



SOUTHWESTERN

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Student Handbook

OUR HISTORY

Southwestern Adventist University was founded as an industrial school in 1893. By 1896 it came to be known as Keene Industrial Academy. Twenty years later the school began to offer college courses on the junior level. As a result, it became known as Southwestern Junior College. The name was changed again in 1963 to Southwestern Union College. In 1967, the college became a senior academic institution, offering classes at the bachelors level. In 1970, accreditation was granted by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Seven years later, the institution was renamed Southwestern Adventist College, reflecting its religious affiliation. Authorization to offer a masters degree in Elementary Education was given in 1987. The masters program was accredited in 1989 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In 1996 the name was changed to Southwestern Adventist University. To date, masters degrees are offered in Counseling, Curriculum and Instruction with an emphasis in Reading and Educational Leadership.

OUR MISSION

Inspiring knowledge, faith and service through Christ-centered education

OUR VISION

Southwestern Adventist University seeks to be a community that supports academic, spiritual, physical and emotional wellness so that all members can find their purpose and lead lives of service.

OUR VALUES

We Value the

- **Empowering nature of God's Word**
- **Mercy and justice of God**
- **Blessings of God**
- **Image of God in all humanity**
- **Forgiveness of God**
- **Transformative power of God's love**
- **Eternal plans of God**

OUR TAGLINE

Knowledge. Faith. Service.

YOUR COMMITMENT

Your attendance at Southwestern Adventist University signifies your understanding that Southwestern Adventist University is a Seventh-day Adventist institution that upholds SDA standards and that you intend to support university philosophies and the community itself. As a student you pledge acceptance of and full cooperation with Southwestern Adventist University policies as stated in the Student Handbook, the Bulletin, the Residence Hall Handbook (if residing in on-campus housing), the Mugshots and as officially announced. Your behavior, both on and off campus, is expected to comply with and reflect the values of Southwestern Adventist University.

YOUR RIGHTS

As a student of Southwestern Adventist University you have the right to.....

- ❖ an environment that is conducive to learning*
- ❖ expect the university to be a place of spiritual growth*
- ❖ appropriate, affirming and respectful behavior in your interactions with other members of the university community*
- ❖ compete on a fair and equal basis for academic recognition*
- ❖ an environment that promotes wellness and safety*
- ❖ acceptable modes of public expression and communication*

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ALERTS.....	4-5
CAMPUS LIFE AND SERVICES.....	5-8
BOOKSTORE	
COUNSELING AND OUTREACH CENTER	
DISABILITY SERVICES	
FACILITIES – HOURS OF OPERATION	
HEALTH SERVICES	
OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS	
SECURITY	
SPIRITUAL LIFE AND DEVELOPMENT	
TECHNOLOGY	
TESTING	
STUDENT LIFE AND SERVICES.....	8-16
ASSEMBLY	
CAMPUS RECREATION	
CRIMES AND EMERGENCIES	
DRESS	
ENTERTAINMENT	
FIREARMS AND WEAPONS	
HAZING AND IRREGULAR ACTIVITIES	
IDENTIFICATION CARDS	
INSTITUTIONAL DECISION MAKING	
LOST AND FOUND	
MISSING STUDENT	
RESIDENTIAL HOUSING AND REQUIREMENTS	
SABBATH OBSERVANCE	
SEVERE WEATHER PROTOCOL	
SKATEBOARDING AND LONGBOARDING	
STANDARD OF BEHAVIOR	
STUDENT SERVICES RECORDS	
SUICIDE/SELF HARM	
TOBACCO	
VEHICLE CODE	
STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS.....	16-17
ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE	
FACULTY AND STAFF ADVISORS AND SPONSORS	
FILMS FOR ENTERTAINMENT	
INCORPORATION OF ORGANIZATION OR CLUB	
STUDENT ASSOCIATION	
STUDENT PUBLICATIONS	

STUDENT POLICIES AND REGULATIONS.....	17-31
BULLYING	
CONDUCT – PROHIBITED	
DISCIPLINE	
DRUG/ALCOHOL	
GRIEVANCE	
INSTITUTIONAL DECISION MAKING	
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY	
NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY	
POSTING AND DISTRIBUTION	
RELATIONSHIP CONDUCT	
SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND TITLE IX	
STUDENT RECORDS ACCESS	
STUDENT RIGHT-TO-KNOW	
VOTER REGISTRATION	
UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION.....	32-34
BOARD OF TRUSTEES	
PRESIDENT	
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION	
VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT SERVICES	
VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION	
VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND EFFECTIVENESS	
VICE PRESIDENT FOR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT	
VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT SERVICES	
VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT	
UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES.....	34-36
UNIVERSITY INFORMATION.....	36-39
ACADEMIC	
FINANCIAL	
MEDICAL	

STUDENT HANDBOOK

To access the content of this handbook, visit swau.edu/studentservices
then scroll down to view Resource Links, then click on Student Handbook

ALERTS

During emergencies, Student Services or Campus Security will send alert messages and emails. SWAU Alert notices are primarily intended for situations involving imminent danger to campus safety. These may include but are not limited to severe weather alerts, hostile threats, utility failure, and fire.

All University students and employees should register for SWAU Alert messages. For specific information on how to register to receive alerts, please contact Campus Security security@swau.edu or (817) 202-6345.

ALL text messages will come from the same number. Once you receive test or welcome message, please put it in your phone as "SWAU Alerts."

AlertMe App

You can find the AlertMe app in your phone's app store. In order to log into the app, you will need to open the app and hit the "forgot my password" link. Then check your university email and set your password. After you have set your password, you can log into that app using your university email and your new password (This password will only be used for the AlertMe app and will not change your email or portal password). If you are having issues logging into the AlertMe app, please contact Campus Security by email security@swau.edu.

SWAU Alerts can be used to send situation-specific alerts or can be used to send pre-determined alerts. These pre-determined alerts are designed to quickly and clearly inform students and employees of specific instructions. This then allows essential information to be placed in the hands of the individual, allowing them to make quick individual decisions to improve their safety. Our pre-determined alerts are short messages. When you see any of these alerts, you should act accordingly:

- **All Clear** - This alert is used to inform the campus that the emergency is over and that normal operations can resume. If the University is placed under a campus-wide emergency (i.e., Lockdown, Secure, or Shelter), then the campus should wait for an All-Clear Alert before resuming regular activity.
- **Secure** - This alert is used to inform the campus that there is a possible threat on or near campus. Doors should be locked, and no one should leave the buildings until the All Clear is given.
- **Lockdown** - This alert is used to inform the campus that there is either an active threat to the university, or there is a potential threat to the University. Students and employees are instructed to secure themselves, reduce signs of life, and wait for the All Clear.
- **Evacuate** - This alert is used when there is a need to evacuate a building or campus. It will have additional information specific to the situation.
- **Shelter** - This alert is used to inform the campus that the outside environment may be unsafe. A typical example of this could be a hazardous chemical leak with an airborne/inhalation hazard. Students and employees are instructed to stay inside buildings to avoid exposure.

- **Severe Weather Warning** - This alert is used to inform the campus that a severe weather warning has been issued (i.e., a tornado warning). The University is instructed to take appropriate shelter immediately.
- **Safety Notice** This alert is used to inform the campus that there is a safety concern for the University, but a **Lockdown, Lockout, or Shelter** Alert may not be required. If a Safety Notice is issued, students and staff should be aware of their surroundings and report any suspicious activity to Campus Security or Keene PD. Safety Notices will come with or be followed by additional information when that information becomes available.
- **Hold** – This alert is used to inform students and employees to stay where they are. There may be an incident, emergency, or hazard to one part of campus. Students and employees should stay in the classroom or area they are in when they receive a Hold alert. A hold alert may be cleared when you receive the All Clear.

The SWAU Alert system will send out a test text message at the beginning of each month.

CAMPUS LIFE AND SERVICES

BOOKSTORE

The online bookstore (<http://swau.edu/bookstore>) sells textbooks and other required items for class. Students will have the option of purchasing new or used textbooks or to rent textbooks for the semester. When available, e-textbooks can be downloaded. Students can also sell textbooks on line for cash or credit.

COUNSELING AND OUTREACH

The Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research is responsible for the center. A Counseling Advisory Committee is in place to guide in achieving the goals of the center. The center is located in Moran Hall.

The Southwestern Adventist University Counseling and Outreach Center (SCOC) offers personal counseling, career guidance, selected testing services and academic counseling in helping students adjust to university life, to succeed in their intended goals and to experience personal well-being while at this institution.

DISABILITY SERVICES

The SCOC strives to assist students with qualifying disabilities while enrolled at Southwestern Adventist University. Students with disabilities must notify the center and provide appropriate documentation to verify disability. The office of the Director of Disability Services is located in Moran Hall and can also be reached by calling (817) 202-6255.

