# **OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY**

# ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY MANUAL

2010



STUDENT SERVICES DIVISION

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**Document Title:** THE OAKWOOD WOMAN/MAN

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Oakwood University, a Seventh-day Adventist institution of higher education, is committed to providing quality education in the context of the Adventist faith. Modeled after the school of the prophets in the Bible, integrates faith and learning in a modern-day setting. It offers its students the opportunity to acquire knowledge, behaviors, skills, and wholesome attitudes. Such development will equip them to provide the highest service in this life, and in the life to come. The driving principles of Oakwood University are *Education, Excellence, and Eternity*.

#### THE OAKWOOD WOMAN/MAN

Oakwood University is committed to achieving a high level of spiritual development and academic excellence. Its teaching and practicing morals, values, and standards will result in a distinctive outcome—the *Oakwood Man* and the *Oakwood Woman*. Therefore, the students of Oakwood University are expected to exhibit high degrees of honor, integrity, and morality.

It is also expected that the Oakwood student will deal with others with compassion and sensitivity. In light of this, the University provides the context for the *Oakwood Man* and the *Oakwood Woman* to develop in their use of judgment, in personal maturation, and in their spiritual journey. Any student desiring counsel and/or additional information concerning the Code of Student Conduct may contact the Chaplain, Residence Hall Directors, or the Office of Vice President for Student Services. To help in the development of Christian morality and educational integrity, the following Code of Student Conduct describes the behavior and practices of Oakwood University students.

#### **Christian Dress**

"Fashion is a mistress that rules with an iron hand." "The love of display...kills the aspiration for a nobler life." "A person's character is judged by his [or her] style of dress. A refined taste, a cultivated mind will be revealed in the choice of simple and appropriate attire. Chaste simplicity of dress, when united with modesty of demeanor, will go far toward surrounding [young people] with that atmosphere of sacred reserve which will be...a shield from a thousand *perils*" (*Education*, *pp.* 246-248).

The principles of modesty, chastity, simplicity, propriety, good taste, neatness, comeliness, and consistent witness are core values that relate to Christian dress. Biblical guidelines for modesty do not depend on current fashion trends. Students who attend Oakwood University are viewed as representatives by all whom they encounter. Because opinions regarding appropriate dress for men and women may vary, Oakwood University reserves the right to determine what is/is not appropriate dress for its students. Therefore, the following attire will not be worn: Shorts, skorts/skirts, spaghetti straps, low cut (front or back) or strapless attire, bare midriff blouses/shirts, sheer or any tight clothing worn in a way that exposes undergarments or intimate body parts (back, chest, thighs, abdomen, etc.). Garments should be neither tight fitting nor extremely oversized. Evening wear attire must also follow these guidelines.

Splits on dresses or skirts may not extend above the level of the knee (front, side, or back). Skirts, shorts, and dresses must be no higher than one inch above the knee.

Shorts may not be worn when attending chapel, assemblies, special convocations, church, AYS, or other religious services, other than residence hall worships. Hats, caps, stocking caps, "do-rags", and any other headgear may not be worn by males when attending the aforementioned services.

Muscle shirts and similar attire may not be worn except in designated areas such as the campus weight room.

Acceptable swim attire for men is boxer style swimsuits; acceptable attire for women is modest, one-piece swimwear.

**Jewelry:** Oakwood University dress code standards prohibit the wearing of ornamental jewelry, such as necklaces, rings, nose rings, earrings (including string, metal, plastic, or wooden posts) and ankle, arm, or wrist bracelets. The wearing of Band-Aids to conceal the wearing of earrings is also unacceptable. With the exception of wedding bands, which may be worn by married students, no jewelry of any kind or material (silver, gold, metal, cloth, leather, etc.) may be worn at any time.

**Cosmetics:** Hairstyles and use of cosmetics should be tasteful and not extreme in color.

**Tattoos:** The display and advertisement of tattoos is unacceptable. Tattoos with vulgar language or sexually graphic pictures must be concealed at all times.

Students who continue to wear jewelry and/or dress inappropriately after being admonished by a residence hall director, faculty member, or other staff members face the following:

- 1. A letter of counsel and fine (\$50.00 minimal).
- 2. Social probation.
- 3. Referral to the Vice President of Student Services or his/her designee
- 4. Citizenship probation
- 5. Suspension

# **Decorum and Lifestyle**

The *Oakwood Man* and the *Oakwood Woman* must be conscious of and sensitive to Christian values that pertain to human relationships namely; politeness, courtesy, patience, respect, pleasantness, kindness, collaboration, cooperation, and morality. Therefore, students will:

- Not engage in inappropriate displays of affection or public/private intimate or sexual exchanges.
- Wear or carry their I.D. cards while on campus and be prepared to produce the badge whenever requested to do so by any official or representative of the University.
- Not initiate or participate in water fights (or snow fights) outside of controlled situations under the direct supervision of a University Official. Neither will they engage in the practice of throwing food in the University cafeteria.
- Manifest compliance with Christian standards when decorating their rooms with wall posters and artistic hangings.

- Be very careful not to commit any act of vandalism, remove, damage, or deface University property or equipment whether intentionally or by negligence.
- Maintain a reasonable standard of cleanliness and orderliness in their rooms.
- Refrain from playing music or watching video(s), which include TV, and Internet programs that do not reflect the standards and Christian values of the institution.

**Pets:** No pets of any kind are permitted on campus except where required by law or with special permission.

**Marriage:** A decision to marry is one of the most important in life. Therefore, all students contemplating getting married during their University experience are encouraged to seek counsel and to participate in premarital counseling. Students are not encouraged to get married during the already busy school term. Those students desiring an exception to this position should first counsel with the Vice President for Student Services.

**Health:** All students are encouraged to maintain a healthy lifestyle through proper diet, exercise, and use of water, outdoor activities, the balance of work and study, and other healthful practices.

**Diet:** A vegetarian lifestyle is encouraged at Oakwood University. Therefore, flesh or meat products or any unhealthy foodstuff (i.e., products with caffeine, etc.) in any form will not be served on campus or at any University-related events or activities. All students residing in University housing are required to participate in the ten (10), fourteen (14), or nineteen (19) meal plan.

# **Devotion and Spiritual Life**

Devotion and worship are the backbone of the Christian experience. For this reason, the *Oakwood Man* and the *Oakwood Woman* are encouraged to maintain regular prayer and Bible study habits; to engage in service to others; to give of their time, treasure, and talents to the cause of God among others; to attend regular religious gatherings; and to freely share their faith. For this reason, among others:

All registered students must attend weekly chapels and assemblies. Students living on campus will also attend worship services conducted within their residence hall. In addition, all Oakwood men and women are encouraged to attend the mid-week prayer service.

**Sabbath:** The seventh-day Sabbath will be regarded with reverence as the sign of God's creative and redeeming power. From sunset Friday to sunset Saturday, students should view these sacred hours as a special time for worship, Bible study, meditation, prayer, and true missionary endeavor. Even their dress will give evidence of their commitment to please and honor their Lord, and all gatherings will be appropriate and spiritually uplifting. Attendance at Sabbath school, divine worship, and vesper services will be regular and punctual. Purchasing or selling food on campus during Sabbath hours is prohibited.

#### **Recreation and Entertainment**

"Whatever is true... noble... right... pure... lovely... admirable... excellent... [and] praiseworthy... think about... [and] practice. And the God of peace will be with you." (Philippians 4:8-9, NIV) Students are urged to guard the avenues of their mind. Knowing this, the *Oakwood Man* and *Oakwood Woman* will:

- 1. Refrain from viewing motion picture films, videos, television, internet and computer programs, or listening to music that promotes violence, nudity, sexually explicit language or behavior, vulgarity or ideas and behavior not in keeping with Christian principles and values.
- 2. As a part of their organizational responsibilities, clear all films to be shown on campus and all University-sponsored programs/activities through the Office of Student Activities.
- 3. Be careful not to allow their personal recreational or entertainment pursuits to intrude upon the peace of others or be considered disruptive in any way.

#### CODE OF STUDENT CONDUCT

Regulations of Oakwood University are formulated to meet changing student needs within the framework of University policy. These regulations become effective when the student enrolls. Some regulations may not be agreeable to everyone because they have been formulated to meet the needs of the entire group. This, however, does not lessen the individual's obligation to uphold them and thus, by enrolling at Oakwood University, all students pledge themselves to abide by this code of conduct.

Any action that prevents Oakwood University from fulfilling its purpose, as a Seventh-day Adventist educational institution cannot be condoned. Disruptive conduct or unethical behavior, should it occur, must of necessity be terminated by whatever action may be required, including the possible suspension of students involved in such activity. Oakwood University reserves the right to dismiss at any time, any student who, in its judgment, behaves in an undesirable manner and whose continuation in school is detrimental to himself/herself or to fellow students.

