

Approved By: President

Date Approved: October 25, 2023

Effective Date: August 13, 2018

1. **Summary:** This policy defines inappropriate conduct for students of the College.
2. **Rationale:** This policy is necessary to establish requirements for student conduct that are consistent with the College's values and that promotes the safety of its campus environment.
3. **Entities Affected:** students
4. **Definitions:** not applicable
5. **Policy:** This policy applies to the on-campus conduct of all students and to off-campus conduct of students that, in the College's judgment, involves or affects the College or other members of the College community, such as, but not limited to, conduct in connection with:
 - Academic work or other College-related educational activities and experiences, such as class projects, mission trips, student teaching, internships, or practicums;
 - Activities sponsored, conducted, or authorized by the College or its student organizations;
 - Activities that cause or threaten to harm the health, safety, well-being, or property of the College or members of the College community, including the student him- or herself; or
 - Activities that unreasonably disturb the peace and privacy of the student's neighbors when living off campus.

This policy applies to conduct by a student while a student, even if it occurs outside of an academic term or when the student is not otherwise enrolled at the College and even if the College does not learn of such conduct until after the student graduates, withdraws, takes leave, or is otherwise absent from the College.

Students also continue to be subject to federal, state, and local laws while at the College. While those laws are separate and independent from this policy and impose different standards, violations of them may also constitute violations of this policy. In such instances, the College may take action under the policy independent of any other legal proceeding involving the same conduct and may impose consequences for violation of the policy even if such other proceeding is not yet resolved or is resolved in the student's favor.

Prohibited Behaviors and Activities

The following are examples of prohibited behaviors and activities which may result in student conduct action under this policy. Commission of or attempts to commit these acts, condoning, supporting or encouraging

others in the commission of these acts, or failure to prevent one's guests from committing these acts may be treated as violations of this policy.

- a. **Dangerous Conduct:** Intentionally or carelessly engaging in conduct that threatens or endangers the health or safety or causes physical harm to any person, including the violator.
 - Placing a person in fear of imminent physical danger or bodily harm.
 - Causing bodily harm to a person or engaging in harmful physical contact that would likely have caused bodily harm despite the lack of any measurable harm.
 - Hazing – Any action which endangers the mental or physical health of a student, or which encourages the student to engage in illegal or inappropriate conduct for the purpose of initiation, admission into, affiliation with, or as a condition of continued membership in, a recognized or unrecognized group or organization.
 - Engaging in reckless behavior that creates a potentially unsafe situation for members of the community.

- b. **Harassment:** Any actions, threats, gestures, images, and/or words directed toward another person via any medium which have the purpose, or which tend to incite a breach of the peace, create a hostile environment, or cause emotional distress to that person because of the humiliating, degrading, intimidating, insulting, coercive, ridiculing, and/or alarming nature of the conduct. It frequently, but not always, involves a pattern of conduct.

- c. **Dangerous Items:** The use, possession, or storage of any firearms, toy guns, fireworks, explosives of any nature, dangerous chemical agents, and/or any instrument designed as a weapon of aggression.

- d. **Interfering with Fire Safety**
 - Misusing, tampering, or damaging fire safety equipment including, but not limited to, fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, sprinkler systems, or exit signs.
 - Unauthorized burning of any material in any College building, on College property, or on areas adjacent to College property.
 - Disregarding a fire alarm signal or refusing to evacuate a building or a section of a building when a fire alarm is sounding.
 - Recklessly or intentionally activating an alarm when an emergency situation does not exist.

- e. **Alcohol and Drugs:** Criswell College acknowledges the problem of substance abuse in our society and perceives this problem as a serious threat to the health and well-being of our students and employees. Therefore, in voluntary compliance with the Drug Free Schools and Communities Act Amendment of 1989 (Public Law 101-226), Criswell College issues the following statements:
 - Criswell College prohibits the unlawful possession, use, or distribution of all controlled substances (including but not limited to narcotics, illegal drugs, and alcohol) on school property, as a part of any school activity, or as a part of any personal, non-school related activity.
 - Members of the Criswell College community must abstain from the possession, use, or consumption of alcoholic beverages as an act of maintaining community standards.
 - Persons in the College community dealing with substance abuse problems who voluntarily seek assistance through the College will be aided in confidential referrals for counseling services, treatment, or rehabilitation.