FACILITIES - HOURS OF OPERATION

CHAN SHUN CENTENNIAL LIBRARY

Sunday	12:30pm-10:30pm
Monday-Thursday	8:00am-10:30pm
Friday	8:00am-2:00pm
Saturday	Closed

THE COMMITTEE OF 100 CAFETERIA

Lunch	Sunday	11:30am-12:30pm
Supper	Sunday	4:30pm-6pm
Breakfast	Monday-Friday	7am – 9am
Lunch	Monday-Wednesday, Fri	11:30am-2pm
Lunch	Thursday	11:30am-12:45pm
Lunch	Saturday	1pm-2pm
Supper	Monday-Friday	4:30pm-6:30pm
Supper	Saturday	4:30pm-5:30pm

Please refer to the cafeteria webpage for changes in times and service

LEISKE-PULTAR GYMNASIUM

Sunday	5pm-10pm
Monday – Thursday	7am-10pm
Friday	7am-4:30pm
Saturday	Closed

Hours of operation may vary due to university events and activities

SWIMMING POOL

Restricted hours and by reservation only. Check with the Director of Facilities and Athletics for information and reservation.

HEALTH SERVICES

Health Services helps students who are ill and have minor injuries. The clinic is in the lower level of Harmon Hall. A certified health professional will be available at certain times Monday-Friday and on-call during the weekend. Please contact the office and/or nurse at (817) 202-6425.

If medical care should become necessary, information may be released to the Vice President for Student Services and/or other university officials in order to provide sufficient and appropriate continuity of care. The clinic does have a stock of non-prescription medications and minor first aid supplies. If you need a physician, dentist or other off campus health care, the Health Services representative can assist you with making arrangements with medical personnel that will accept personal/school insurance. In case of hospitalization or other emergency care, the university may notify your parent(s).

OFFICE OF STUDENT SUCCESS (OSS)

The Office of Student Success supports you throughout your academic journey – from orientation to graduation. This team provides integrated advising that combines academic planning, career exploration, personal support and student engagement opportunities – all in one place.

ACADEMIC AND CAREER ADVISING

- Help with choosing classes and planning your academic path
- Support working with faculty advisor
- Guidance in creating or updating your academic plan
- Career exploration and planning
- Graduate school guidance and job search strategies
- Support with connecting to internships and career experiences

ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES

- Tutoring across a variety of subjects
- Study skills, time management and academic success workshops
- Guidance for overcoming academic challenges and staying on track

FIRST-YEAR, SECOND-YEAR AND TRANSFER STUDENTS

- Programs to support your transition into college or a new campus
- First-year and transfer student seminars
- Engagement opportunities designed for second-year students to maintain momentum
- Mentorship and coaching tailored to your academic year and needs

CAREER DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

- Resume writing and interview preparation
- Career Fairs and employer info sessions
- Workshops on professional skills and job readiness
- Access to the Student Closet for free professional attire

SECURITY

Campus Safety offers services that are designed to enhance campus safety and security for students and university personnel. Responsibilities include fire prevention and detection, traffic control, securing of facilities and other university property and general campus order. On school days, campus buildings are unlocked at 7am and are locked after usage or during the first round of security checks in the evening. Safety Team Members are on duty from: Monday – Thursday 8am – 12am, on Friday 8am – 12pm. Contact Campus Safety Officers at 817-202-6345 and / or 817-202-6415 for weekends and special circumstances. In cases of emergencies, dial 911 for police, fire and/or ambulance assistance.

SPIRITUAL LIFE AND DEVELOPMENT

To encourage students to lead a life dedicated and surrendered to Jesus Christ for lifelong Christian discipleship; empowering, equipping and training students to be released as spiritual warriors into the world

The provision of such services is essential to the university's objective for spiritual development, particularly that of assisting the student to become a mature and responsible person and to grow sensitive to all human values. Also, the department assists in facilitating the university community's spiritual growth and promotes the active involvement of faculty and staff in the continuing spiritual development of students.

PROGRAMS AND MINISTRIES

The following programs and ministries are among those facilitated by the Office of Spiritual Development:

Afterglow	Bible Study	Friday Evening Vespers
Literature Evangelism	Outreach and In-Reach	Prayer Meeting
Sabbath School	Short-Term Mission Trips	Small Groups Ministries
Student Missions	Spiritual Counseling	Task Force

TEAM MEMBERS

Along with the Vice President for Spiritual Development, team members include the following individuals: Campus Chaplain, Student Chaplains, Student Association Ministries Vice President, Praise Ministry Coordinator, Outreach Director, Student Missionary Director, Sabbath School Coordinator and Friday Night Worship Coordinators..

TECHNOLOGY

General purpose computer labs are in Hagen Hall and the library. In addition, all students are given a login, an email account and access to high-speed internet. There are network ports available, upon request, in every residence hall room and Southwestern Adventist University also provides wireless access in all buildings on campus. More information about technology services can be found at <http://www.swau.edu/its>.

TESTING

The SCOC provides a variety of testing, such as, the College-Level Examination Program (CLEP). Contact the center for more information on the tests offered. Please take note that fees may apply and plan accordingly so that the department can accommodate your needs based on availability of the test and current appointments. Testing must be scheduled with an advance notice time of 48 hours. Please plan accordingly. The center also serves as a Pearson VUE Testing Site servicing the greater DFW Metroplex.

STUDENT LIFE AND SERVICES

ASSEMBLY

Southwestern Adventist University offers weekly opportunities for the entire campus to gather for academic reflection and discussion, civic enlightenment, community fellowship, cultural enrichment, personal growth and well-being, spiritual and social outreach, worship and/or the celebration of campus life and school spirit. Assemblies (including *Week of Prayer*) are required for all students (on or off campus), taking six or more semester hours. Regular assemblies are scheduled on Thursdays at 12:50pm in the Keene Church. On occasion, Assembly may meet at other venues and other days as announced. Alternate programs at various times and places may also receive approval for Assembly credit. Please refer to announcements as changes may occur throughout the semester and/or year.

ASSEMBLY ATTENDANCE GUIDELINES

1. Bar code scanners will be used for attendance purposes (you must have your student identification card to receive credit).
2. Two (2) absences are allowed per semester to cover unexpected emergencies or other extenuating circumstances.
3. A fine of \$10 will be charged for each absence beyond the two allowed.

Although your physical presence is required, it is your whole being that is strongly encouraged. Please enter Assembly with an attitude of full participation to engage yourself with the presentation of the period. Set aside what you might think or know to be pertinent and pressing at the moment and enjoy a “time out” to reflect upon what can be taken and used for personal and/or collective growth and development.

ASSEMBLY EXEMPTIONS

1. Taking less than six hours
2. Work (**verified on regular basis with work officials**)
3. Nursing Clinicals or Student Teaching

Forms for requesting exemption are available at studentservices.swau.edu. Work, nursing clinicals and student teaching related issues will be verified on a regular basis through correspondence with work and coordinating supervisor(s). Copies of work schedules provided by the student to the Office of the Vice President for Student Services must be turned in, as well, to complete the verification and exemption process.

CAMPUS RECREATION

Recognizing that recreational activities are an integral part of campus life at Southwestern Adventist University, the intramural and athletic programs are designed to provide opportunities for students and student athletes to participate and excel in on-campus intramural activities and/or in higher level athletic competition.

Athletics
Basketball
Soccer
Volleyball

Intramurals (may include)
Basketball
Flagball
Floorball
Soccer
Softball
Volleyball

ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION

Eligibility in the athletics program is subject to the following criteria:

1. Be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits unless in his/her last semester before graduation.
2. Be enrolled in a minimum of 6 post graduate credit hours.
3. Be in good academic and citizenship standing. Academic is defined as a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.00 or higher. Citizenship is defined as no previous semester and/or year probationary status.
4. Not on other conditional or probationary acceptance to the university
5. Be making satisfactory academic progress (coursework and attendance) during current semester of play.
6. Proof of personal (satisfactory and acceptable) medical insurance and a current sports physical form signed by a physician

***An athletic fee will be assessed for class and participation ***

INTRAMURAL PARTICIPATION

Participation in intramurals is open to:

1. Students enrolled on campus for at least six credit hours and spouses.
2. Graduate students enrolled in at least three credit hours and spouses.
3. Full-time employees of the university and spouses.
4. Full time employees of the Keene community educational institutions.
5. Graduate Alumni of Southwestern Adventist University

***An intramural fee will be assessed for participation ***

Participating in any physical activity increases the risk of injury. It is the student's responsibility to provide for the costs of medical care resulting from injury.

CRIMES AND EMERGENCIES

Report all campus crimes and emergencies to respective residence hall deans, Campus Security and/or the Vice President for Student Services. Call 817-202-6415 or 817-202-6345 for campus security, "911" for police, medical or fire assistance. If warranted, local authorities will be notified immediately. Health Services, Counseling and Outreach, Residence hall deans and/or the Vice President for Student Services will assist sexual assault victims in obtaining counseling services. Fees may be applicable for services rendered. Assistance in changes dealing with academic and living situations may also be made available through the university.