Students are subject to such disciplinary action as the administration of the University may consider appropriate, including possible suspension, expulsion, or dismissal for violating federal, state or local laws, or University regulations. This principle extends to conduct off-campus that is likely to have adverse effects on the University or on the educational process or which stamps the offender as an unfit associate for other students.

Any violation of campus regulations, which is also an infraction of federal, state or local laws will be reported to the appropriate authorities for whatever action is deemed appropriate.

Students, when on campus or attending official University functions off-campus, are required to obey all rules and regulations published in this and other University publications.

All *Oakwood Men* and *Oakwood Women* are depended on to conduct themselves in a manner that is true to the high standards of Oakwood University and the beliefs and traditions of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Consequences or discipline will be administered for behavior that is not in compliance with the Code of Student Conduct, hazardous to the health, safety, or well being of members of the University community, incompatible with the biblical standard of morality as interpreted by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, or detrimental to the University's interests.

While all consequences or discipline will be redemptive in nature, dismissal or suspension from the University (or lesser action) may result from the commission of any of the following offenses or violations occurring on or off campus:

- 1. Possession, distribution, or use of firearms, ammunition, explosives, fireworks, incendiary devices, knives, or any other instruments capable of inflicting bodily injury upon oneself or others. Replicas and/or facsimiles of these things are also prohibited.
- 2. Personal involvement or assisting other persons in the forgery, theft, alteration, destruction, vandalism, or misuse of University documents, records, or properties; embezzlement; defrauding, procuring any money, goods, or services under false pretenses; misappropriation, or the unauthorized taking of another's property, including the property of the University; possessing, purchasing or receiving property, money, or services knowing them to have been stolen or embezzled; duplicating keys, and using computer and telephone access codes and other devices without proper authorization.

- 3. Possession of drug paraphernalia and/or use of marijuana, tobacco, hallucinogenic drugs, alcohol and narcotics or dishonestly acquired or misused prescription drugs or stimulants. Any student found abusing drugs or using alcohol on the Campus of Oakwood University will be tested, if the results are positive, the student will be responsible for the testing, if the results are negative the school will absorb the cost of testing.
- 4. Violation of the biblical teaching regarding sexual morality under any circumstances; sexual abuse, date/acquaintance rape, or any form of sexual harassment.
- 5. Entering the room of a person of the opposite sex, and/or accommodating persons of the opposite sex in student housing without the permission of the residence director(s) or assistant(s). Attendance at a hotel, motel or any other off campus housing without official approval, or under questionable circumstances, or with someone of the opposite sex other than a direct blood related family member.
- 6. Physical abuse, violence, assault and battery to others or oneself. The commission or threatened commission of physical abuse or violence with respect to a University person anywhere, or with respect to a non-University person on University property, or at any activity sponsored by the University. A threat shall be understood to mean any act, gesture, or words directed toward any person communicating intent to commit bodily harm.
- 7. Unlawful entry, misuse of University keys, unauthorized use, possession, duplication, and/or distribution of one or more keys to any University building or structure or any part thereof.
- 8. Conduct which is disorderly or which breaches the peace, fighting or engaging in violent behavior, making unreasonable noise, obstructing vehicular or pedestrian traffic, or disturbing normal University operations.
- 9. Being continuously delinquent in attendance at required services and school appointments and/or making no serious effort to meet the scholastic and/or citizenship requirements of the University.
- 10. Insubordination; willful and obvious disrespect of and failure to comply with a directive of an official of the University or duly authorized agent, or intentionally creating public disorder, and/or inciting other students to disregard University policies and regulations.
- 11. Absence from the residence hall overnight or a major portion of a night (AWOL) without the permission of the residence director(s) or assistant(s).
- 12. Obstruction of or disruption of teaching, research, and administrative and/or disciplinary procedures or services.
- 13. Spreading ideas/acts that undermine the University's religious teachings and ideals.
- 14. Harassment of a person through direct physical contact, or using language which is abusive or obscene, with the intent to harass, annoy, or alarm. This includes making threatening or obscene phone calls and computer or electronic communications. (See the University policy on sexual harassment).
- 15. Membership and/or participation in activities of unsanctioned organizations as defined by the University (fraternities, sororities, etc.) is strictly prohibited.

- 16. Participation in any form of hazing (e.g., fraternities/sororities) which is defined as any action taken, any requirement or coercive expectation imposed, or any situation created by a campus organization or social club, its members, or persons associated with it, with respect to prospective, trial, or new members which is hazardous, insulting, humiliating, abusive, unlawful, and contrary to Christian principles, and which could reasonably be expected to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, pain or injury. It shall not matter whether such practices were mandatory or voluntarily entered into by any of the student organization members in question, including new and initiated members. (All campus-related clubs and organizations must be approved by the Office of Student Activities).
- 17. The actual or purported affiliation with any local or national gang, and the start-up or recruitment of others for gang membership is strictly prohibited. Also prohibited is the wearing of gang insignias, paraphernalia, colors, and gang related clothing; the throwing of signs; organizing, promoting, and participating in gang initiations; the establishment of 'turf'; and any other gang related activity.
- 18. Conduct that violates federal, state, or local statutes shall be a violation of this code, whether or not that violation is prosecuted by public officials.
- 19. All forms of dishonesty—academic (for information on academic dishonesty, refer to the Oakwood University Bulletin or call the Office of Academic Affairs) or otherwise, including cheating, plagiarism, fabrication, academic misconduct (see pg. 20 of the Student Handbook), alteration or misuse of identification cards, writing worthless checks, knowingly furnishing false information to the institution or one of its officers, or the withholding of necessary information, in connection with a student's admission, enrollment, or status in the University. (This includes the use of technological or electronic devices to accomplish these means.)
- 20. Fire mischief, including tampering with fire safety equipment; namely, fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, fire exit doors, and fire alarms.
- 21. Misuse of University student identification cards or lending a University ID card to anyone for reasons not authorized by the University. Failing to present a student ID card when requested by a University official, or possessing or using a fraudulent ID card.
- 22. Persistent refusal to adhere to the University standard of dress, including the wearing of jewelry.
- 23. Failure to evacuate University facilities when ordered to do so by any official of the University and/or willfully disregarding any emergency or fire alarm signal.
- 24. Going to questionable places of amusement and entertainment; gambling in any form; and attendance at nightclubs, dances, bars, and taverns.
- 25. Misuse of telephones, computers and/or other communication technology that includes, but is not limited to retrieving information that contains directions on the making of explosives, profanity, pornography, activities related to the promotion of or solicitation of funds for personal profit or other activities unrelated to the provision of an undergraduate education. In a nutshell, usage should be businesslike and appropriate to the University's mission.
- 26. Posting and/or submitting information or photographic images on the internet that may be considered contrary to the philosophy of the Institution and/or the SDA Church.

27. Persistent refusal to adhere to The Residential Life Guide, Student Handbook, Code of Student Conduct, or any other published policies or guidelines.

Oakwood University reserves the right to modify the Code of Student Conduct detailed above when deemed appropriate. Further, all regulations, amendments, and addenda announced in University assemblies and/or residence halls have the same authority and significance as those printed in University publications.

The following points restate and summarize Oakwood University's position on the wrongful utilization of goods, services, or information:

Stealing from and/or possessing without authorization, any property or services from another person, group of people, or the University.

Embezzling, defrauding, or procuring any money, goods, or services under false pretenses.

Possessing, purchasing, or receiving property, money, or services knowing them to have been stolen or embezzled.

Issuing a check on campus knowing that it will not be honored when presented for payment.

Duplicating keys, computer access codes and other material including music, video, etc., and the use of any University equipment/property without proper authorization.

The unauthorized downloading/duplication of copyrighted material.

Forging, altering, or causing any false information to be entered on an administrative record or presented at an administrative proceeding.

Unauthorized use of long distance caller identity codes.

Unauthorized use of the computer system, computer access codes, and restricted areas of computer services.

The utilization of social networks (i.e. Facebook, MySpace, Juicy Campus, etc.) to post derogatory and defamatory information.

Academic misconduct includes, but is not limited to, such behavior as breaking into an office to steal answers to a test, using cell phones or PDAs to cheat, personal and/or group cheating. (All electronic devices must be turned off and may not be used during exams or tests except upon approval of the instructor and/or as outlined in the class syllabus.)

**Document Title:** PHILOSOPHY OF REDEMPTIVE DISCIPLINE

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Redemptive discipline is the mindset and method by which Oakwood University consistently upholds and enforces its values and standards. It is a special and inclusive emphasis given to the regular judiciary process. It endeavors to more specifically awaken the moral and spiritual sensitivities of the student relative to the infractions committed. It is firm and deliberate, while simultaneously student-centered and compassionate. It intends to convey to the student that the infraction does not end his/her relationship with God and/or the school. By deliberately emphasizing redemptive discipline, the school models God's attitude toward wrongdoing, His forgiveness, restoration, and desire for character building.

