

The Lifestyle

“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience.”

Romans 13:1-5 ESV

Southwestern Christian University accepts any qualified student who fits the university’s mission, is a Christian, and/or is willing to adhere to Protestant Evangelical Christian principles as outlined by the Word of God and this Student Handbook.

The Mission of the University Presupposes:

1. A strong commitment to high academic standards. The student comes to Southwestern Christian University with a determination to be a learner with an attitude that makes the student teachable.
2. A willingness to cooperate accordingly with the demands of the Spiritual Life program; i.e. chapel attendance, appropriate Residence Hall and campus behavior, respect and consideration for fellow students, abide by the Lifestyle Covenant, and participation in the extracurricular programs of the university, including service opportunities.
3. An understanding that acceptance and attendance at this university 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 That privilege can be withdrawn through the established disciplinary process of the university to safeguard its ideals of scholarship and the moral atmosphere assumed by this lifestyle. Therefore, the student’s enrollment at Southwestern Christian University constitutes a commitment of honor to accept the standards of this lifestyle.

Lifestyle Covenant

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:37-39 ESV

As part of the registration process, the student will sign the Lifestyle Covenant. Failure to sign the covenant is grounds for dismissal from Southwestern Christian University. The university believes that as Jesus Christ becomes the center of the student's life, the student will commit himself/herself to a lifestyle that cultivates spiritual, ethical, social, physical and academic growth.

Lifestyle Principles

Spiritual Principle – I agree to acknowledge and respect scripture by placing the truth of God's word at the center of my life and live according to the Southwestern Christian University Lifestyle Covenant. I will seek to encounter, embrace and embody Christ in developing my relationship with the triune God of the Protestant Holy Scriptures.

Intellectual Principle– I agree to apply myself wholeheartedly to my responsibility for the quality of my education. I commit to academic excellence and will not participate in academic dishonesty.

Communal Principle – I agree to cultivate good social relationships and participate in community life at Southwestern Christian University. I understand that my behavior affects community life so I will endeavor to give respect and consideration to fellow students, staff and faculty.

Physical Principle – I agree to develop my body with sound healthy habits by embracing a healthy lifestyle, sound nutritional habits and participate in wholesome physical activities.

Accountability Principle– I agree to live with integrity and to abide by the rules and regulations adopted by the university administration as stated in the Southwestern Christian University Student Handbook. I agree to obey all Federal, Judicial and local laws. 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 Life (VPSS), President's Cabinet and/or the University Discipline Committee such action is deemed necessary to safeguard Southwestern Christian University'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, & Drug Use
- Profanity
- Sexual Misconduct & Pornography
- Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, and Transgender (LGBT) behavior.
- Harassment of any kind (verbal, sexual, racial, physical, etc.)

- Any other violation deemed inappropriate by Southwestern Christian University

I will uphold the Lifestyle Covenant carefully and prayerfully. I understand that the Lifestyle Covenant is based on the Articles of Faith and guiding principles of the International Pentecostal Holiness Church denomination. I understand that my signature is my **agreement and acceptance** of the entire Lifestyle Covenant, which is a prerequisite for my continued association with the university. My signed pledge becomes a part of my permanent file. Further, my acceptance of the Lifestyle Covenant is a solemn vow and promise to God as to how I will live my life.

[1] LGBT will be used when referring to Lesbian, Gay, Bi-Sexual and Transgender throughout the Southwestern Christian University Student Handbook.

Lifestyle Standard

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

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk

as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible,¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light.

*Therefore it says,
“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”*

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:1-21 ESV

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 Protestant Holy Scriptures. Therefore, practices that are wrong according to Biblical standards provide a framework for student behavior and are not acceptable for students enrolled at Southwestern Christian University.

Specific acts include, but are not limited to:

- Drinking; tobacco, including vapors and hookah; dancing at night clubs; gambling; theft; slander; profane language; all forms of dishonesty; sexual sins, such as premarital sex and LGBT behavior and acts. In addition, discrimination and prejudices based on race, sex, or socioeconomic status are not acceptable.
 - * Students of the university community are expected to practice discretion and restraint in the choice of television programs, music, video games, movies, videos, or drama in the Residence Hall rooms, library, and other common public areas. 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 Director, or Vice President of Student Services (VPSS).
- Any pornographic/obscene and immoral content, regardless of audio, visual, literary or interactive format, is prohibited. Abuse of these privileges will result in disciplinary action.

The leadership at Southwestern Christian University affirms that, regardless of faith, creed, or race, all students admitted, attending or associated with the university must agree to uphold the Lifestyle Covenant and the rules governing

Southwestern Christian University. No time, place or circumstance gives release from the individual's initial promise. The Lifestyle Covenant is a way of life, measured by the heart and commitment of each member of the Southwestern Christian University 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 Lifestyle Covenant.