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Seattle Pacific University



Community Standards and Policies

Excerpts from the *2006–07 Seattle Pacific University Undergraduate Catalog*

Behavioral Expectations

Seattle Pacific University's standards for behavior are representative of the University's identity and are designed to provide a positive learning environment while promoting the intellectual, social, spiritual, and physical well-being of students. The expectations of the Seattle Pacific community, explained below, reflect the University's commitment to its Christian philosophy of education in the context of a Wesleyan heritage.

By enrolling at SPU, students agree to live according to the expectations outlined here.

Context for Community Standards

As the University develops and implements its policies relative to lifestyle expectations, the standards are shaped and informed by four sources: legal authority (local, state, and federal law), Scripture, historic Christian tradition, and the mission of the University.

Legal Authority. Local, state, and federal laws address matters that directly influence University policy. Theft, possession or use of illegal substances, under-age use or possession of alcohol, any kind of harassment, physical abuse against persons or property (rape, assault, and vandalism), possession of firearms on campus, and violations of copyright laws are examples of the way laws interface with policy.

Scripture. Scripture addresses issues relating to matters of character and integrity that impact the community and the relationships of those who are a part of the community. We affirm that all persons are of sacred worth and affirm that God's grace is available to all. The University provides counseling services for those who need help in clarifying personal character issues, relational and behavioral; or those struggling with issues of morality and moral behavior.

Historic Christian Tradition and the University Mission. This area is the most difficult to define because our community is diverse in its concerns over certain issues. Nonetheless, our roots and values are deeply connected to the Free Methodist and other evangelical Christian churches. Evangelical churches are those that find their authority in God's word and stress the need for a personal, redemptive faith in Jesus Christ.

Lifestyle Expectations

Lifestyle expectations are the general standards that govern the personal conduct of all students and student organizations at SPU. Behaviors for which students or student organizations are subject to disciplinary action include, but are not limited to the following:

1. Actions that constitute violations of municipal, state, or federal law. The University reserves the right to follow its normal conduct process whenever a student is accused of a criminal act, regardless of the location of its occurrence and regardless of whether civil or criminal proceedings have been instituted against the student.
2. Actions that interfere with the educational process or the administration of the University, including those that obstruct or disrupt the use of University premises, buildings, rooms or passages, or which incite a disturbance.
3. Cohabitation and related forms of premarital, extramarital, or homosexual sexual activities. For more information on the subject of sexuality, refer to SPU's Statement on Human Sexuality, available in the Office of Student Life.
4. The possession, use, distribution, or sale of alcohol or illegal drugs, or the illicit use of prescription drugs. The University does not permit students to smoke, or to use or possess, alcohol or tobacco products on or off University property or as part of any of its activities. In keeping with our heritage, we require that students refrain from the use of alcohol while they are members of the SPU community. However, SPU makes no attempt to preempt the customs of the family, which may include the use of alcohol at a family meal or family event (see statement on Drug-Free Workplace and Drug-Free Schools and Communities).
5. Dishonesty such as cheating or plagiarism; knowingly furnishing false information;

alteration or unauthorized use of University documents, records or property; or the misuse of student identification.

6. Participation in any actions that involve discrimination or harassment based on race, color, national origin, religion, disability, or gender.

7. Any form of coercive or unwelcome sexual behavior, including sexual assault, rape, acquaintance rape, indecent liberties, or related actions.

8. Activities that cause or threaten emotional, mental, or physical harm or suffering; that demean the dignity of any individual; or that interfere with one's academic process. Examples of such actions are verbal threats or abuse, harassment, intimidation, threatened or actual physical assault, or consistent disregard for the rights and welfare of others.

9. Conduct or activities that are lewd, indecent, or obscene, whether demonstrative, visual, verbal, written, or electronic (see Acceptable Use Policy Statement at www.spu.edu/CISHelpDesk/computerpolicies/index.asp).

10. Failure to comply with the directions of authorized University officials in the performance of their duties, including the failure to comply with the terms of disciplinary sanction. This also includes the failure to identify oneself when requested to do so.

11. False reporting or warning of an impending fire, bombing, crime or emergency, or tampering with safety equipment.

12. Unauthorized possession of, or damage to, University property or services, or property belonging to others. Unauthorized presence in, or unauthorized use of or duplication of keys to, University premises or property.

13. Possession, use or display on University property of any firearms, weapons, fireworks, live ammunition, incendiary devices, or other items that are potentially hazardous to members of the campus community.

14. Activities that may cause damage or constitute a safety or health hazard or interfere with the academic process. Such activities include, but are not limited to, entering or exiting buildings through the windows; throwing, projecting, or dropping items that may cause injury or damage; and pranks that create safety and health hazards for others and/or cause damage to University or personal property.

15. Any violation of other University policies, regulations, or rules.

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