Individuals assume certain responsibilities for upholding and maintaining the standards and expectations of the community to which they belong. "Oakwood University is a Seventh-day Adventist University where it is our purpose to provide higher education in a distinctive Christian environment, to apply church standards to behavior, morals, and modesty in dress. Acceptance of admission to Oakwood University is therefore a voluntary commitment to uphold Oakwood University standards." Therefore, Oakwood University expects students to comply with civil laws, God's laws, and with University regulations. Student conduct that violates these laws and regulations will result in University disciplinary action.

The judicial process is based on the assumption that disciplinary procedures, when required, should be an educational and redemptive process. Disciplinary sanctions are imposed to help students develop individual responsibility and encourage self-discipline, to remind students of the spiritual implications of their behavior, to foster a respect for the rights of others, and to protect the rights, freedoms and safety of members of the campus community.

The purposes of the judicial process are to provide a redemptive, fair educational process for accountability of student conduct; to promote the development of individual integrity; to protect the rights of members of the University community; and to uphold the nonacademic rules and regulations of the University.

Disciplinary proceedings conducted pursuant to the Code of Student Conduct shall be informal, fair, and expeditious under the circumstances. It should be noted that they are not formal legal proceedings and that general rules of civil or criminal proceedings do not apply. In these proceedings, formal rules of evidence or procedure shall not be applicable. By providing this redemptive disciplinary process, Oakwood University is not offering or agreeing to provide students charged with misconduct "due process" as that term is used in legal proceedings. **The University reserves the right (through the Office of the Vice President for Student Services) to modify and/or deviate from these procedures when circumstances warrant.** Deviations from proscribed procedures shall not invalidate a proceeding or decision, unless that decision was materially influenced by the deviation. Further, the University will proceed with its review of infractions regardless of external or criminal proceedings.

# **Incident Report**

An incident report is a written narrative that details a particular complaint, concern, personal account of an incident, or witness report. An incident report should be submitted when a member of the University community has suffered a wrong or an infraction of University rules or principles is committed. The report of that incident should be prepared by the individuals involved and by those who witnessed it. It is to be submitted within one workday of the incident to the Residence Hall Office (campus residents) or to Public Safety.

When warranted by the severity of an infraction or the frequency and nature of infractions, the matter shall be referred to the Office of Student Services for a hearing before the Judicial Council. Serious and/or repeated violations of the Code of Student Conduct that may subject offenders to suspension, expulsion, or dismissal are heard by this Council. The Office of Student Services reserves the right to initiate an inquiry into any matter pertaining to student life and campus security and to refer the matter to the Judicial Council when appropriate. The Council will thoroughly review the incident to determine the degree of culpability and the continuing needs of the student, and then determine the appropriate sanction. The decision of the Council will be communicated to the Assistant Vice President for Student Services who is responsible for informing the University administration and the student.

Prior to the convening of the Judicial Council to hear a particular case, and depending upon the nature of the incident, the University reserves the right to suspend a student until the Judicial Council has completed its deliberations and made a decision. While the decision is pending, the offending student(s) will be barred from all academic, social, and intramural events and may not participate in public programs or performances on or off campus. They will also be ineligible for campus leaves.

#### **Judicial Council**

The Judicial Council is the adjudicating body drawn from faculty, staff, and students to interview, evaluate, and decide the degree of culpability for a reported incident. The terms of service are staggered for purposes of continuity, and it functions under the supervision of the Assistant Vice President for Student Services, who is a non-voting member.

Hearings should be scheduled within two workdays of receipt of the incident report by the Office of Student Services and conducted within a calendar week. The offending student(s) must appear in person to discuss their behavior. They may come with witnesses or any other members of the University community who can help clarify the truth of the matter and/or help the student(s) to articulate their need(s). The Judiciary Council will hear and/or act on a case even if the student fails or refuses to appear. No attorneys are permitted to attend the proceedings of the Judicial Council. The Council has the right to control the proceedings and the presentation of the case.

The Council will evaluate the information, decide what action is to be taken, and communicate its decision/s to the Assistant Vice- President for Student Services. The Assistant Vice President will communicate the decision to the Vice President for Student Services, to the Residence Hall Director, and to the appropriate student(s).

**Document Title: DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS** 

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#### **OVERVIEW**

Sanctions for violating University regulations could include: written reprimands, probation, fines, suspension, expulsion, and dismissal. The following sanctions are adopted by Oakwood University with the intent to provide flexibility to the disciplinary process (so that those responsible for student conduct can consider the nature of the violation, the circumstances under which it was committed, and the culpability of the offender, and then choose the appropriate penalty from a range of possibilities). Oakwood University reserves the right to amend, change, and/or determine what sanctions are to be imposed.

# Sanctions may include the following:

- 1. Disciplinary Warning: An official written notification that a student's behavior is in violation of University regulations or standards, and which will clarify expected behavior in the future (for example: a letter of counsel). Further misconduct will be treated with more serious sanctions.
- 2. Disciplinary Probation (Citizenship Probation): Probation for a specified period, implying that the student's standing within the University is in jeopardy and that further negligent or willful violations will normally result in suspension or expulsion.
- 3. Suspension from Residence Halls: Prohibits the student from residing in any University-operated residence hall on either a temporary or permanent basis. The student may reapply for housing after the stated period of suspension. Specific restrictions on access to residence hall during the period of the suspension may also be invoked. Suspension includes forfeiture of any fee rebate for the remainder of the semester.
- 4. Suspension from the University: Separates the student from the University for a specified period of time. Such separation prohibits attendance at any classes, social events or other functions, or visiting University grounds or buildings unless by written permission. Reapplication is not required following a one (1) semester suspension. Suspension will be noted on the student's permanent record (transcript).
- 5. Community Service: When deemed appropriate, the University may also require the performance of a specified number of community service hours. This sanction will be fulfilled whether on or off campus.
- 6. Educational Sanctions: When deemed appropriate, the University may also require the performance of a variety of educational sanctions. These may include a formal apology (in writing and/or in person) or a public presentation or research paper on a designated topic.

- 7. Restitution: When deemed appropriate, the University may require restitution for damages done or other payment for expenses incurred as a result of the student's actions. Restitution may be required to the University, a specific department, or a specific individual, as designated by the University.
- 8. Fines: When deemed appropriate, the University may levy fines payable to the University for selected policy violations.
- 9. Expulsion: Separates the student from the University indefinitely. An individual wishing to resume studies after having been expelled must reapply for admission to the University. Expulsion will be noted on the student's permanent record (transcript).
- 10. Dismissal: An individual who has been dismissed is ineligible for readmission. Dismissal will be noted on the student's permanent record (transcript).
- 11. Repeat Violations: In the case of repeated violations or violation in deliberate disregard of a specific warning, a student will be subject to more serious sanctions than would otherwise be the case. A prior disciplinary record is never relevant in determining the facts of an incident, but once the facts have been established, it may be relevant in determining the appropriate sanction.
- 12. Sanctions Related to Group Behavior: The University may recommend that a University-based group be required to make restitution of damages or pay additional fines. In addition, the University may recommend the imposition of one of the following sanctions:
  - A. A written disciplinary warning with a copy maintained in the Office of Student Services. The warning should specify corrective measures that can help the group avoid similar complaints in the future.
  - B. Disciplinary probation for a period to be established by the University, implying that the group's standing within the University is in jeopardy and that further negligent or willful violations will normally result in withdrawal of University recognition. Disciplinary probation may include restrictions on the group's functions during the probationary period. The group should also be informed of corrective measures that must be undertaken during the probationary period and maintained after its conclusion.
  - C. Withdrawal of University recognition and suspension of privileges, including the privilege of access to the resources of the University. A group desiring to reestablish a relationship with the University must reapply through the Office of Student Activities for recognition by the University.

# **Residence Hall Level Discipline**

The following sanctions may be adjudicated by the Director of Residential Life, Residential Life Coordinators (Deans), or by the Residence Hall Courts (at the discretion of the Residence Hall Staff). Students wishing to know the details of the Residence Hall Courts should consult residence halls' manuals and house rules.

- 1. Warning: Notice, in writing, that the student is violating or has violated institutional rules and that continuation or repetition of similar misconduct, within a prescribed period of time, may be cause for further disciplinary action and more severe sanctions.
- 2. Restitution or Reimbursement: Reimbursement for damage to or misappropriation of property or for personal injury costs.
- 3. Fine: Monetary penalty appropriate to the severity of the offense.
- 4. Mandatory Community Work: Assigned campus and/or community service appropriate to the offense.
- 5. Mandatory workshop for alcohol or drug-related misconduct.
- 6. Personal counseling referral.
- 7. Restriction or Revocation of Privileges: Restriction or revocation of certain student privileges for a specified period of time.
- 8. Residence Hall Social Probation: Warning that further violations of residence hall guidelines will result in further disciplinary action.
- 9. Disciplinary Probation (Citizenship Probation): Warning that further violation of specified regulations within the probationary period are likely to result in more severe disciplinary sanctions being adjudicated by a higher level of administration.