- Criswell College will cooperate with all local, state, and federal authorities in maintaining and enforcing a drug-free community.
- f. Tobacco:** Possession, use, or distribution of tobacco products, smoking paraphernalia (including pipes, e-cigarettes, and vaporizers) on the College campus or in a building or vehicle that is owned, operated, or leased by the College.
- g. Theft/Unauthorized Possession of Property**
- Theft of property or of services or possession of stolen property.
 - Unauthorized possession of College property or the property of others.
- h. Damage to or Misuse of Property**
- Damaging or defacing College property or the property of others.
 - Unauthorized entry into College property or the property of others.
 - Unauthorized use or misuse of College property or the property of others.
- i. Disorderly Conduct:** Acting in a manner which annoys, disturbs, interferes with, obstructs, or is offensive to another/others.
- Shouting or making excessive noise either inside or outside a building to the annoyance or disturbance of others.
 - Verbally abusing College officials (including students appointed to act as representatives of the College) acting in the performance of their duties.
 - Behaving in a lewd or indecent manner.
 - Engaging in, leading, or inciting others in a breach of peace that is disruptive to the community.
- j. Non-academic Dishonesty**
- Knowingly furnishing false information to the College or a member of the College community, including at College student conduct proceedings.
 - Forgery, misuse, unauthorized alteration and/or creation of documents, records, College identification cards, keys, or other objects.
 - Possession or use of false identification cards issued by an entity other than the College.
 - Fraud, through act or omission, committed against a member of the campus community or others.
 - Knowingly initiating or causing to be initiated any false report, warning, or threat.
- k. Interfering with College Events:** Interfering with any normal College or College-sponsored events, including but not limited to studying, teaching, research, sponsored social programs, or chapel services, and College administrative, fire, police, or emergency services.
- l. Violating Other College Policies:** Any violation of other College regulations or policies published in other College publications and those available at www.criswell.edu/college-polices/ and other College webpages.
- m. Non-compliance:** Failure to comply with reasonable directives of College officials, including students appointed to act as representatives of the College, acting in performance of their duties. Directives to

provide identification and/or participate in a College student conduct process are included in the scope of this provision.

- n. **Sanction Violation:** Violating the terms of any student conduct sanction as imposed in accordance with student conduct procedures, including the failure to complete sanctions by the stated deadline.
- o. **Gambling:** Participation in any form of gambling.
- p. **Violation of Law:** Violation of local, state, or federal laws, regulations, or ordinances.
- q. **Sexual Misconduct**
 - Sexual Relationships: Sexual acts of any kind outside the confines of marriage are inconsistent with the teachings and moral values of the Bible and are prohibited. The College affirms that sexual relationships are designed by God to be expressed solely within a marriage between husband and wife.
 - Sexual Offenses: Sexual Offenses are prohibited in all forms. "Sexual Offense" is a broad term encompassing a range of behaviors including, but not limited to: sexual assault; sexual harassment; dating violence; domestic violence; stalking; indecent exposure; sexual exhibitionism; use of communication systems to send unwanted sexual material and messages; prostitution or the solicitation or employment of a prostitute; peeping or other voyeurism; allowing others to view consensual sexual activity; the non-consensual video or audio recording of sexual activity; or any conduct prohibited by applicable law.
 - Sexual violence, which includes but is not limited to:
 - Rape
 - Sexual assault or battery
 - Sexual coercion
 - Unwanted touching
 - Dating violence
 - Stalking
 - Sexual Harassment means unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when either:
 - Unwelcome sexual advances, innuendos or requests for sexual favors, or other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature are made a condition of an individual's employment, their status in a College course, program or activity, or contractual relationship with the College; or
 - Submission to or rejection of such conduct are made the basis for decisions affecting an individual's employment, their status in a College course, program or activity, or contractual relationship with the College; or
 - Creating an intimidating, humiliating, hostile, or sexually offensive working, academic, residential, or social environment under both an objective (a reasonable person's view) and subjective (the complainant's view) standard.
 - Dating Violence means violence, threats, or intimidation committed by another person who is or has been in a social relationship of a romantic or intimate nature with the victim, and where the existence of such a relationship shall be determined based on a consideration of the following factors: a) the length of the relationship, b) the type of relationship, or c) the frequency of interaction between the persons involved in the relationship.