DRESS

Southwestern Adventist University stresses modesty, appropriateness and neatness. To maintain an academic atmosphere, neat clothing and attire is appropriate on campus and at university sponsored events. Clothing containing obscene or offensive slogans or graphics and clothing such as low cut, bare midriff, sheer, too tight or too loose that exposes undergarments or intimate body parts (back, chest, abdomen, etc.) are inappropriate. Hairstyles and the use of cosmetics should be tasteful and not extreme. Non-compliance with the dress code may result in fines and further discipline. University organizations and workplaces may have additional dress code requirements.

ENTERTAINMENT

In the selection of music, reading material, films, videos, media streaming, television viewing and other forms of private or public entertainment, students are expected to exercise Christian discernment and choose that which is uplifting, educational and in harmony with the Biblical standards outlined in Philippians 4:8:

"Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things."

FIREARMS AND WEAPONS

The possession and use of firearms, guns (including air soft, BB, paintball, pellet, etc.) and other forms of weapons (knives, bows and arrows, nun chucks, etc.) by students on university property is prohibited.

A person commits an offense if the person intentionally, knowingly or recklessly possesses or goes with a firearm, illegal knife, club or prohibited weapon on the premises of Southwestern Adventist University, on any grounds or building, or on any public or private driveway, street, sidewalk or walkway, parking lot, parking garage or other parking area of Southwestern Adventist University.

"Pursuant to Section 30.06 Penal Code (trespass by license holder with a concealed handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a concealed handgun."

Any such offender will be prosecuted to the fullest of the law.

HAZING AND IRREGULAR ACTIVITIES

Hazing is defined as often humiliating and sometimes dangerous initiation rituals, especially as imposed on students seeking membership to an organization. Hazing is a violation of university standards. Any student planning, engaging or committing any act with intent to degrade, embarrass or injure a fellow student is subject to university sanctions, including short to long term suspension and dismissal.

Examples of hazing may include:

- Forced consumption of alcohol or other substances
- Sleep deprivation
- Humiliating activities – causing physical, psychological or emotional harm
- Physical abuse – beating, branding, etc.
- Personal servitude

IDENTIFICATION CARDS

All students registered for one or more courses on the campus of Southwestern Adventist University are processed for and given student identification cards. Photos are taken at registration and other designated times as scheduled by Campus Safety and the Information Technology Services department. Valid and current cards are used to gain admittance to campus facilities and residence halls, to university sponsored activities (on and off campus), to check out materials from the library or other resource areas, to use at the cafeteria and/or to be used as proof of identity to personal records, information, etc. Misrepresentation of student identification cards or use of a card not belonging to the student will result in referral to the Conduct Committee and may also be a prosecutable violation of federal, state and/or local law.

INSTITUTIONAL DECISION MAKING

Southwestern Adventist University students play an important role in the decisions made by the university. The Student Association President is an invitee to each Board of Trustees meeting. The Student Senate discusses and votes on issues to be sent to Student Life and/or President's Cabinet for consideration. This process is facilitated by the office of the Vice President for Student Services. The Student Association Vice President is a member of the Academic Policies Committee which discusses and votes on academic issues. This committee is composed of the department chairs, librarian, SWAUonline director, registrar and the director of the honors program. In total, university students have representation on several campus committees.

LOST AND FOUND

The general Lost and Found station is located at Campus Services (817-202-6240). Lost items may also be claimed at specific areas on campus such as the cafeteria, gymnasium, library and residence halls.

MISSING STUDENT

In accordance with the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008, Southwestern Adventist University has adopted this policy. Each student has the option to register an emergency contact who will be notified in the event the student is determined to be missing.

The student's emergency contact is identified during registration and can be changed anytime by logging into the student portal.

MISSING STUDENT PROCEDURES

Any member of the university or its guest may report a missing student. A missing student may be reported to a Residence Hall Assistant (RA), Dean of Men, Dean of Women, Vice President for Student Services, the Director of Security or the Security Officer on duty.

Dean of Men.....	254-449-0533
Dean of Women.....	817-300-0267
Vice President for Student Services	817-690-2256
Office of Student Services.....	817-202-6219
Director of Security	817-202-6415
Security Office.....	817-202-6345

When a student has been reported missing in the resident halls, the RA will report the possible missing student to the Dean of Women or the Dean of Men. The dean, or RA at the dean's request, will perform a Room Check and try to contact the student via the contact phone number as listed. If the student is not found within a four-hour period, the Dean will notify the Vice President of Student Services and the Director of Security.

The Vice President for Student Services or the Director of Security will attempt to locate the student through contact with friends, family, employers, faculty, staff, etc. If the student is not located or communication is not made with the student within 24 hours, the university will notify the local Police.

If the student is located after they are determined to be missing for any amount of time, a health assessment will be performed by Health Services.

RESIDENTIAL HOUSING AND REQUIREMENTS

The social and educational program at Southwestern Adventist University is based on the premise that this is primarily a residential university. Single students under 22 years of age, taking six or more hours and who do not live with their parent(s) or legal guardian(s), are required to live in one of the university's residence halls. The residence halls are designed for currently enrolled undergraduate students under 24 years of age. Those who are 23 to 29 years of age may live in the residence halls if space permits, but only after all students under the age of 22 are placed. Those over the age of 23 need to make secondary plans and adjustments as necessary. Residents are required to select one of the meal plans offered through the cafeteria. Students who withdraw from Southwestern Adventist University will not be permitted to live in the residence halls after their official withdrawal date.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFF CAMPUS RESIDENCE

1. At least 22 years of age or living with immediate relatives (siblings must be over 24 years of age and no opposite gender houseguests/housemates)
2. Taking six or less credits
3. Earned bachelor's degree

4. Living with a Southwestern Adventist University faculty/staff member
5. Senior (by credit hours), if under 22 years of age

❖ Also required are the following: parental/guardian consent, achieved a minimum of 90 semester hours, in good citizenship standing and a cumulative GPA of 3.0

Students under 22 years of age and who are not scheduled to graduate at the end of the semester or academic year should not expect their request to be approved. Students who do not abide by the residence requirements will have their registration and/or student status terminated. When a student has been granted permission to live off campus, no change in residence may be made without the permission of the Vice President for Student Services. You will find the online petition to complete and submit at studentservices.swau.edu. Once it is completed, the Office of the Vice President for Student Services will notify you of the decision via university email or personal contact.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE

Southwestern Adventist University welcomes in the Sabbath hours with Vespers and continues with Afterglow, Sabbath School and church services. It is an opportunity for us to gather as a body in Christ to participate in Sabbath worship. Throughout this period, it is encouraged that our focus be to refrain from all ordinary activities, labor and studies and to celebrate our time to fellowship, rest, serve and worship.

SEVERE WEATHER PROTOCOL

In the rare event of severe weather an announcement will be made between 8pm and 6:30am indicating that classes will be delayed or cancelled – or that the university will be open as usual on the following day/actual day. You may check the following for official delay or closing announcements: radio station (88.3/KJRN), NBC 5 (KXAS TV), the university switchboard operator (817 202-6565) and/or university e-mail (Announce-L)

SKATE AND LONG BOARDING

Skateboarding and Longboarding on campus is allowed for transportation purposes. It is not allowed on benches, railings, stairs, steps, curbs, ramps, decorative sidewalks or in buildings. Violators will be fined, assessed cost for damage and may be restricted from use. Helmets and other protective gear is strongly encouraged. All skateboarders and longboarders skate at their own risk.

STANDARD OF BEHAVIOR

Students at Southwestern Adventist University are expected to establish a Christian lifestyle, which fosters spiritual, mental, physical and social growth. Such lifestyle will include engaging in prayer, Bible Study, worship and Christian service activities; practicing good study habits; selecting a balanced and nutritious diet and scheduling adequate periods of rest; participating in wholesome recreational and leisure-time activities; and relating responsibly and respectfully to other persons.

*"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature,
and in favour with God and man."*

Luke 2:52

STUDENT SERVICES RECORDS

The Office of the Vice President for Student Services takes very seriously each student's right to privacy and confidentiality. Student disciplinary records are in an electronic file kept by the Chairperson of the Conduct Committee. Copies of the correspondence are kept on file in the Office of the Vice President for Student Services. Letters involving suspension or dismissal are placed in the student's permanent file kept in the Records Office.

The Counseling and Outreach records are kept in our Student Information System (Ellucian). Appointments and brief notes are kept in Theranest, our counseling software. Upon entering a counselor/client relationship, every student is informed of the "limits of confidentiality". Everything shared in a counseling session is confidential under the limitations of the law.

SUICIDE/SELF-HARM

Any student who attempts suicide, displays behavior which could lead to such an act or demonstrates a tendency toward self-harm will be placed on an open-ended medical leave of absence. Continuation as a student will occur only after the student has presented documentation of an approved therapy program, applicable releases and a written commitment to avoid harmful behavior

TOBACCO

Although tobacco is not an illicit drug, nicotine has addictive properties and is responsible for a variety of health-related problems. It is Southwestern Adventist University's policy to remain a safe and healthful environment. Possession, use or distribution of tobacco (including vaping) products, by students is strictly prohibited. Violation is grounds for disciplinary action up to and including fines and dismissal.