#### The stipulations for probation include, but are not limited to, some or all of the following:

- 1. Suspension of all leaves: weekend, late, extended and standing late leave, except in an emergency and/or with the approval of the residence hall director.
- 2. Be present in the residence hall every night at curfew.
- 3. Attend all mandatory worship/chapel services.
- 4. Ineligible to participate in intramural athletic activities or any public performance.
- 5. Loss of all student leadership positions, including USM and religious organizations.
- 6. Pastoral and/or personal counseling.
- 7. Ineligible to live off campus.

**Document Title:** STUDENTS' RIGHT TO APPEAL

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Students have the right to appeal. However, there are certain conditions that must be met:

- 1. **Grounds for Appeal:** An appeal will be considered valid only if it meets one of the following criteria:
  - A. Information is available which was not available at the time of the decision, but which would have affected the decision.
  - B. The case was initiated or conducted according to improper procedure and the decision was materially influenced as a result of the improper procedure.
  - C. The decision embodies a sanction that is inconsistent with the nature of the offense. ("Inconsistent" in this sense should be interpreted to mean the degree of severity of the sanction is not reasonable in light of the offense.)
  - D. The facts were not sufficient to justify the findings.
- 2. **Limitations on Appeals of Sanctions:** Appeals of sanctions and related specific restrictions/conditions, imposed at any given level of authority, are as follows:
  - A. Probation, Social Restriction, Monetary Fines, Community Service Work and residence hall suspensions may be appealed one administrative level in the system removed from the authority imposing the sanction. (i.e., if the sanction begins with an Assistant Residential Life Coordinator, it can be appealed to the Residential Life Coordinator, and so on to the Director of Residential Life, and then to the Assistant Vice President for Student Services, and the Vice President for Student Services.)
  - B. Suspensions, Expulsions and/or Dismissals may be appealed to the University President.
- 3. **Procedure:** The typewritten appeal shall be submitted within 24 hours after notification (written or oral) of a decision has been received by the student(s). The appeal should be addressed to the appropriate University official/authority with a copy to the University official/authority that rendered the decision that is being appealed. The appeal should clearly delineate:
  - A. The specific charges
  - B. The action or decision reached by the lower authority.
  - C. The ground(s) and rationale upon which the appeal is based.

All relevant materials pertaining to the case will be forwarded to the appropriate office within 48 hours after the appeal is filed. It is the responsibility of the authority from which the appeal is being made to provide the necessary information to the appellate authority.

- 4. **Responsibility of the Appellate Authority:** The appellate authority will normally render a decision on the appeal within 72 hours \*after it is received. The decision may be to:
  - A. Reject the Appeal a decision to reject an appeal should be based on and is indicated by a finding of no procedural and/or substantive discrepancies in the action(s) and/or decision(s) of the lower authority. This action implies agreement with the lower hearing authority.
  - B. Uphold the Appeal a decision to uphold an appeal should be based on and is indicated by a finding of procedural or substantive discrepancies in the action(s) and/or decision(s) of the lower authority. This action implies disagreement with the lower hearing authority. If the appeal is upheld, the appellate authority may:
    - 1) Alter or modify the sanctions imposed by the lower authority. This action implies agreement with the findings and disagreement with the sanctions. Any changes to the sanctions should be within the specified parameters for the type of infraction involved; or
    - 2) Reverse the findings. This action implies disagreement with the findings and, consequently, the sanctions imposed by the lower authority. A review of the initial hearing is indicated and, depending on the circumstances, may be conducted by the appellate authority or ordered reheard by the lower authority.
  - C. Send it back to the original authority to conduct further proceedings on the matter or ask for a completely new hearing.

If it is determined that grounds for a valid appeal exist, the appellate authority will notify, in writing, all concerned parties of the action he/she is taking. If a new hearing is ordered, it should be scheduled as soon as possible. In these instances, the case will be presented in its entirety.

Students, who have been suspended/expelled/dismissed by the initial authority and choose to appeal the decision, may be required to leave campus or be subject to restrictions during the course of the appeal. In these cases, every effort will be made to expedite the appeal process. Further, the University reserves the right to deny re-admission to any student who has been sanctioned.

\*\* Note: Exceptions to the specified time limitations should be allowed when in conflict with weekends, holidays, and other times when administrative and academic offices are closed. In the absence of administrative officials, the 72 hours rule may be waived.

Document Title: RULES OF DEPARTURE Category: Disciplinary Policies

Number:

Effective Date: April 5, 1999

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [4/2010] [ ] [ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

Students who receive final notification of suspension, expulsion, or dismissal must turn in their ID cards and leave campus immediately (within 24 hours). Any hardship rendered by this time constraint for resident students should be discussed with their Residential Life Coordinator who will assist with any arrangements that must be made. Students who are suspended or expelled are restricted from all campus properties, functions, and events. Failure to abide by these rules will subject offender(s) to criminal trespass charges and subsequent arrest which will significantly increase their time of separation.

A student involved in activities requiring disciplinary separation will experience both financial and academic loss. According to the University Bulletin, "a student suspended for disciplinary reasons will not be allowed to make up class work assigned and done during his/her absence. Missed work will incur a grade of "F" and will be computed in the student's final grade". Further, students should consider the financial implications of their behavior since disciplinary actions have financial implications. The deadlines set for tuition refunds will be the same that will be used in determining what refund, if any, a sanctioned student will receive when being separated from the University.

**Document Title:** ATTENDANCE AT CHAPELS AND ASSEMBLIES

Category: Student Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 5, 1999

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [4/2010] [ ] [ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

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Chapels/General Assemblies are scheduled for Tuesday mornings and begin at 9:50 a.m. and end at 11:00 a.m. Students must have their ID cards scanned in between 9:40 am and 10:10 am and scanned out at the end of chapel/assembly to receive credit for attendance. All students taking more than six hours are required to attend weekly assemblies/chapels.

Assembly - Oakwood University is dedicated to providing a well-rounded educational and cultural experience. Throughout the academic year at the University assembly, distinguished guest speakers and artists address the student body with thought provoking lectures, dynamic performances, and inspirational challenges. The University assembly, held on Tuesday mornings at 9:50 am, alternates with the University chapel service. All undergraduate students with the exception of students enrolled in the LEAP Program are required to attend Chapel and Assembly programs.

Chapel -The mission and purpose of chapel is: (1) to reveal a clearer picture of God through the teaching of His Word and by presenting biblical truths in ways that reveal God's love for us; (2) to create a family worship experience that will bring together faculty, staff, and students for the purpose of promoting spiritual unity, prayer, praise, and support for our campus.

One unexcused absence is allowed each semester. All unexcused absences beyond the first absence will result in a \$25.00 fine per absence. Continued non-compliance could result in further discipline including denial of readmission. Non-compliance to the chapel/assembly requirement will become a part of the student's citizenship history and will effect recommendations and citizenship history requests from prospective employers, other educational institutions, and licensing agencies (State Bar, Medical Exams, etc) made to the Office of Student Services.

# **Chapel/General Assembly Exemptions:**

Exemptions to assembly/chapel requirements may be granted for students who show proof for one or more of the following criteria:

- 1. Students with dependent children in their immediate care (must present birth certificate).
- 2. Students with a baccalaureate or advanced degree.
- 3. Seniors in the final semester of a baccalaureate degree or students with at least 110 earned cumulative semester hours. \* Seniors who have fewer than 110 cum hours must come to the office of Student Services and present proof of graduation eligibility (i.e. graduation clearance form, registration form exceeding 16 semester hours, CLEP exam results, etc.).

- 4. Community students taking six or fewer hours.
- 5. Students who are employed or fulfilling a practicum/ internship during chapel hours must present typed-written documentation on letterhead from their places of employment and/or academic departments signed by their immediate supervisors or professors. This documentation must be turned into the Office of Student Services no later than one week after the starting date of employment or practicum/internship.
- 6. Students who miss an occasional chapel (i.e., class trips, sickness, death in the family, etc.) must submit their excuses in writing to the Office of Student Services before the next chapel service after the absence has occurred.

Students who fail to submit proof of a valid exemption before a fine is posted must pay the fine. However, noncompliance discipline will be waived. To avoid the cash fine, it is imperative that requests for exemption from chapel/assembly be submitted the first week of classes. Failure to meet the exemption criteria above will automatically result in an unexcused absence(s) and fine(s) being applied to the students Chapel/General Assembly attendance file.

Fines for Chapel/General Assembly noncompliance will be posted at the end of each semester. All students are encouraged to periodically check their Chapel/General Assembly records in the office of Student Services. It is the responsibility of the student to submit all excuses.

All students will be held accountable for information disseminated at assemblies/chapels whether they are required to attend or exempt. It is the sole responsibility of the student to get all information that is relevant to his/her matriculation at Oakwood University.

**Document Title:** CITIZENSHIP REVIEW

Category: Student Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 5, 1999

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [4/2010] [ ] [ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

As a private institution, Oakwood University reserves the right to deny admission and/or continuance to individuals who have clearly demonstrated that their continued enrollment would not be in their best interest or that of the University.