- Domestic Violence means violence, threats, or intimidation committed by a current or former spouse of the victim, by a person with whom the victim shares a child in common, by a person who is cohabitating with or has cohabitated with the victim as a spouse, by a person similarly situated to a spouse of the victim (including past or present marriage, domestic partnership, romantic, dating, or sexual relationship), by a former spouse or similarly situated person against a victim who is in a subsequent relationship with a former spouse or similarly situated person, or by any other person against a victim who is protected from that person's acts. Stalking means purposely engaging in a course of conduct directed at a specific individual that would cause a reasonable individual to fear for his or her safety or the safety of another person, feel seriously alarmed, disturbed or frightened, or suffer emotional distress.
- Sexual relations with non-humans

A student can face significant disciplinary sanctions, including expulsion, as well as criminal prosecution or other legal action, for committing a sexual offense.

- r. **Sexual/gender identity:** The College's position on sexual identity is derived from Biblical values as expressed in the College's Articles of Faith, particularly Article XVIII on the family, and in the College's Gender and Marriage policy. The College is aware of the complexities related to issues of sexual identity and laments the insensitive treatment that students working through such issues might have received from the Christian community. The College is committed to addressing these issues with compassion, discretion, and confidentiality as it helps students in their development toward Christian maturity.

Temptation toward sin should never be construed as sin. Christ Himself was tempted in all things, yet without sin (Hebrews 4:15). It is when students act on those promptings in a way that violates the College's values regarding sexuality that a disciplinary process is initiated. While the disciplinary process might, although does not necessarily, involve suspension or dismissal, it seeks above all to be redemptive in the lives of those involved. Prohibited behavior includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:

- Denying or rejecting one's God-given biological sex by identifying as, dressing as, and/or acting in ways other than according to one's biological sex at birth.
- Homosexual relations

- s. **Solicitation:** Unauthorized solicitation, sale, or promotion of any goods or services in College-owned or operated property, including residence halls, or at College-sponsored events.
- t. **Complicity:** Being present or otherwise involved in such a way as to condone, support, or encourage any acts which would violate this Student Conduct Policy. Students who observe acts in violation of this Policy are expected to remove themselves and are encouraged to report the matter.
- u. **Inappropriate dating, living, or displays of affection:** Including, but not limited to, the following:
- Single students dating married persons.
 - Married students dating anyone other than their spouse.
 - Cohabitation with members of the opposite sex.
 - Public affection deemed inappropriate for the context.

v. **Pornography:** Possession, display, or distribution of pornographic materials or images. Use of pornography for personal entertainment, including Internet and telephone services that provide pornographic images, sounds, or sensual conversation.

w. **Offensive Entertainment:** Entertainment played or displayed publicly on College premises or at College-sponsored activities that contain levels of violence, profanity, and sexual overtures that would be found offensive and/or in conflict with community standards.

6. Procedure:

a. **Implementation:** The Vice President of Student Affairs and Communications is responsible for creating and maintaining any necessary procedures for the implementation of this policy.

b. **Responsibility for Compliance:** Vice President of Student Affairs and Communications

c. **Notification:** This policy will be posted on the College’s website and a summary of the policy will be published in the College’s *Student Handbook*.

d. **Policy Review:** This policy will be regularly reviewed according to the College’s policy review procedure.

For the Office of the President only:

Policy version: 3.0	Policy number: 2.011
Related policies:	

Policy History

Version 1.0	Not Available
Version 2.0	August 13, 2018
Version 3.0	October 25, 2023