VEHICLE CODE

The use of a motor vehicle is to be considered a privilege. This privilege may be suspended temporarily by the residence hall deans, Campus Service director or any administrative officer and permanently at the discretion and decision of the Discipline Committee.

- Southwestern Adventist University is not responsible for any consequences resulting in the lending or borrowing of motor vehicles of students.
- It is the responsibility of the owner or driver of the motor driven vehicle to ensure that the vehicle is properly licensed under Texas state laws.
- Students who use vehicles for university sponsored functions must carry liability insurance.
- All vehicles must be operated in accordance with state and local laws, as well as university regulations.

- Observe posted speed limits on campus. No parking in yellow painted zones, on grass, sidewalks, fire lanes, emergency or other restricted areas. Vehicles illegally parked will be towed at the owner's/driver's expense.
- Motor driven vehicles including motorcycles and motor bikes are not permitted for intra-campus use and/or university sidewalks and walkways.
- Vehicles with expired registration and/or inspection, more than 30 days out of date will be towed off university property at the owner's/driver's expense.
- Fines may be assessed by the Director of Campus Security/Services, the Vice President for Student Services and/or the residence hall deans for violations.
- Repeated violations may cause loss of vehicle privileges and violators will be liable for any towing charges and expenses.
- Southwestern Adventist University is not responsible for damage, theft, fire or any other loss sustained to any vehicle on or off the university property. The university does not assume liability for damages caused by such vehicles.
- All vehicles must be registered and have current parking permit visible in lower right corner of front windshield or on motorcycle/scooter. Failure to comply will result in a fine and towing at student's expense.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

To hold or run for an elected office in a student organization, a student must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5. In addition, no student on citizenship probation or who has been on probation the previous semester may hold an elected office.

FACULTY AND STAFF ADVISORS AND SPONSORS

All student organizations must have a faculty/staff advisor/sponsor appointed by the university administration. Faculty/staff advisors and sponsors are the representatives of the administration and have authority to regulate activities in accordance with the policies and principles published in this handbook, the school bulletin and as officially announced by university administration.

FILMS FOR ENTERTAINMENT

All films/videos/media presentations/etc. shown on campus must be approved by the Office of the Vice President for Student Services. A preview might be necessary prior to the SHOW DATE. Please provide enough time for material to be previewed and approved or for other alternate suggestions to be provided.

INCORPORATION OF ORGANIZATION OR CLUB

Various clubs are organized from year to year to promote an interest in various areas of student life. Club/Organization Constitutions must be approved and on file at the Office of Student Services to be recognized as a university entity. Dues may be assessed as authorized by approved organizational bylaws.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION

All undergraduate students are members of the Student Association. A fee is assessed each semester to assist in the funding of a variety of student-planned activities and

services. The Student Association functions under elected officers and faculty/staff advisors appointed by university administration.

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

University publications are produced for Southwestern Adventist University students.

Advisors are appointed by the university administration, with recommendations from the Student Association, its officers and its faculty/staff sponsors. Publications are funded through the Student Association budget. The Student Association Senate approves appropriations for these publications and retains supervisory authority over these funds. Editors will avoid impugning the character of any individual, adhere to the standards of morality and decency established by the university and follow the highest standards of accuracy and fairness, while adhering to all copyright laws.

Mizpah is the yearbook for Southwestern Adventist University. It features various student organizations, intramural and athletic activities, religious and social activities, academic and departmental activities, photographs of students, faculty, staff, etc.

Mugshots is the annual photo directory featuring students, faculty and staff members of Southwestern Adventist University. Each person is identified by a photograph and discloses personal data in compliance with *The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act*.

Knight's Quill, an online magazine published by students, is released at least four times during the semester. Its purpose is to educate, entertain, inspire and provide a space for student opinions and information to be published.

STUDENT POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

By attending Southwestern Adventist University, you assume certain responsibilities and obligations, including satisfactory academic performance and social behavior consistent with the lawful purposes of university life and structure. Student conduct, therefore, is not considered in isolation within the university community, but as an integral part of the “whole” educational curriculum. All students are expected to know and abide by this code of student conduct. In general, behavioral norms expected of the university student should be:

- Common decency and decorum, treating others as well as ourselves with respect, dignity and care
- Recognition of and non-infringement upon the rights and property of others
- Honesty in academic work and all other acts, actions and activities
- Observance of federal, state, local and university laws and precepts

BULLYING

Bullying is the use by one or more students of a written, verbal or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- Causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target's property
- Places the target in reasonable fear of harm to himself/herself or of damage to his/her property
- Creates a hostile environment on campus or at campus related activities for the target
- Infringes on the rights of the target on campus or at campus related activities
- Materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of the university

Terms Associated with Bullying

- Cyber-bullying - is bullying using technology or electronic devices such as telephones, cell phones, computers, tablets, etc.
- Hostile Environment - is a situation in which bullying causes the university environment to be permeated with intimidation, ridicule, insult, etc. that is sufficiently severe or pervasive as to alter the conditions of the educational process and/or university life
- Retaliation - is any form of intimidation, reprisal, harassment, etc. directed against a student, faculty or staff member who reports bullying, provides information during the investigative process or witnesses activity of said nature
- Target - any member of the university community (student, faculty, staff) against whom bullying, cyber-bullying or retaliation has been perpetrated

Southwestern Adventist University will not tolerate any unlawful or disruptive behavior including bullying, cyber-bullying and/or retaliation. Any reports will be promptly investigated and appropriate measures will be taken. If necessary, actions of said nature will be referred to local, state and/or federal agencies.

CONDUCT - PROHIBITED

Examples of unacceptable behavior include, but are not limited to:

- Attempted suicide/self-harm
- Attending off campus activities or sites that are not representative of university standards and/or conduct
- Behavior disruptive to others, perceived as being disorderly and/or obnoxious
- Being in an unauthorized and/or non-sponsored extended period/overnight setting with members of the opposite gender
- Duplication of university keys, tampering with locks on university property or breaking or entering any building or facility on campus in an unauthorized manner
- Failure to abide by or complete stipulations of any discipline which has already been administered

- Illegal use of, or tampering with fire and/or safety protective equipment of any sort on campus
- Inappropriate sexual relationship with members of either sex outside of marriage
- Possession of firearms, tasers, stun guns, explosives, dangerous chemicals and other forms of weapons and/or the firing or exploding of the same
- Retaliation against any person submitting a complaint of discrimination or related misconduct or against any person cooperating in the fact-finding of any said allegation(s)
- Sexual misconduct of any form
- Stealing, lying, cheating, willful deception and dishonesty regarding violation of university regulations or any other phase of university work or business
- Unauthorized or abusive access or use of any computer files, accounts or resources
- Unlawful discrimination or related harassment based on race, sex, age, religion, color and/or origin
- Using, distributing and/or selling narcotics, tobacco, vaping devices, controlled substances (including marijuana), or alcoholic beverages in any form, or having them in one's possession, or allowing their use in one's place of residence or vehicle
- Verbal harassment, using profane language, indulging in lewd conduct or suggestive behaviors, possessing or displaying obscene literature, pictures or materials used for immoral or illegal purposes, including internet access
- Violation of federal, state and/or local law. This statement is effective even if suspended sentence is imposed, probation is granted or charges are dropped for the convenience of the government
- Violation of residence hall policies and code of conduct
- Willful undermining of the religious principles or living in disharmony with the ideals of the institution

DISCIPLINE

If a student comes under disciplinary action by violating university regulations and/or policies, the residence hall deans, the Vice President for Student Services and/or the Student Conduct Committee will seek a solution to the problem and obtain appropriate support that may involve contacting the student's parent(s), restitution and any one of the several levels of discipline.

INTERIM SUSPENSION

Interim suspension may be imposed when the university determines that it is necessary

- To ensure the safety and well-being of members of the university community
- To ensure the student's own safety and well being
- If the student poses an ongoing threat of, disruption of, or interference with, the normal operations of the university

During the interim suspension, a student shall be denied access to premises and activities as the university deems appropriate.

The student should be notified in writing of the interim suspension, its terms and the reason for the interim suspension. The student shall, if so requested, be granted an opportunity to a meeting to show cause why his/her continued presence on university premises and activities does not constitute a threat. The interim suspension and any review of this status does not replace the regular hearing/disciplinary process.

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE (STUDENT CONDUCT COMMITTEE)

If a student is called to appear before the Student Conduct Committee, he/she will receive:

1. Notification to appear, stating time and place of meeting
2. Permission to be accompanied by an advocate (student/academic community)

The student will be notified by the Student Conduct Committee Chairperson or by the Vice President for Student Services of the decision(s) or action(s) made/taken by the committee.