At the end of each semester, the Office of Student Services reserves the right to review the citizenship records of students who have demonstrated a pattern of irresponsibility in meeting University guidelines and who have manifested a spirit of unwillingness to comply with such guidelines. The purpose of the review is to determine the eligibility of those students for readmission or continuance. The review process begins when the residence hall directors review the citizenship records of all residence hall occupants. That review will identify students whose records indicate non-compliance. The Residential Life Coordinator will then meet with the student to discuss his/her non-compliance and advise him/her that his/her continuance at Oakwood University is in jeopardy. The Residential Life Coordinator will discuss his/her recommendation with the student, give the student a copy of the recommendation, and will forward a copy of that recommendation to the Office of Student Services. Off-campus students' citizenship records will be reviewed by the Assistant Vice President or designee who will work in collaboration with the Office of Student Services. (It should be noted that this process is in compliance with provision number 27 of the Code of Conduct.)

**Document Title:** STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Category: Student Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 5, 1999

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [4/2010] [ ] [ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

Oakwood University strives to provide all students with reasonable access to its facilities and programs in accordance with applicable federal laws, including the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. Students with special academic needs as diagnosed by qualified specialists are serviced within the Center for Academic Success. This is located on the lower level of Cunningham Hall on the west side of the building.

If your special needs include issues of accessibility or needs for special living accommodations please contact the Department of Health and Counseling Services for assistance. If the perceived barriers to accessibility have not been adequately addressed then please contact the Office of Student Services. If you wish, you may submit a formal request or complaint with the Assistant Vice President for Student Services. At that point, the request will be governed by a procedure similar to the one outlined in the harassment policy.

**Document Title:** STUDENT HEALTH RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Category: Student Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 19, 2010

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [ ][ ][ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

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- Students have a right to considerate and compassionate care that safeguards their personal dignity and respects their values and preferences.
- Students are provided reasonable privacy, including protection from access to their confidential
  information by faculty, staff and non-health (PERSONNEL) unless necessary for the provision of
  medical services, or for insurance billing purposes. Other instances for access to confidential
  information will be based on issues related to the imminent danger of the student or others in which
  confidentially is no longer a factor. Additionally, court subpoenaed documents are outside of
  jurisdiction of confidentiality. All other medical releases of information require the written consent of
  the student.
- Student(S) have the right to medical and mental health services, however, The Department of Health and Counseling services reserves the right to deny services to any student whose conduct is threatening or poses (A) danger to others. Additionally, Oakwood University is not liable for students who pose a risk to (THEIR) own physical and mental well-being by non-compliance with treatment recommendations.
- Furthermore, students who are diagnosed with communicable diseases must comply with recommendations made by the Department of Health and Counseling Services or its designee for the safety and well-being of the Oakwood community. Noncompliance with recommendations geared to minimize the spread of communicable diseases could result in termination of the student from Oakwood University. Additionally, if the communicable disease is not able to be affectively restrained due to the nature of the disease or due to residential living environments, a student may be asked to withdraw from Oakwood University until the student is no longer a risk to others as deemed by Health Services personnel and the Office of Student Services.
- Students are responsible to provide to the Health Services office complete and full information on their health status and to cooperate in treatment planning and follow-up.
- Students have the responsibility to assume financial obligations for services received.
- Students have the right to access care and treatment.
- Students have the right to know and identify health care professionals providing care.
- Students have the right to refuse care and take personal responsibility for treatment.

**Document Title:** MEDICAL INSURANCE

Category: Student Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 19, 2010

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [ ][ ][ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

All students are required to have sickness and accident insurance coverage, personal or acquired through the University. The cost for insurance, acquired and/or assigned through the University, is divided into two equal premiums charged fall and spring semesters for coverage from August to August. Students must complete an insurance waiver form in order to avoid incurring costs for the University insurance plan. Students who fail to complete the wavier form each semester and who fail to show proof of private insurance while enrolled at Oakwood will be automatically charged for school accident and illness health insurance. Deadlines for completing the waiver forms are listed on the school calendar each semester. Once the deadline is past, insurance billing charges will not be reversed. All international students will be assigned and charged for the International Students Insurance plan provided by the University, regardless of personal coverage.

**Document Title:** MEDICAL HOUSING REQUESTS

Category: Student Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 19, 2010

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [ ][ ][ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

Each Residence Hall office is responsible for making its own room assignments. When students are ill or disabled in any way, the Department of Health & Counseling Services will be asked to assess the nature and severity of the illness or disability and recommend (temporary or permanent) special housing accommodations. The Health Center may choose to recommend single rooms or special room assignments only upon adequate documentation of absolute medical necessity.

Students requiring special residential accommodations due to a medical condition are required to make a formal request in writing outlining the medical condition and the type of accommodations desired.

Documentation from the student's primary care physician, lab tests, and/or any other diagnostic evaluations and results are required for any requests to be considered.

Please include a completed Release of Information form, to include with the other documents.

Once these documents have been reviewed by the Director of Health & Counseling Services in consultation with the staff physician, a recommendation will be made to the Vice President of Student Services or designee.

Please note: This is only a recommendation. Again, Oakwood University strives to provide all students with reasonable access to its facilities and programs in accordance with applicable federal laws, including the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act. All final decisions rest with the Vice President of Student Services and or the Assistant Vice President and will be based upon space availability, the needs of the student and the University.

**Document Title:** MOTOR VEHICLES

Category: Student Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 5, 1999

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [4/2010] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

All vehicles operated on the University campus must be registered with the Office of Public Safety. Students with motorized vehicles must register their vehicles and display the current decal when they register for school.

Specifically marked parking spaces are reserved 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### Regulations

- 1. The University reserves the right to move any vehicle improperly parked and assume no responsibility for damage incurred in moving such vehicle(s).
- 2. The University reserves the right to deny any person the privilege of operating and or parking a motor vehicle on the campus.
- 3. The University assumes no responsibility for losses due to fire, theft, or from any other cause when cars are parked on the campus.
- 4. City, state, and county regulations and rules, all directive signs governing the use of motor vehicles must be observed at all times.
- 5. Handicapped spaces are for the exclusive use of blue cardholders. Handicapped permits are good in any legal parking space on campus.
- 6. Parking is prohibited except in marked spaces. Parking spaces are marked by painted lines, curbs, or specific signs.
- 7. Parking on the grass, on sidewalks, or blocking sidewalks and loading docks is prohibited.
- 8. Blocking fire hydrants is prohibited.
- 9. Double parking is prohibited. Double parking is parking across the lines, to the side, back, or front of another vehicle.
- 10. Entry and egress to and from campus other than the main roadway is prohibited. This includes operating any vehicle on unpaved portions of the property without the expressed authorization of the Public Safety Department.
- 11. Impeding the flow of traffic by contributing to a roadblock, partial or full, with vehicles or pedestrians.
- 12. Loud music or music heard outside the confines of the vehicle is prohibited.

- 13. The registered driver of a vehicle is responsible for all citations issued to that vehicle.
- 14. If the citation recipient fails to satisfy the obligation, a charge will be assessed by the Public Safety officer and sent to the Accounting Officer of Student Accounts to have the fines charged to his/her account.
- 15. In the event of mechanical failure of a vehicle on campus, the owner or driver will be responsible for its removal within three days. Public Safety should be advised of its location at the time of the mechanical failure.

Persons visiting the campus must secure a temporary permit.

It is the goal of the Office of Public Safety to regulate and maintain a safe environment for pedestrians as well as operators of motor vehicles. Traffic regulations are intended to accommodate faculty, staff, students, administrative officers, and visitors through controlled parking.

Parking or driving on the grass, on sidewalks, or blocking sidewalks and loading docks is prohibited. Vehicles parked in spaces designated for the handicapped must carry a valid permit.

Strict compliance with all traffic and safety rules and regulations is mandatory. Violators will be subject to fines. They may also suffer the added inconvenience of having their cars towed away at their expense.

Alabama state law prohibits the playing of music in automobiles at a volume that can be heard 25 feet away. On campus, the music played in your car should not be loud enough to be heard outside your car. Students who violate this noise ordinance will be fined and/or not allowed to bring their vehicles on campus.

Resident students under the age of twenty (20) are not allowed to bring motor vehicles to campus during their freshman year.

**Document Title: PUBLIC NOTICES** 

Category: Student Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 5, 1999

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [4/2010] [ ] [ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

Material to be posted on campus bulletin boards and in other public places must first be approved by the Director of Student Activities or the Office of Student Services. These are the only offices with the authority to approve and/or deny requests for posting material. Notices to be posted in the residence halls must be approved by the residence hall office. Materials may not be posted on windows or glass doors.

**Document Title:** RIGHT TO DISCUSSION

Category: Student Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 5, 1999

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [4/2010] [ ] [ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

Students wishing to express personal views on issues regarding University policies and procedures relative to student life or matters of general interest should consult their elected United Student Movement leaders (and senators) who will contact the appropriate administrator or committee member. Students, individually or collectively, have the right to be heard. Students who are unsuccessful in gaining a hearing may submit a request in writing to the Vice President for Student Services who will respond in one of several ways:

- Make an appointment for the student(s) with the appropriate administrator or committee member.
- Schedule a personal audience with the student(s) to air the issues.
- Refer the matter to the Student Life Committee or the Administrative Council for appropriate action.

