greeting one another, but investing into one another.” Spiritual Formation is an investment and that investment is in your relationship with God, other believers, and also in yourself. This program gives each student the opportunity to set up and develop their own spiritual formation. Students are given more options to worship, pray, engage in small groups, and grow spiritually than in the past. Chapel will be one of many options for students as they earn the required spiritual life credits each semester.

Spiritual Life Credits:

Students will have to earn 35 Spiritual Life Credits per semester.

Spiritual Life Credits are earned by attending Chapel, Worship Events, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Prayer Events, Discipleship Studies, Small Groups, and Spiritual Life Events approved by the Office of Student Services.

The goal of the Spiritual Life Program is to offer a minimum of 6 opportunities per week for students to engage in spiritual life formation (16 weeks/6 times or 96 opportunities in a semester). These 96 opportunities will be provided by the Office of Student Services and the Spiritual Life Chaplains; however, many more could be added by faculty, staff, or students throughout the academic year.

Spiritual Life Options:

SCU Chapel – 28 opportunities each semester.

SCU Worship Events

SCU SGA Identified Services.

SCU Fellowship of Christian Athlete Meetings.

SCU Spiritual Life Forums.

SCU Bible Studies.

SCU Friday Chapel for specific groups

Other SCU Approved Spiritual Life Events.

All Spiritual Life Options must be approved by the Office of Student Life and must meet the criteria for the event to be considered a Spiritual Life Credit.

Criteria:

A minimum of 4 people must attend.

A minimum of 30 minutes per meeting.

Event must be labeled.

Prayer, Worship, Discipleship, etc.

Public or Private.

The subject matter of the Bible Study.

Leaders:

Group Leader (SCU student, faculty or staff member).

Proctor (One who checks in everyone to the event).

Once approved, the event will be added to the Spiritual Life Calendar.

Spiritual Life Exemption:

Exemptions will be available for students who have work related or family related issues.

Exemption forms must be filled out by the student and turned into the Office of Student Services within the first 3 weeks of the each semester.

Exemptions from all Spiritual Life Credits will be rare. The exemption will be a reduction of Spiritual Life Credits from 35 to a more manageable number depending on the student and situation.

Technology:

All students will need to download the Altimeter Software App from the App Store.

Log in using your swcu.edu email address and password.

Students will use the App to check in and check out of spiritual life events except for chapel. The ID card is used for scanning into chapel.

The App will provide the student with the attendance for their required spiritual life credits.

Students will also have the website address to check attendance.

Campus Chapel Services

Southwestern Christian University Chapel services are a time for the university to come together intentionally to challenge, to reflect, to engage, and to worship the living God.

Chapel is offered twice on Tuesday and Thursday each week.

All students must enroll in Chapel A or Chapel B.

Chapel section A, Tuesday/Thursday 10:40 am - 11:20 am.

Chapel section B, Tuesday/Thursday 11:30 am - 12:10 pm.

During registration, all tradition students (full and part-time) will enroll in either Section A or B and must attend chapel at their designated time. If a student attends the chapel in which they are not enrolled, they will not receive spiritual life credit.

Chapel Attendance Guidelines

Southwestern Christian University Students are encouraged to attend all

Chapel services;

Students must scan their ID cards to receive credit.

Section A scan times are from 10:35 am until 10:45 am.

Section B scan times are from 11:25 am until 11:35 am.

Students who leave before the service ends will not receive credit for that chapel service;

Students must use their ID to scan in to receive spiritual life credit. The App check in feature is not available for chapel.

Chapel attendance will be added to your App Profile and will count toward your 35 spiritual life credits

Courtesy and respect to fellow students and speakers is expected.

Student Handbook Violations (SHV) will be assessed to students who disrupt or distract during the chapel service including headphone use, excessive phone use, excessive talking, etc.

These procedures apply to Chapel, Spiritual Emphasis Services and other Spiritual Life Events;

Only 1 spiritual life credit per chapel service attended.

Full-time students (12+ hours)

Students enrolled in 12+ hours must earn 35 Spiritual Life Credits and 10 Community Life Credits in each semester.

Part-time students (<12 hours)

Students enrolled in 9-11 hours must earn 17 Spiritual Life Credits and 5 Community Life Credits per semester. 1 of the 5 Community Life Credits must be from a mandatory event. (Crismon Chapel in the fall and Awards Chapel in the spring.)

Students enrolled in 8 hours or less must earn 12 Spiritual Life Credits and 1 mandatory Community Life Credits per semester. (Crismon Chapel in the fall and Awards Chapel in the spring.)

Spiritual Life Exemption

The Chapel Exemption form is available at the Office of Student Life and must be turned in for approval by the VPSS.

Exemptions will be available for students who have work related or family related

issues.

Exemption forms must be filled out by the student and turned into the Office of Student Services within the first 3 weeks of the each semester.

Exemptions from all Spiritual Life Credits will be rare. The exemption will be a reduction of Spiritual Life Credits from 35 to a more manageable number depending on the student and situation.

Community Life Credit Guidelines

Southwestern Christian University Community Life Credits are not spiritual life credits.

10 Community Life Credits will have to be earned each semester.

9 credits can be earned from any Southwestern Christian University designated events and 1 credit is mandatory (Crismon in the fall and Awards in the spring).

Many groups including SGA and Student Clubs can come up with events that will help students earn these credits.

The President and the Vice President of Academic Affairs will have the opportunity to add Community Life Credits that are mandatory.

EXCUSED AND UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

The VPSS does not recognize “excused” and “unexcused” absences regarding spiritual life credits.

Note: The VPSS reserves the right to review specific situations in which students missed more than the required number of spiritual life credits and make decisions regarding absences.

SCU Student Chaplains

The SCU Student Chaplains are responsible for assisting students in their spiritual formation by creating ministry opportunities, providing weekly bible studies, being available for prayer and informal counseling, and building a Christ-centered community on campus.

Some of their duties are as follows:

- Host a weekly bible study/small group on campus
- Oversee student led bible studies as assigned
- Promote spiritual life events
- Chapel monitoring
- Altar ministry
- Encourage student involvement in spiritual life events