DISCIPLINARY ACTION

The university discipline process is separate from any criminal procedures. Disciplinary actions by the university fall into the following levels based on the infraction of university regulations and policies. Discipline does not necessarily proceed consecutively through each of the following levels:

1. Warning: Cautionary admonition given either verbally or in writing by university administration, faculty or staff
2. Censure: Written reproof for an infraction, which becomes a part of a student's record, with a copy sent to parent/guardian
3. Citizenship Probation: Disciplinary status indicating that a student may be dismissed for continued or repeated misconduct; notification sent to parent/guardian
4. Suspension: Exclusion from the university for a limited period of time
5. Termination at end of Semester: Actual dismissal, but with permission to complete courses in progress provided the semester is relatively near its close and provided the student's conduct is acceptable during the interim
6. Dismissal: Immediate exclusion from the university for an indefinite period
7. Restitution and Fines: Payment may be required to the university or to other individuals, groups or organizations for damages and/or punitive sanctions incurred as a result of the violation
8. In addition to university discipline, criminal charges may be pressed for criminal actions committed against members of the university community (students and/or personnel) or university property

DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE (APPEAL PROCESS)

A student may appeal disciplinary actions imposed by the Student Conduct Committee. To appeal any decision, the student must submit a written appeal to the Vice President for Student Services stating the basis for the request. This must be

based on new information not previously presented to the Conduct Committee. The Vice President for Student Services will decide to deny or approve the request to go before the Appeals Committee.

DISCIPLINE – EFFECT OF DISCIPLINARY ACTION UPON GRADES/CITIZENSHIP

Southwestern Adventist University attempts to separate the effect of a disciplinary action from the academic grades and achievement of an individual. However, an individual who becomes involved in activities requiring that disciplinary action be applied will suffer the subsequent consequences in several areas. For example, absences caused by suspension would naturally affect scholastic achievement. If a student is dismissed before the end of a semester for gross or continued misconduct, he/she will not have completed the work and thus be given a grade of “W”.

Levels of discipline (#3-#6 of above list) are of major significance and are as a rule included in a student’s personal file. A student’s citizenship rating is a very important part of his/her university record, especially as it pertains to recommendations to prospective employers and professional educational institutions.

DISCIPLINE – NOTIFICATION OF PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S)

Parents or legal guardians will be notified regarding any violation of any federal, state or local laws or of any rule or policy of Southwestern Adventist University governing the use, distribution, possession or sale of alcohol and/or other forms of illegal/controlled substances, if the student is under the age of 21.

DISCIPLINE – READMISSION

All records of conferences, censures, etc. regarding disciplinary matters are reviewed at the close of each semester to determine a student’s eligibility for readmission into the university for the next term.

DRUG/ALCOHOL POLICY

The United States Department of Education has issued regulations implementing the provisions of the Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act Amendments of 1989. In view of these regulations, the university is mandated to distribute its policy to all students, administrators, faculty and staff as it relates to the possession, use or distribution of alcohol and illicit drugs. Southwestern Adventist University’s policies on substance abuse and alcohol and the related violations and places to obtain assistance are outlined below.

Drug and alcohol use/abuse is pervasive in society today. The devastating physical, psychological and economic consequences of such practices are well documented. Southwestern Adventist University adheres to the philosophy that true education is the harmonious development of the physical, mental, social, moral and spiritual powers. The university is committed to providing an environment that is conducive to learning, positive thinking and healthful living. Southwestern Adventist University has dedicated itself to be a drug and alcohol-free community by maintaining policies

which prohibit the use, distribution, selling and/or possession of alcohol, tobacco, vaping devices and other illicit substances and drugs.

By enrolling at Southwestern Adventist University, all students agree to submit to drug testing. The Vice President for Student Services, Health Services and/or residence hall dean may require chemical screening, Breathalyzer testing, etc. when evidence or a reasonable suspicion of alcohol or drug use exists. The student is obligated to pay the expenses of any mandated screening or assessments. The use of drug dogs may also be used in campus housing, campus parking areas and other campus facilities.

Southwestern Adventist University is committed to the position that students who enroll here do so because they expect to live and function in a drug and alcohol-free environment. Each student, faculty and staff member have a personal responsibility to sustain such an environment by abstaining from the use of tobacco, alcohol and other illicit substances and drugs. The university is committed to a program of prevention, education, intervention, counseling referral and rehabilitation as a means of achieving this goal.

Students whose use of drugs and/or alcohol is brought to the attention of the Discipline Committee and who are not asked to withdraw will be required to take one or all of following actions:

1. Make an appointment within 48 hours with the staff at the Counseling and Outreach Center after receiving written notification from the Conduct Committee chairperson.
2. Undergo a written alcohol/drug assessment with an approved substance abuse professional in collaboration with the university counselor or counselor designee in the Counseling and Outreach Center.
3. Develop a written behavioral contract in consultation with university counselor or counselor designee and the Conduct Committee chairperson within 72 hours of initial assessment by the university counselor or counselor designee. Any violation of written behavioral contract may constitute immediate dismissal from the university.
4. Sign a release of confidentiality with the university counselor or counselor designee.
5. The university will (in accordance with the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act – FERPA) contact parent or legal guardian of student (under the age of 21) who has violated university policies on alcohol, substance use and/or abuse.
6. Attend an initial two-hour session of group therapy as administered by staff in the Counseling and Outreach Center, after which the university counselor or counselor designee will determine if additional sessions are warranted or deemed necessary.

7. Referral to outside treatment facilities in Johnson County or outlining areas if determination is made by university counselor or counselor designee that student's needs are better served outside of the campus setting. All cost for treatment at outside facilities will be the student's responsibility.
- Suspension and possible dismissal from the university will result if required actions are not satisfactorily completed.
 - Student will be placed on Citizenship Probation for a minimum of a semester.
 - Student may incur fees for counseling services, mandatory assessment(s), additional testing, screening, administrative paperwork, fines, etc.
 - A second violation of the Drug/Alcohol Policy may result in the student's immediate dismissal from Southwestern Adventist University
 - Applicable federal, state and local laws related to alcohol and drug use apply. A student convicted in a court of law of a drug related offense or violation is required to notify the Vice President for Student Services within five days of that conviction. **A student may sustain the loss of federal financial aid as an additional consequence of such a conviction.** (Student Resources section)

A student who recognizes his/her need for help in overcoming an alcohol or drug related problem is encouraged to talk with the university counselor for an initial screening. The student then may be referred to an approved external chemical dependency counseling agency where his/her involvement with drugs and/or alcohol would be analyzed. An appropriate recovery program would then be agreed upon between student and the agency counselor. Disciplinary action may not occur against any student who voluntarily refers himself/herself to a university or agency counselor.

GRIEVANCE POLICIES

CONCERN-COMPLAINT

A concern and/or complaint may be an issue or condition that is important to a student but does not rise to the level of a grievance. In these matters, please contact the Office of Student Services to initiate assistance in the resolution process.

ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE

A student who feels that he/she has been treated unfairly or unjustly by an instructor/faculty member of Southwestern Adventist University regarding an academic process has the right to appeal according to an approved procedure. Specific grounds for an appeal include one or more of the occurrences:

1. A computing/recording or other technical error has been made, but has not been acknowledged by the instructor
2. A grade has been assigned in an arbitrary, capricious or vindictive manner or in a manner intended to inappropriately manipulate or control the student
3. The assigned grade does not reflect the grading criteria in the course syllabus
4. The published department policies have not been followed

ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE POLICY – INITIAL APPEALS PROCEDURE

1. To initiate the appeals procedure, the student must talk with the course instructor for explanation/review of the decision within three university days of the occurrence (university days defined as time during the fall, spring or summer semester that the academic program is in session from registration to final examinations)
2. If the problem is not resolved within two university days of talking with the course instructor, the student must obtain an Academic Appeals Review Form from the course instructor's department chairperson. The chairperson has two university days to respond to the student. This completes STEP 1 on the Academic Appeals Review Form.
3. If the problem is not resolved, the student has two university days from the receipt of the Chairperson's decision to contact the Vice President for Academic Administration, providing the written summary of the complaint and the Academic Appeals Review Form. Within two university days the Vice President for Academic Administration will provide a written decision. This completes STEP 2 on the Academic Appeals Review Form.

ACADEMIC GRIEVANCE POLICY – FORMAL APPEALS PROCEDURE

If the problem is not resolved with the decision of the Vice President for Academic Administration, the student may file a formal grievance. A formal grievance is a serious matter and should be done with careful consideration. Within two days of the Vice President for Academic Administration's decision, the student must request in writing to the Vice President for Academic Administration for a formal hearing before the Grievance Committee, an ad hoc subcommittee of the Academic Policies Committee. The Grievance Committee will meet within three days of the request to hear the student's case and will issue a decision which will constitute final action taken by the university. This completes STEP 3 on the Appeal Review Form.