When a matter has been referred to the Administrative Council, the decision rendered by that committee will be accepted as final and the matter considered to be officially closed.

**Document Title: SELLING/SOLICITING ON CAMPUS** 

Category: Student Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 5, 1999

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [4/2010] [ ] [ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

Selling/Soliciting on campus is permitted **only** with the approval of the Office of Vice President of Student Services, Residential Life Council or the Administrative Council. Food deliveries to residence halls (**except during Sabbath hours**) may be made by licensed vendors who are also qualified to make deliveries to the public.

**Document Title:** STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARD

Category: Student Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 19, 2010

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [ ][ ][ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

Each student is issued a student identification card at the time of registration. Because the card provides access to facilities, programs, and services, students are required to carry their identification card at all times and to present his/her card upon request of any University official. While the identification card is issued to the student, the card is the property of Oakwood University. The card and the privileges accompanying it may be revoked by Oakwood University for violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

Students are required to have their student ID at all times. Students who fail to present a student ID card when requested by University officials are subject to discipline. The replacement fee for student ID card is \$20.00.

**Document Title:** STUDENT RECORDS

Category: Student Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 5, 1999

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [4/2010] [ ] [ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

Students have a right to inspect and review their own official records, files, and data kept in any unit of the University. The request should be made in writing to the appropriate administrator who should be allowed a reasonable amount of time to respond. The University reserves the right to refuse to provide copies of records to/for students with outstanding financial obligations to the University or if there is an unresolved disciplinary action pending against the student. This right does not extend to any information that is proprietary, confidential, and/or privileged to the University.

**Document Title: WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES** 

Category: Student Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 19, 2010

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [ ][ ][ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

We recognize that there are occasions when a student may need to leave the University for personal reasons. We highly encourage students considering withdrawal to talk with advisors, residence hall directors (when applicable), parents/guardians or spouses, before beginning the withdrawal process. When such a departure is necessary, the following steps should be taken:

- Make the initial contact with your residence hall director or the Director of Residential Life (campus residents only).
- Procure a Withdrawal Form from the Office of Financial Aid.
- Obtain the appropriate signatures as indicated on the form.
- Return the completed form to the Office of Student Services along with your ID. Badge.

Document Title: HOUSING POLICY Category: Residential Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 5, 1999

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [4/2005] [4/2010] [ ] [ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

# **Off-Campus Housing Policy**

Oakwood University is a residential campus. Our mission is to provide holistic quality Christian Education in a nurturing environment of campus living. The University has received a mandate from parents, constituents, Council of trustees, students, and the Oakwood community to expand the existing campus housing and make residential living comfortable, clean, and convenient, in a Christ-centered climate.

Students under 22 years of age are required to live on campus. Students living in University housing, with the exception of West Oaks Apartments residents, are required to board in the University cafeteria. Exceptions to the housing policy may be made for students who are not currently on social or citizenship probation and who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- 1. They are married or a custodial parent. (Proof required for students under age 22)
- 2. They are 22 years of age or older or have two years of military service (Proof of age required, government issued document i.e. birth certificate, current driver/non drivers license)
- 3. They live with parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or grandparent(s) who maintain primary residence in the Huntsville area. \*(Proof of Huntsville, Alabama Residency Required)
- 4. They live with a sibling (**Proof of relationship; birth certificate required**) 22 years of age or older who maintains primary residence in the Huntsville area. \*(**Proof of Huntsville, Alabama Residency Required**)
- 5. They are taking six or fewer credits.

# <u>DESCRIPTION LIST OF ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTS\* TO DECLARE HUNTSVILLE,</u> ALABAMA AREA RESIDENCY

Note: All documents must verify the housing provider's residency and may be presented by the housing provider or the student. The address on the <u>documents</u> must be the same as the address on the application for off campus residency.

Either of these documents must be presented to meet the criteria for off-campus eligibility:

- Alabama Driver's License with an issue date at least twelve (12) months prior to the date of application.
- Alabama State Tax Returns showing evidence of payment of income tax to the state of Alabama for the preceding fiscal year (Federal income tax returns are not acceptable).

\*(Parents who cannot produce the documentation may appeal to the Assistant Vice President of Student Services or designee to show proof of current Alabama residency.)

Students are not allowed to financially clear as off campus residents without prior approval (signed Off-Campus Housing Information/Application/Reapplication Form) from The Office of Student Services by the Assistant Vice President or designee. Off campus approval is for the current academic year and must be renewed every academic year. Oakwood University assumes no responsibility or obligation for students, parents/guardians, relatives and/or anyone else who does not obtain official approval for off campus residency before making housing commitments. Students found in violation of the University housing policy are also in violation of the Code of Student Conduct and subject themselves to invalidation of registration and discipline under the Code including denial of admission, readmission or continuance. The University reserves the right at any time during a student's matriculation to charge full room and board for every semester that student has been found in violation of the off campus housing policy.

All questions concerning housing should be directed to the Office of Student Services before making off campus commitments.

**Document Title:** RESIDENTIAL PHILOSOPHY AND RIGHTS OF STUDENTS

Category: Residential Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 5, 1999

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [4/2010] [ ] [ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

University housing provides a unique living experience and environment. Students come to Oakwood from all segments of society, from different cultures and countries, and with varying value systems and life experiences. Thus is provided an extraordinary opportunity to broaden one's understanding and appreciation of other people as well as develop a tolerance of lifestyles that may be different from one's own. Furthermore, roommates, suitemates, and hall residents have an excellent opportunity to develop lifelong friendships.

To take full advantage of these opportunities, mutual respect and consideration, coupled with an awareness of, and sensitivity to the needs of others, must be the standard of community living. Every resident should respect the rights of their roommates, suitemates, and other residents. These rights include:

- The right to read and study free from unnecessary disturbance in one's room. Unreasonable noise and other distractions that inhibit the exercise of this right.
- The right to sleep without undue disturbance
- The right to expect that roommates and/or suitemates will respect one's personal belongings
- The right to a clean living environment
- The right to free access to one's room and hall facilities
- The right to personal privacy
- The right to host guests when respecting the rights of one's room- or suitemate
- The right to redress grievances. Residence hall advisors/assistants are valuable aids in settling various conflicts.
- The right to be free from intimidation and physical or emotional harm.

**Document Title:** CAMPUS HOUSING FOR WINTER/SUMMER BREAKS

Category: Residential Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 5, 1999

**Authority: VP for Student Services** 

Document Status: [4/2010] [ ] [ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

Contact The Office of Student Services or The Director of Residential Life for information regarding housing available during winter and summer breaks.

Living in residential housing during winter break and/or summer session is a privilege, not a right. Students wishing to remain in residence during these times must show an ability to conduct themselves in a mature, responsible manner. All rules of the University, except for required worships, remain in effect during winter and/or summer break periods. Any violation of University or residence hall policy during the school year disqualifies a student for residency during break periods. Violations include, but are not limited to: curfew violations, poor worship attendance, disciplinary actions from the Judicial Council or residence hall, water fights, issuance of a "Letter of counsel," vandalism, room cleanliness problems, insubordination, playing loud or inappropriate music in your room or car, horseplay, disregard for quiet hour policy, housing of non-residents without permission, violation of visitation policy, etc.

Students who desire to live on-campus must meet the following criteria:

- 1. Be a current residence hall occupant
- 2. Be financially cleared for summer residency
- 3. Have an authorized winter break/summer work contract in the Work Employment Office or be registered in the Oakwood University Summer School Program.

Residency on campus will continue as long as the student is working on campus or taking a summer class at Oakwood. Students who are not financially cleared for fall semester will not be allowed to remain in the residence hall after the last day of July. If you are desirous of staying on campus during a winter break and/or summer session, you must notify your residence hall office staff in advance of the break period to receive official information concerning the process for approval. Do not assume that because you meet the requirements stated that you are automatically eligible. You must get approval from the residence hall office. Any violation of University or residence hall policy during the break and/or summer session will result in the immediate dismissal of the offender from the residence hall and/or disciplinary action.

Document Title: CAMPUS LEAVES Category: Residential Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 5, 1999

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [4/2010] [ ] [ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

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# **Campus Leaves**

A campus leave is a privilege. Abuse of this privilege, or falsifying information to secure a leave, may result in disciplinary consequences. Further, the University reserves the right to deny and/or cancel leaves.

### **Overnight Leaves**

Any departure from the campus, which includes a night out of the residence hall, is considered an overnight leave. A leave request must be submitted to a residence hall office for approval 48 hours prior to the time of departure, except in cases of emergency. Leaves may be granted for overnight visits at the discretion of the residence hall director or an authorized representative.

