

PAU 2025 STUDENT HAND BOOK- Code of Conduct

Clause 5.1- 5.3 Category offences 2025 Pages 5-11

1.0 Scope

1.1 This policy applies to all students enrolled at the University.

1.2 The University may deal with misconduct under this policy if the person was a student at the time of the alleged misconduct and may proceed as if the person had continued to be a student, even if the person ceases to be a student before proceedings are instituted or finalized.

1.3 This policy applies to conduct **on and off campus**

1.4 In any case where a student is in a gathering or group of students and/or other persons and a member of the group engages in activities that constitute misconduct, the student is taken to have engaged in misconduct if they did not take all reasonable steps to dissociate from the gathering or group as soon as practicable after they became aware of the misconduct.

2.0 Policy Objectives. The objectives of this policy are to:

2.1 **promote** the principle of **mutual respect** by informing students of behavior which the University considers appropriate, STUDENT HANDBOOK Page 6 Student Policy Matters

2.2 **discourage inappropriate** behavior which the University defines as misconduct, 2.3 provide a framework and procedurally fair practices for dealing with possible cases of misconduct, 2.4 provide for the imposition and enforcement of penalties for proven misconduct. 3.0 Policy Purpose

3.1 The policy sets out the **expectations** for student behavior at the University, and provides a framework for dealing with instances of alleged student misconduct.

3.2 All students are **expected** to behave in a way that: 3.2.1 is in harmony with the principles and practices of the Seventh-day Adventist Church;

3.2.2 adheres to the Pacific Adventist University Student Code of Conduct;

3.2.3 allows **reasonable freedom** to others to pursue their studies, research, duties, community engagement and other lawful University activities, and to participate in the life of the University;

3.2.4 recognizes the University objective of pursuit of **academic excellence** and that **academic standards** and proper procedures are essential in achieving that objective STUDENT HANDBOOK Page 7 Student Policy Matters

3.2.5 promotes the proper use of University facilities, information and the property of the University and of other persons and/or organizations on its campuses, and other sites at which it conducts its activities;

3.2.6 ensures that the reputation of the University is upheld; and

3.2.7 observes all local, provincial and national laws.

4.0 Minor Misconducts

4.1 Students may receive verbal warnings or a warning letter from University Staff for minor offenses that are not referred to the Student Discipline Committee.

4.2 Such offences may include (but are not limited to):

4.2.1 Refusal to comply with lawful and reasonable directions from university staff; 4.2.2 Meeting with members of the opposite sex in isolated or non-authorized areas (as per Student Code of Conduct 4.6.6)

4.2.3 Being negligent in attendance of residence hall workshops (for indoor students), or classes;

4.2.4 Violations of the University's dress code;

4.2.5 Failure to complete Work Education program (Work-line and Community Service) requirements

The University has – for purposes of clarity and consistency – divided breaches of student code of conduct into three categories as outlined below:

5.1 Category One Offences

Category One offenses are extremely serious in nature and would usually result in **expulsion** from the University. The following are examples of category one offenses. This is a representative though not an exhaustive list:

5.1.1 Any form of sexual assault including rape or attempted rape;

5.1.2 Possession of a gun;

5.1.3 Threatening violence with any weapon;

5.1.4 Violent physical assault (Assault with a weapon, assault causing serious injury that requires medical attention and/or hospitalization);

5.1.5 On- or off-campus use, possession, purchase, sale, manufacture or distribution of illegal drugs;

5.1.6 Inciting violence, a boycott, riot or intimidation of other students;

5.1.7 Engaging in any act of sorcery – including cult practices;

5.1.8 Any offence that is criminal in nature under PNG law.

5.2 Category Two Offences

Category Two offenses are very serious in nature and may result in **suspension** from the University for a specified period of time. Any re-enrolment after suspension must be approved by the Administrative Committee. The following are examples of Category Two offenses. This is a representative, though not an exhaustive list:

5.2.1 Physical Assault.

5.2.2 Supporting a boycott and/or the disruption of classes, including the distribution of notices with the intent of disrupting classes;

5.2.3 Any violation of biblical teachings on sexual morality as understood by the Seventh-day Adventist Church;

5.2.4 Harassment, intimidation, or bullying in any form, whether sexual, racial, religious, or physical; including defamation of character or slander;

5.2.5 The unauthorized presence in the dormitory or rooms of persons of the opposite sex.

5.2.6 Intentional or reckless damage to, or defacement of university property or the property of members of the University and community.

5.2.7 Tampering with TV or internet infrastructure, or power connections; hacking of computer hardware or software.

5.2.8 Disorderly, indecent, lewd, or obscene conduct or expression, including the possession and/or distribution of lewd pictures and/or other pornographic material.

5.2.9 Anti-social behavior including noise disturbances or other disruptive behavior.

- 5.2.10** Persistent refusal to adhere to the rules and regulations outlined in the Student Handbook.
- 5.2.11** Support and involvement in plans or actions that put the University in disrepute, unnecessary negative publicity or lawsuit.
- 5.2.12** Any action likely to cause injury, impair safety or raise false alarm on University premises (including but not limited to misuse or interference with fire and other safety equipment).
- 5.2.13** Acts of dishonesty, including theft, forgery; fraud, deceit or deception in relation to the University, its staff or students;
including the furnishing of false documentation, and the alteration or misuse of University documents, records, or ID cards;
- 5.2.14** Plagiarism and other forms of cheating as defined by the University's Academic Integrity Policy;
- 5.2.15** On- or off-campus use, possession, purchase, sale, manufacture or distribution of alcohol, tobacco, betel nut, (including associated paraphernalia); or the use of prescription drugs for non-medical purposes or by persons other than who they were prescribed for.

5.3 Category Three Offenses

Category Three offences are serious in nature. Repeated Category Three offenses may be treated as Category Two offenses with the resultant more serious penalties. The following are examples of Category Three offenses. This is a representative though not an exhaustive list:

- 5.3.1** Patronizing venues that are inconsistent with Seventh-day Adventist standards such as bars, night clubs, gambling places, or other venues;
- 5.3.2** Inappropriate displays of physical affection between couples (as per Student Code of Conduct 4.8.5);
- 5.3.3** Consistent absence from work commitments resulting in a high accumulation of deficit work hours;
- 5.3.4** Overnight absence from a dormitory without proper authorization;
- 5.3.5** Absence from campus without permission (not signing in and out);
- 5.3.6** Accommodation of non-boarding students in a dormitory room without permission;
- 5.3.7** Non boarding students sleeping in the dormitory rooms and eating in the dining hall;
- 5.3.8** Failure to treat other members of the University Community with respect in all forms of communication including personal contact, e-mail, written communication, and social intimidation.
- 5.3.9** Persistent violation of the Student Dress Code.

References -Associate Policies and Documents

- 12.1 Procedure for Dealing with Alleged Student Misconduct
- 12.2 Student Code of Conduct
- 12.3 Academic Bulletin
- 12.4 Academic Integrity Policy
- 12.5 Student Handbook