FINANCIAL GRIEVANCE POLICY

Students who believe that they have a financial grievance should follow the following procedure:

1. The student should appeal in writing to the Business Office or Student Financial Services no later than two weeks after the incident which prompts the grievance.
2. If the financial grievance is not resolved to the student's satisfaction, he/she should submit a written statement to the Vice President for Financial Administration no later than one month after the occurrence. The Vice President for Financial Administration will consult with the Business Office/Student Financial Services/Financial Aid Office and reply in writing to the student within one week of receiving the student's written statement. The decision of the Vice President for Financial Administration will be final.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GRIEVANCE

Resolution of Dispute: In the case of disputes which may arise due to differing interpretations of Southwestern Adventist University's policy on Intellectual Property, the following procedure shall apply:

1. The party with the grievance will notify the President of the university in writing, stating the cause of the dispute.
2. The President, within five working days of receiving written notice, will ensure the formation of an impartial five-member ad hoc committee to settle the dispute.
3. Each party to the grievance will write a summary of the problem and submit the document to the ad hoc committee within ten working days of the establishment of the committee. The committee, at its discretion, may request additional documentation or clarification of existing submissions at any time during the dispute resolution process.
4. After reviewing the written statements, the committee will provide an opportunity for each side of the dispute to make an oral presentation to the committee. At that time, the committee may ask questions to clarify any areas of dispute that they deem necessary.
5. After the committee has reviewed the written statements, along with any oral statements and responses to committee questions, it will respond with a final, written decision to the President and all other parties to the dispute. The final decision must be issued within forty-five calendar days after the President was notified of the grievance according to Step 1, unless extensions are granted by mutual agreement between the parties to the grievance.

WITHDRAWAL OF GRIEVANCE

At any time during the grievance procedure, the student may withdraw the complaint. Additionally, missing a deadline or failure by the student to appear for any scheduled hearing prior to notification or evidence of extenuating circumstances, shall constitute final action by the university.

MATTERS NOT GRIEVABLE

University policies, regulations or procedures adopted by the Southwestern Adventist University and/or the Board of Trustees are not subject to the grievance process. Although discussion on changes or recommendations of changes may occur, the dialogue in these instances is on the advisory level and not grievable.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY POLICY

General Policy: Southwestern Adventist University affirms that intellectual properties created by students are the exclusive property of that same student. Intellectual property including, but not limited to technological inventions, software programs, books, works of art, musical compositions and other forms of creative expression are owned by the creator of the property except in the following two specific instances:

- a. the university specifically asks a student to create a particular work, or
- b. the student specifically assigns (in written form, signed by the student) part or all of the copyright, patent or license to the university

Compensation to the University: In the event that a student uses special university services in the creation of the intellectual property, above and beyond those services provided for classroom or lab instruction, the university shall be entitled to, and the owner(s) and/or creator(s) is/are obliged to pay fair market value compensation for the services used including additional use of equipment, additional lab or other similar assistance, beyond the norm, in the research/production of the property at issue

Disclosure, Licensing and Commercialization: The disclosure, licensing and/or commercialization of scientific and technological developments, including but not limited to inventions, discoveries, trade secrets and computer software remain the exclusive purview of their owner(s) and/or creator(s)/inventor(s). Owner(s) and/or creator(s) of intellectual property may share in equity of business and may participate in management of business related to development of said property. As such, institutional review of disclosure, licensing and/or commercialization of intellectual properties covered under this policy is neither appropriate nor needed.

NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY

Southwestern Adventist University is a coeducational institution of higher learning established by the Seventh-day Adventist Church as an instrument essential to the fulfillment of its teaching ministry. The university is committed to equal education and employment opportunities for men and women and does not discriminate based on age, race, color, sex, disability or national origin in its educational and admissions policies. The university extends all rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students and to make no discrimination in the administration of educational policies, applications for admission, financial affairs, employment opportunities, student life and services or any university administered programs. To this end, the university follows Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and with Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972.

The university believes the interpretation and implementation of all government laws and regulations are subject to constitutional guarantees against unreasonable entanglement with or infringement on the religious teachings and practices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

POSTING AND DISTRIBUTION POLICY

Materials posted and distributed on campus must have prior approval from the Office of the Vice President for Student Services. This applies to materials from students, student organizations and off campus organizations and individuals. Materials posted without pre-approval will be removed.

RELATIONSHIP CONDUCT

In keeping with the mission of Southwestern Adventist University and its heritage as a unique Seventh-day Adventist institution, we are committed to retain our traditional Christian values and teachings on sexuality. We believe that Scripture is the ultimate authority on how to conduct our lives and serves as a light to guide our

way in a manner that honors God and others. We also support the Seventh-day Adventist position on sexuality as articulated in *Fundamental Beliefs, Seventh-day Adventist Believe*, chapter 23, 329-338.

Southwestern Adventist University holds the position that sexuality is a gift from God. Sexual expression should therefore be made in a responsible manner, and decisions regarding sexual expression should be made thoughtfully. The university upholds the church's belief that "marriage is divinely established in Eden and affirmed by Jesus to be a lifelong union between a man and a woman in loving companionship" (*Fundamental Beliefs*, 329). The university expects that students should not engage in sexual conduct outside of marriage nor engage in any sexual behavior or activity that would interfere with the learning environment. Students choosing to participate in this type of sexual activity could be subject to disciplinary consequences. Southwestern Adventist University does not condone cohabitation and the university reserves the right to act against the student(s) involved.

In accordance with the university's policy, Southwestern Adventist University strives to provide a safe and harassment free environment (Student Handbook: Sexual Misconduct Policy). The university will not tolerate harassment of any member of our campus community and will take disciplinary action against anyone found engaging in or responsible for such behavior.

The university acknowledges the complexity of issues surrounding sexuality and is committed to the open and rigorous study of Scripture and discussion of all perspectives, both inside and outside of the classroom. Regardless of one's point of view on this subject, Southwestern Adventist University affirms the dignity and worth of every person and seeks to create a campus culture where each person is treated with Christian love, dignity, and respect.

SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND TITLE IX

No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity.

Southwestern Adventist University is committed to providing an educational, employment, and business environment free from Sexual Harassment. Sexual Harassment, including acts of Sexual Assault, Dating Violence, Domestic Violence, and Stalking and other adverse conduct of a sexual nature is a form of sexual discrimination and is prohibited.

Southwestern Adventist University complies with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (Title IX) and its implementing regulations (*see* 34 C.F.R. § 106 *et seq.*), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in the University's programs and activities and retaliation; the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act (Clery Act), as amended by the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013 (VAWA); Title VII of the Civil

Rights Act of 1964 (Title VII); Chapter 21 of the Texas Labor Code; and other applicable federal and state laws.

Sexual misconduct at Southwestern Adventist University will not be tolerated in any form. Student behavior, both on and off campus, is expected to comply with and reflect the values of Southwestern Adventist University. All students have the right to appropriate, affirming, and respectful behavior in their interactions with other members of the university family, in an environment that promotes wellness and safety. Any behavior of sexual misconduct is a violation of Christian standards as well as applicable federal, state and local regulations.

First and foremost, if you are in danger or have been harmed, please seek immediate assistance, see below. If any student encounters such treatment from any university employee or fellow student a Title IX report should be made. Southwestern Adventist University encourages all individuals to report any incident of Sexual Harassment to the Title IX Coordinator: Elizabeth Page, LCSW-S. If you are unsure if a report needs to be made or if you are just wanting information the Title IX Coordinator is available to answer questions and discuss with you the process.

Title IX Coordinator:
Elizabeth Page, LCSW-S
817-202-6217
Epague@swau.edu

SWAU Title IX Policy: [Title IX and Sex Discrimination | Southwestern Adventist University](#)

Immediate Assistance:

It is important to seek medical attention for any type of assault physical or sexual. In cases of physical or sexual assault or any emergency, the following actions are encouraged:

- Go to a safe place: Nurse's Station, Residence Hall Dean's Office, Counseling Center
- Call campus security – 817-202-6345
- Call 911 for Police or Sheriff
- Call someone you trust
- Contact campus nurse 817-202-6425
- Seek medical attention and care at a emergency room, hospital, clinic, or medical provider of your choice.
- Review Title IX Policy for additional resources for victims of sexual assault, rape, and/or domestic/dating violence.
- Contact Title IX Coordinator to understand your rights.

Sexual Misconduct incorporates a range of behaviors including sexual harassment, sexual assault, rape, stalking, dating and domestic violence as well as any other conduct of sexual nature that harms or has a purpose or effect of harm, threatening, intimidating, or coercing a person.

Sexual harassment comes in many forms that may include but not limited to the following:

- Threatening or Inappropriate Speech
- Perverse conduct
- Making or sharing photographs, video, visual or audio recordings of a sexual nature
- Verbal harassment or abuse (degrading comments, propositions, jokes, etc.)
- Requests for sexual activity, even if subtle
- Unnecessary touching of an individual without consent (petting, pinching, hugging, repeated brushing against another person's body, etc.)
- Sexual assault and rape
- Stalking
- Dating and domestic violence

See below for additional details and definitions.

DEFINITIONS OF INAPPROPRIATE CONDUCT*

(abbreviated from Title IX Policy)

Sexual Assault – includes the sex offenses and attempted offenses of Rape, Sexual Assault with an Object, Fondling, Incest, and Statutory Rape. See Title IX Policy for more detailed information.