### **Weekend Leaves**

Weekend leaves must be arranged with the residence hall office no later than Thursday noon. Weekend leaves generally begin at the close of the last class of the week and terminate at 11:30 p.m. the following Sunday or as otherwise arranged. When students are employed on campus, approval for weekend leaves should also be obtained from the work supervisor. If or when classes are going to be missed teachers and/or Department Chairs should be notified.

#### **Freshmen Leaves**

Written permission from parents or guardians for weekend leaves must be on file for students who are 18 years old or younger.

Should traveling plans be altered, or should an emergency arise while a student is away from the campus, the student is responsible for notifying the residence hall office or residence director on duty immediately.

#### Late Leaves

Any activity that would involve a student's entry into the residence hall after curfew requires a late leave permit. This must be secured <u>prior to</u> the activity and presented to the residence hall director or an authorized representative upon one's return to the residence hall. At the discretion of the residence hall director, late leaves may be granted on any night of the week – except Friday – for the following times:

Sunday to Thursday up to 12 midnight Saturday up to 1:00 a.m.

Upperclassmen have a "standing" late leave which expires at 12:00 midnight, Sunday through Thursday, and at 1:00 a.m. on Saturdays. Residents who are on academic or citizenship probation, have poor Worship attendance, or fail to follow University and residence hall policies will lose their standing late leave privilege. Students who choose to stay out of the residence hall past room check must sign in at the lobby receptionist's desk before the expiration time of the "standing" late leave. (It is not necessary to fill out a late leave if you expect to be signed in by midnight Monday through Thursday or 1:00a.m. on Saturday night.)

Students who wish to remain out past 12:00 midnight on Sunday through Thursday, or 1:00 a.m. on Saturday, must have a late leave approved and signed by the residence hall director on duty. Approval for late leaves after these times is generally limited to emergencies.

Freshmen living in residence halls that house multi-classification students may be subject to restriction based on age. (See Residential Life Guide.)

Document Title: RESIDENTIAL LIFE Category: Residential Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 19, 2010

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [ ][ ][ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

#### **Curfew and Room Check**

All residential students are to be in their residence by the following times, except when approved for a late leave:

Sunday through Friday 11:30 p.m. Saturday 12:00 midnight

Whenever a student is detained elsewhere after curfew, he/she must immediately notify and give an account of his/her whereabouts to the residence hall director or an authorized representative.

# **Electrical Appliances**

Clocks, radios, stereos, sewing machines, computers, hair dryers, study lamps, razors, microwave ovens and small refrigerators (except Holland Hall) are the only appliances approved for use in residents' rooms. Electric irons must be used only in designated areas.

#### Fire Drills

Periodic fire drills are practiced in the residence halls. State law requires full compliance with evacuation procedures.

### **Food Preparation**

Cooking appliances in student rooms are limited to microwave ovens (except Holland Hall). All other cooking appliances are strictly prohibited.

# **Lobby and Lounge Hours**

Students may receive visitors in the lobby and lounge areas of the residence halls during the following hours or as posted by the residence hall director.

Sunday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. Friday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Friday Evening Sunset -11:00 p.m. Sabbath 2:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m.

All residence hall lobbies will be closed during hall and campus worship, including Wednesday night prayer meeting, spiritual emphasis weeks and week of prayers.

#### **Personal Property Insurance**

Limited personal property insurance is provided to all registered students who pay the general student fee. Each student is responsible for providing his or her own personal property information to the insurance provider. The student may make arrangements for additional coverage and/or changes to their deductible. Contact insurance provider for additional information (NSSI.com). The University does not assume any liability for the personal belongings of students.

#### **Right of Entry**

The University reserves the right for a residence hall director, an authorized representative, or an officer of the University to enter a student's room to verify residency and to ascertain the sanitary and safety condition of the room. This includes the right to inspect the contents of locked boxes and containers. However, such an inspection should be done in a respectful manner in the presence of the student. The only exception to this understanding will be when the health and safety of residents is believed to be in danger.

# Sabbath Order-out Food Service Delivery Policy

Order/delivery of food to the campus one hour or less before Friday sunset and during Sabbath hours is strictly prohibited.

#### **Security Deposit/Activity Fee (revisited)**

Before registration, students expecting to live in University residence halls are required to pay a housing fee of \$250.00. Of this, \$200.00 is a security deposit. The remaining \$50 is an activity fee to cover the cost of programs and services requested by residents. This activity fee is annual and is non-refundable.

The security deposit is refundable. It is held in trust until the student (1) vacates the residence hall, (2) leaves his/her room in satisfactory condition, (3) turns in the key, (4) pays off his/her account balance, and (5) receives a satisfactory inspection report. Upon application, the Office of Student Accounts will then forward a check for the deposit to the student within six weeks. Failure to meet one or more of the above-mentioned stipulations will result in forfeiture of the security deposit.

The security deposit will be regarded as security against damage or willful negligence with respect to institutional property throughout the course of the student's stay at the University. Abuse, misuse, vandalism, etc., the collection of which exceeds the amount of the deposit, will be charged to the student's account.

The use of the entire deposit before the end of a school year will necessitate a new cash deposit before the student will be permitted to register the following semester. Continued abuse of University property will jeopardize a student's eligibility for continued enrollment and/or readmission.

# **Storage of Personal Belongings**

Because of limited space, the University is not able to store the personal belongings, trunks, or baggage of residents during the course of a semester or when the University is closed. It is therefore necessary for students to pack their belongings and empty their rooms when they leave at the end of the academic year.

Students who have financially cleared for spring semester and expect to return may leave their belongings securely packed up in their rooms during Christmas vacation. Students who choose this consideration do so at their own risk. Students who do not return and who have personal belongings in a residence hall/annex room or apartment will forfeit their room deposits and become subject to an additional storage charge of \$50.00 a day. The \$50.00 per day will be a cash payment to the appropriate housing facility (hall, annex, apartment, etc.). The University assumes no liability for damage or theft to students' personal belongings.

#### **Visitors and Guests**

Residence hall housing is for on-campus registered students. Visitors, relatives, friends, and alumni who desire overnight accommodations in the residence halls must make arrangements with the residence hall office.

Daily visits end at curfew. Overnight visits are restricted to weekends. All persons occupying a residence hall are expected to adhere to the policies of the University as stated in the residence halls manuals and/or *Student Handbook*.

Unauthorized housing of guests subjects the offending student to a fine. Any student found out of compliance with this provision will be charged \$25 the first night and \$50 each additional night.

**Document Title:** STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Category: General Policies

Number:

Effective Date: April 5, 1999

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [4/2010] [ ] [ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

Students seeking approval to function as a campus organization must submit to the Office of Student Activities a fully developed constitution or a statement regarding the scope and purpose of the organization, its membership requirements, and general policies.

Permission to function will be granted on an annual basis. All student organizations must register annually with the Office of Student Activities. This registration must be made during the fall of each year. Registration entitles the organization to the use of campus facilities and inclusion in the co-curricular program of the University.

All organizations shall have a faculty or staff advisor, who has been approved by the Office of Student Services. The advisor shall be responsible to the Vice President for Student Services for the activities of the organization.

Organizations are expected to render programs and services, which contribute to the social, recreational, spiritual, and cultural life of the University community. Any organization which promotes clandestine relationships, immoral practices, or encourages violation of the University regulations will be reviewed and if found out of compliance will forfeit the right to function on the University Campus. Further, the officers of such organizations in violation of Oakwood University and Seventh-day Adventist principles will be open to immediate disciplinary action by the University. The University reserves the right to withdraw its approval of any campus organization when the well being of the University requires such action.

All organizations, with the help of their advisors, are asked to give an end -of-the year report on their organization's activities. This should include supporting documentation. Failure to do this could cause some restrictions for the coming year. (This report should be submitted to the Director of Student Activities no later than April 15<sup>th</sup> of each calendar year).

#### **Greek Social Clubs**

Due to the exclusivity of fraternities/sororities, their initiation activities, and their internal codes of performance and behavior that may be in conflict with Oakwood University philosophy and values, Greek *social* clubs, fraternities, or sororities are not permitted to function at Oakwood University. Neither are they permitted to wear their paraphernalia on campus or recruit students from the campus community. This includes all fraternity/sorority-like groups, activities, symbols, or sponsored efforts. \* Students refusing to comply with this policy subject themselves to sanctions that include, but are not limited to, suspension and/or expulsion. If students are members of off-campus fraternities/sororities, the University cannot be held liable for incidents or accidents that may occur related to such activities in which students may participate. Academically related clubs, societies, or organizations are not included within the scope of this policy. \* See Student Code of Conduct.

# **Academic Qualifications of Officers and Members**

Students holding office in any organization must have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or better. Members on academic probation may be limited in the degree to which they may participate in the activities of their organizations.

# **Organizational Leaves**

A campus leave that is planned by any registered organization, including musical groups, for the purpose of fulfilling an engagement off campus, is considered an organizational leave. A request for an organizational leave must be submitted in writing by a responsible officer of the organization to the Office of Student Services for approval before the proposed activity in accordance with the following guidelines.