Sexual Exploitation or Coercion – use of force, intimidation, and/or manipulation to obtain compliance or control over another person. Perpetrators may also use express or implied threats of physical harm, blackmail, alcohol and/or drugs to coerce a person to engage in unwanted sexual activity. Sexual exploitation can include force, intimidation, and/or manipulation to participate in sexual activity with others for the benefit of money, power over that person, and/or objects.

Dating Violence and Domestic Violence – violence committed by a person and can be defined as physical harm, bodily injury, physical assault, sexual assault, or threat of physical harm. Committed by a person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim. Domestic Violence is defined as violence committed by a current or former spouse or intimate partner, by someone with whom the victim shares a child, by a cohabitant, or by a person similarly situated to a spouse under applicable law.

Stalking – engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific person that would cause a reasonable person to (a) fear for their safety or the safety of others; or (b) suffer substantial emotional distress.

Inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature – can include behavior that could constitute inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature that may include but not limited to engaging in repeated sexually oriented conversations, comments, jokes, or horseplay.

Sexual Harassment – is conduct on the basis of sex that constitutes Quid Pro Quo Sexual Harassment, inappropriate conduct of a sexual nature, discrimination based

on pregnancy, and Hostile Environment Sexual Harassment. The following offenses – sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking constitute sexual harassment regardless of severity or pervasiveness.

Sex Discrimination – for the purpose of this Policy is disparate treatment of an individual on the basis of sex that adversely affects the individual's access to education at the University. This includes pregnancy status and pregnancy related conditions.

Quid Pro Quo Sexual Harassment – occurs when an employee of the University conditions the provision of aid, benefit, or service of the University on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual contact.

Hostile Environment Sexual Harassment – unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person access to the University's education programs and activities.

TERMS ASSOCIATED WITH SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND TITLE IX:

Consent – the act of giving permission, agreeing, active participation, or saying “yes” to each instance and stage of sexual activity. Consent must be informed, voluntary, and mutual and can be withdrawn at any time. Individuals choosing to engage in sexual activity must communicate clearly and evaluate consent in an ongoing manner through all stages of sexual activity. Past sexual history, previous sexual involvement or a lack of response does not establish consent. Consent to one act does not imply consent to another, past consent does not imply future consent. Lack of protest, lack of resistance, silence and/or passivity does not constitute consent. There is no consent when there is force—expressed or implied—or when coercion, intimidation, threats or duress is used. Whether a person has taken advantage of a position of influence over another person may be a factor in determining consent.

An individual is unable to provide Consent to engage in sexual activity when the individual:

- Is under the age of 17, as according to Texas law, and (1) is not a spouse of the Respondent, or (2) the Respondent is more than three years older than the victim at the time of the offense;
- Has a mental disorder or developmental or physical disability that renders her or him incapable of giving knowing consent;
- Is unconscious or physically unable to resist; or is incapacitated from alcohol or other drugs, and this condition was known, or reasonably should have been known, by the Respondent.

Force – use of physical violence and/or imposing on someone physically to gain sexual access. Force includes threats, implied threats, intimidation and coercion that overcome resistance or produce consent.

Coercion – pressure to consent to sexual activity. When a person makes a decision to stop or not participate then continued pressure can be coercion. When evaluating coercion the University will consider the frequency of pressure, the intensity of the pressure, the degree of isolation of the person being pressured, and the duration of the pressure.

Incapacitation – a state of being that prevents an individual from having the mental ability, emotional stability, or maturity to provide consent at the time the alleged behavior occurs. Incapacitation can also include being under the influence of drugs or alcohol, being asleep or unconscious, or because of an intellectual or other disability or medical condition. Incapacitation is a state where an individual cannot make an informed and rational decision to consent to engage in sexual contact because the individual lacks conscious knowledge of the nature of the act (*e.g.*, to understand the “who, what, where, when, why or how” of the sexual interaction), is physically or mentally helpless, or is otherwise unaware that the sexual act is occurring.

Pregnancy or Pregnancy Related Condition: Students cannot be discriminated against due to pregnancy or pregnancy related condition(s) which can include prenatal, postnatal care, and breastfeeding.

Retaliation: No member of the University community may retaliate against another member for filing a complaint pursuant to this Policy or for cooperating in an investigation of a violation of this Policy. Additionally, no retaliation may occur against any Individual for participating, testifying, assisting, or refusing to participate in any manner in a Title IX investigation, proceeding, or hearing. Complaints of retaliation should be reported immediately to the University’s Title IX Coordinator. Any person who knowingly and intentionally retaliates against an individual is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination or dismissal from the University.

Reporting - All students, faculty and staff who are aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, with the of exception of Chaplains and during a counseling session, are responsible for reporting the incident to the Title IX Coordinator.

***Excerpts from the Southwestern Adventist University Title IX Policy: [Title IX and Sex Discrimination | Southwestern Adventist University](#)**

STUDENT RECORDS ACCESS

Southwestern Adventist University is committed to meeting all Family Education Rights to Privacy Act (FERPA) requirements. Students have the right to inspect and review official records, files and data directly related to them kept by any unit of the university. This request is to be made in writing to the registrar, head of the academic department or other university official/administrator responsible for the record(s) the student wishes to inspect. The Act stipulates a reasonable fee may be charged if copies of the material in the file(s) are desired.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) also provides ways in which the university may share information with parents without the student's consent (pg. 54-55 *Bulletin 2015-2016*).

STUDENT RIGHT-TO-KNOW

In 2023-2024 the completion or graduation rate for students who entered Southwestern Adventist University in the Fall of 2018 was 39%. In 2024-2025 the retention rate for first-time freshmen who entered Southwestern Adventist University in 2023-2024 was 73%. Contact the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness for further information.

VOTER REGISTRATION

Voter registration forms are available at the Records Office, the Keene Post Office and Keene City Hall. More voter information and online registration is available at www.votetexas.org (Student Resources section)

UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The legally designated authority of and for the university is its Board of Trustees. This governing body is a self-perpetuating board consisting of members that include elected individuals representing the constituency of the Southwestern Union Conference, appointed officials of the Southwestern Union Conference and its constituent conferences (Arkansas-Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, Texico and Southwest Region) and other selected individuals. The primary areas of responsibility of the Board of Trustees are institutional policies, financial operations and the appointment of university officers.

PRESIDENT

The President is the chief executive officer of the university and is responsible for its administration. It is the president's duty to see that the goals of the university are attained in keeping with the directives of the Board of Trustees.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATION

The Vice President for Academic Administration develops, coordinates and implements the instructional programs of the university. The supervision of the academic program for students and the institution of academic working policies in relation to faculty and students are regulated through this office. The vice president is assisted by the Director of Student Success, Librarian, Registrar and academic department chairpersons

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT SERVICES

The Vice President for Enrollment Services is responsible for the recruitment of prospective students, from initial inquiries through the admission process. Other roles and duties include the supervision of tuition assistance and scholarship programs, and the planning and implementation of activities and events involving

academies, high schools and youth organizations. The vice president is assisted by the Assistant Director of Admissions, Customer Relationship Management Administrator, Director of Recruiting and Enrollment Counselors.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION

The Vice President for Financial Administration is responsible for the business and financial affairs of the university. Duties also include the management of university facilities and the supervision of campus and physical plant services and personnel. The vice president is assisted by the Business Office personnel, Director of Campus Services, Director of Custodial Services, Director of Grounds, Director of Human Resources and the Director of Plant Engineering.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND EFFECTIVENESS

The Vice President for Institutional Research and Effectiveness is responsible with compliance of all policies and requirements for the State of Texas, Department of Education and regional accreditors for this institution and its academic programs. This office is also responsible for administering surveys and collecting data. All research conducted at the university or requested by external agencies must be approved by this office. This office assists Student Services with administering counseling and accommodation services for students. This office also collaborates with Academic Administration in ensuring that the university maintains its accreditation with our regional accrediting agency – Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The vice president is assisted by the Director of Informational Technology Services and data analysts.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The Vice President for Spiritual Development coordinates, develops and implements the spiritual programming of the campus. Efforts in the areas of missions, outreach, counseling and mentoring, prayer and group ministries and literature evangelism are supervised and directed through this office. The vice president is assisted by the Campus Chaplain and the student directors in the various ministerial roles and functions.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT SERVICES

The Vice President for Student Services coordinates and develops programming outside of the academic sphere. Areas of supervision and oversight include athletics, campus recreation and its facilities, cafeteria, career and personal counseling, health services, intramurals, residential life, student conduct and Student Association activities. The vice president is assisted by the Campus Liaison, Director of Counseling and Outreach, Director of Dining Services, Director of Disability Services, Director of Intramurals, Director of Facilities and Athletics, Director of Health Services and the Residence Hall Deans.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT

The Vice President of University Advancement coordinates all college activities related to external constituencies. Public relation efforts, printing, advertising, fundraising, development, alumni relations and all other tasks directly related to

the university's public image is directed through this office. Assisting the vice president are the Director for Development, Director of Alumni Relations and the Director of Marketing and Public Relations.

UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

BARRON BUILDING was built in 1974 and houses the Religion Department and the Barron Chapel.

CALLICOTT PARK AND BAINUM FIELD located across Old Betsy Rd. is considered part of the university campus. The pavilion, duck pond, tennis courts and recreational venues are open for use for faculty, staff and students of the university.

CAMPUS SERVICES is located on Magnolia Street, east of the tennis courts. This building houses the directors and support staffs of custodial services, housekeeping, security, transportation, grounds, student employment and locksmith services.

CHAN SHUN CENTENNIAL LIBRARY was completed in 1994. Housed within the library are the following: the Ruth King McKee Curriculum Library (teacher education and certification resource center), the Amon G. Carter Micro Garden, the Meadows Gallery, the Adventist Heritage Center, the Ellen G. White – SDA Research Center, the Rust-Carter Southwest Seventh-day Adventist Archives and the Southwestern Adventist University Archives. The *Write Spot* – writing editing and tutorial services for students is located on the first floor.

The COMMITTEE OF 100 CAFETERIA located on the Campus Mall was opened in 1971. The cafeteria provides a vegetarian menu for all daily meals and services all students and the community at large.

The COMMITTEE OF 100 GREENHOUSE built in 1974 and located on the corner of N. College Ave. and Walnut St. is used for a laboratory site for the Biological Sciences Department

FINDLEY BUILDING was opened for use in 1960 and was remodeled during 1994-95 and contains the following administrative and service offices:

Admissions and Enrollment

Business Office and Cashier's Window

Campus Safety

Human Resources

Informational Technology Services

Vice President Institutional Research and Effectiveness

International Students

Online Education

Records and Registrar

Student Financial Services

Vice President for Enrollment Services

Vice President for Spiritual Life and Development

HAGEN HALL was built in 1961, remodeled in 1992 and houses the:
Center for Student Success
Counseling Services
Kinesiology

HOPPS MUSEUM AND WELCOME CENTER was built in 1998 and showcases the history of Southwestern Adventist University and Johnson County.

KJRN Building is the home of KJRN 88.3 *The Journey*. It is a facility that is sponsored by Texas Health Huguley Hospital.

LEISKE-PULTAR GYMNASIUM was completed in 1961 and houses Kinesiology Classes, Athletics, Intramurals and Gymnastics.

MABEE CENTER was occupied in 1985 and contains, in addition to general classrooms and faculty offices, the following:

Art Studio	Music
English	Wharton Auditorium

LARRY R MOORE NURSING AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, the university's newest building, was completed in 2018. The following offices and departments are located here:

Vice President for Academic Administration
Advancement
Vice President for Financial Administration
Grant Writing
Nursing
Office of the President
Special Assistants to the President

MORAN HALL, originally named Ella B Hughes Elementary was built in 1951. It currently houses:

Campus Store (Knights Gear)
Counseling and Outreach
Pearson VUE Testing Site
Vice President for Student Services

PECHERO HALL was opened in 2006 and houses the following:

Business	Communication
Education and Psychology	Enactus Program
English as a Second Language	History and Social Science
Honors Program	Innovation Studio

PLANT ENGINEERING SERVICES is located on the corner of S. College Ave and 1st Street. This building houses the directors and support staffs of building maintenance, facilities management and plant services.

SCALES HALL, completed in 1967, contains offices, classrooms and laboratories in addition to the following:

First Floor

Computer Science

Dinosaur Museum

STEM

Second Floor

Biological Sciences

Mathematics

Physical Sciences

STUDENT ASSOCIATION, located to the west of Campus Services, houses offices for the Student Association officers, Literature Evangelism Program and the Recreation Room for Spiritual Development.

The STUDENT CENTER serves as an on-campus site for various functions and activities

STUDENT (ON-CAMPUS) RESIDENTIAL HOUSING

Men's Residential Halls

Hadley – 21 years of age & older

Miller – 20 years of age & younger

Women's Residential Halls

Harmon – 20 years of age & younger

Meier – 21 years of age & older

THOMSEN OBSERVATORY is located at the back portion of Callicott Park and is used for viewing and educational purposes throughout the year.

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

ACADEMIC

The Southwestern Adventist University Bulletin published annually, supplies detailed information on degree requirements and academic majors and coursework. Procedures and regulations regarding grading, academic honors, academic standing and status can be found as well. Students should consult the bulletin when questions regarding academic matters arise.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Regular and punctual attendance at each class, class function and laboratory is required. Penalties for excessive absences are specified by each professor for each course. Emergency arrangements for extenuating circumstances must be made with the respective professor or through the office of the Vice President for Academic Administration.

REASONABLE ACCOMODATION POLICY FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Southwestern Adventist University does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities or handicaps with respect to student employment or admission policies. Students and/or student applicants with a handicap or disability may request reasonable accommodations to enable them to successfully function in

the university environment. Housing accommodations may be granted if residence halls have capacity available, if not off campus housing permission may be granted.

TUTORIAL PROGRAM

Tutors are available in many disciplines each semester. They are free of charge and available most evenings. Watch for posted and email notices. Contact department offices or contact the Office of Student Success for added assistance.

WITHDRAWAL REQUIREMENTS

To officially withdraw from Southwestern Adventist University, students must obtain a withdrawal form from the office of Admissions and Records. The withdrawal form must be signed by a Student Finance Advisor and one of the following university personnel: the Vice President for Academic Administration, Vice President for Student Services or the Director of Counseling and Outreach. The form should be returned to the office of Admissions and Records after all signatures have been obtained.

The withdrawal will be effective as of the date the form was returned. Students are strongly encouraged to speak, discuss and seek counsel with faculty advisors, residence hall deans and/or the directors of Admissions and Counseling before final withdrawal methods are acted upon.

FINANCIAL

CASHIER'S OFFICE

Students may pay on school account by cash, check, money order or credit card at the Cashier's Window. Credit card payments can also be made over the phone to the Cashier's Office during business hours by calling (817) 202-6299. Check and money order payments can be mailed to the Cashier's Office by addressing envelope to 100 W. Hillcrest St, Keene, TX 76059, Attn: Cashier. Personal checks of small amounts (not to exceed \$50) may be cashed at the Cashier's window for the student's convenience.

EMPLOYMENT

Southwestern Adventist University is committed to providing on campus employment to any student desiring work. Students may apply for on campus employment through the Campus Services office (ext. 6240) or by going directly to the various departments on campus and speaking with respective university personnel and supervisors. Please make sure that all forms, including an I-9 form is signed and turned in to Campus Services, upon securing on campus employment.

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND LOANS

Southwestern Adventist University offers scholarships for academic achievement, leadership recognition, specific summer work programs and financial need. These scholarships are listed in the school bulletin. Southwestern Adventist University participates in the Federal and State Student Aid programs. Please refer to the school bulletin and/or check with Student Financial Services for available aid (scholarships, grants and loans).

VETERAN'S INFORMATION

Southwestern Adventist University is an approved institution for veterans eligible for educational benefits. The required course load is twelve hours per semester to maintain eligibility to receive maximum benefits. Please contact the Registrar and/or any regional V.A. office if you have any questions concerning these benefits.

MEDICAL

MEDICAL INSURANCE

Medical insurance is required for all students registered for six or more credit hours. Medical insurance must be purchased at the time of registration if proof of personal medical coverage is not provided or personal coverage does not meet the minimum affordable coverage standards. The university makes such coverage available for all non-immigrant students upon their arrival at Southwestern Adventist University. Charges for insurance will be made on registration day for the fall and spring semesters. Please check with Student Services for further assistance in the procurement of acceptable medical insurance.

MEDICAL INSURANCE (INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS)

Immigration requires that all international (F-1) students and their dependents have twelve-month coverage while in the United States. All international students must purchase major medical coverage through Southwestern Adventist University at registration. Do not purchase a medical insurance policy in your home country or from another outside carrier. If already insured through the SDA system, the international student must provide documentation of equivalent insurance coverage. No refunds will be made after the second week of classes.

MEDICAL RECORDS

In accordance with recommendations from the Center of Disease Control, the Texas Department of State Health Services and the American College Health Association, all first-time students must supply certain medical records to the school they plan to attend.

Meningitis Vaccination: ALL students enrolled at Southwestern Adventist University, under the age of 22, must submit proof of receiving vaccination. This vaccination must be administered at least 10 days prior to the first day of attendance. Students not in compliance are not allowed on campus (classrooms, cafeteria, gymnasium, common areas, residence halls, etc.) until the 10-day period has expired. This requirement for ALL students attending Southwestern Adventist University is in accordance with the Texas Education Code, Section 51.9192, Subchapter T.

Tuberculosis Screening (US Citizens/Permanent Residents): Students with a previous positive TB skin test must submit a report of a chest X-ray taken any time within 12 months before registration. All other students must submit proof of a negative TB skin test taken any time within six months before registration.

Tuberculosis Screening (International Students): Students with a previous positive TB skin test must submit a report of a chest X-Ray taken within one week of arriving

on campus. All other international students must submit proof of a negative skin test within three weeks of entering school.