Allow not less than three workdays for processing activity engagements in Huntsville and its immediate surroundings.

# Allow not less than one week for processing activity engagements that are scheduled for a weekend involving travel and/or accommodations.

In no case shall an organization leave be taken or final commitment for activity engagement be finalized without the consent of the sponsor and written approval from the Vice President for Student Services.

The organization's president, sponsor, and chaperons shall be held responsible for any deviation from student organization policies and procedures.

Choirs and musical groups are limited to two out-of-town engagements per semester.

The written request for the organizational leave must include the following:

- a) Purpose.
- b) Destination.
- c) Mode of transportation. All public and private vehicles must be fully insured. Proof of ownership and insurance must be provided.
- d) A copy of the invitation.
- e) The name of the host(ess) and accommodations (prearranged).
- f) Two telephone numbers for emergency use.
- g) The names of participants.
- h) The names of chaperons.
- i) Date and time of departure.
- j) Date and time of return.
- k) The method of finance for transportation.
- 1) The signature of the organization's president.
- m) The signature of the faculty or staff sponsor.

**Document Title:** UNITED STUDENT MOVEMENT

Category: Student Organizations

**Number:** 

Effective Date: April 15, 1999

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [4/2010] [ ] [ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

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The United Student Movement is the student government of Oakwood University. As stated in its constitution, the USM was established "in order to enhance our spiritual, academic, and social experience" at Oakwood University. Every student enrolled in Oakwood University is a member of the United Student Movement; hence it is the largest student-run organization on campus.

The USM, through its offices, provides many services. These include, but are in no way limited to social, academic, athletic, and religious activities. Some of the highlights of these activities include the spring banquet, University bowl competition, intramural competitions, and tent revival. Additionally, the USM produces the official Oakwood University newspaper, *The Spreading Oak*, and the official Oakwood University yearbook, *The Acorn*.

Regarding these student publications, Oakwood University accepts the concept that all campus publications operate primarily for the purpose of promoting academic excellence, respect for the rights of others, leadership training, cultural development, and self-expression. Thus, the University offers students the opportunity to become involved in the publication of *The Spreading Oak* and *The Acorn*. These two publications come under the direct supervision of their appointed faculty/staff advisors, the Director of Student Activities and the Vice President for Student Services. Each publication has an elected or appointed student editor who serves for a term of one academic year. Support staff is provided through the use of student volunteers. The role of the faculty/staff advisor is to give advice and counsel to the student editor regarding appropriate journalistic procedure, and to review and approve all final copy before publication. Because newsworthy events about campus life are matters of interest to the local community, and Oakwood University constituents, student publications may from time to time be reviewed by the official public relations office of the University, which is the Office of Public Relations.

As long as a person is a student of Oakwood University, his/her name is inextricably associated with the University. Since the University name is not to be used without permission, students are to make satisfactory arrangements with the Office of Public Relations before releasing for publication or broadcast any statement regarding themselves, the University, or any student activity.

Questions regarding the content of student periodicals (*The Spreading Oak* and *The Acorn*) should be directed to the student editor and specific faculty/staff advisor and the Director of Student Activities. In such matters, the Vice President for Student Services in consultation with the faculty/staff advisor, the Director of Student Activities, and the Office of Public Relations will review the item in question to determine its suitability for publication. The University reserves the right to deny publication if it determines that the item clearly and distinctly damages the image, mission, or philosophy of the University as an Adventist academic community. Submissions for student publications should be directed to the appropriate editor with specified deadline dates.

The USM also serves as a liaison between the University administration and the student body, addressing problems and needs of the students at large. The officers are organized into two main groups – the executive officers and the senate. The executive officers are elected at the end of the

previous school year into the positions specified in the constitution. The senate is elected at the beginning of each school year and consists of student representatives from each of the dormitories and the off-campus population.

Document Title: CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING
Category: Career Development and Testing Office

Number:

Effective Date: April 19, 2010

**Authority: VP for Student Services** 

Document Status: [ ][ ][ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [X] Addition

# **Internship/Requirements for Employers**

### I. Employers are required to provide:

- 1. Brief information on the employer—contact information and the nature and scope of their business,
- 2. A job description for the internship, similar to one that would be used when hiring an entry-level employee. It should include a statement of required student capabilities and qualifications, including language and other needed skills, work experience, and so forth.
- 3. A statement of the compensation offered to student interns, including fringe benefits if any. Ideally the financial offer should be sufficient to cover the intern's living costs, health insurance, travel, Visa or work permit costs, and other expenses directly associated with the internship (when applicable).

<u>Note:</u> Employer information will be reviewed by the Director of the Career Services along with the Internship Committee to ensure compatibility institutional policies.

#### II. Employer Responsibilities and Costs

An employer must offer student internships that provide:

- a meaningful learning experience for the student. In this regard Oakwood University policies are sufficiently flexible to permit a broad range of internship arrangements that are mutually satisfactory to the student and the employer.
- Substantial opportunity for final evaluation of job performance. (*Evaluation form to be provided by academic institution*)

Decisions on whether or not to hire an intern are made by each employer. Employers are encouraged to pay interns a salary sufficient to cover the student's out-of pocket costs of serving as an intern, although such an agreement is left to the mutual decision of the employer and student.

Employers are also encouraged to provide students with assistance to find appropriate local housing.

Each employer is required to complete a Contract for Practicum/Internship prior to the established start date. (*Form provided by academic institution*).

**Document Title: EXAMINATION POLICIES** 

Category: Career Development and Testing Office

Number:

Effective Date: April 19, 2010

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [ ][ ][ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [X] Addition

# **College Level Examination Program Policies (CLEP)**

- 1. The student must complete and submit an Academic Request form to the Records Office for approval. The approved form MUST be submitted to the Testing Center prior to testing.
- 2. CLEP examination is administered by the Career Development and Testing Center.
- 3 A fee covering the cost of the examination and its administration will be charged each student desiring to take the CLEP examination at Oakwood University.
- 4. Incoming students wishing to take the CLEP test before entering Oakwood University must secure approval from the Records Office before test is administered.
- 5. Acceptable CLEP scores shall earn corresponding course credit, but no letter grade shall be assigned nor quality points considered.
- 6. The period of time allowed between retaking the same exam is three months.

The following listing the CLEP subjects and minimum scores acceptable by Oakwood University is listed on page 43 of the 2009-2011 Oakwood University Bulletin.

# **Standard Policies and Procedures for Test Taking**

- 1. Student must bring an Academic Policies approval form to Testing Center.
- 2. Photo ID required for ALL testing.
- 3. Register for and schedule exam date.
- 4. Complete the Client Information Form.
- 5. Determine the method of payment (i.e., check, cash, student charge, credit card).
- 6. Books and study materials MAY NOT be taken into the exam room.
- 7. Cell phones MUST be turned off (vibrate not allowed)!

Document Title: IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Category: Health and Counseling Services

Number:

Effective Date: April 19, 2010

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [ ][ ][ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [X] Addition

#### Introduction

There has been documentation of recent outbreaks of Rubeola (Red Measles), Mumps and Pertussis on several college campuses around the United States. Furthermore, it has been recommended by the American College Health Association that students be immunized against certain diseases. It is especially vital for students living in residential environments to be protected from disease. For these reasons, Oakwood University hereby requires up to date proof of immunization.

Immunization against Rubeola (Red Measles) includes an initial vaccine plus a second dose of MMR (Rubeola, Rubella & Mumps) vaccine. If the person has never been immunized, two injections of the MMR vaccine at least one month apart are required.

# **First-Time Entering OU Students**

All first-time entering students born on or after January 1, 1957, who enroll in credit courses on Oakwood University must show proof of two immunization against Rubeola (Red Measles) and Mumps and one immunization against Rubella (German Measles). Booster vaccines for Pertussis (Whooping Cough) are strongly encouraged for all entering students. Students can receive the Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria Pertussis) vaccine after two years since their last Tetanus booster. Furthermore, students living on campus are encouraged to seek Meningococcal vaccination within their first semester; however, this specific vaccine is not mandated at this time.

# **International Students**

Because of a lack of immunization requirements in many foreign countries, all OU international students of any age, are currently required, and will continue to be required, to be immunized against Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Rubeola, Rubella and Mumps and have a tuberculin skin test done within 3 months of their matriculation date here in the United States. In lieu of being re-immunized, such individuals may present proof of having had such immunizations or titer tests. If they do not have such proof or have not been immunized, they must be immunized against these diseases prior to matriculating, enrolling, or participating in campus academic, research, or clinical programs and activities.

#### **Students In Allied Health And Nursing Programs**

Because of the nature of their daily workload, students engaged in health professional training programs could have a higher risk related to Rubeola, Rubella, Mumps, Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis, Tuberculosis and Hepatitis B infection. These departments may have established additional immunization requirements.

#### **Certificate Of Immunization**

In order to enroll for classes at Oakwood University: students must show proof of immunization against measles (rubeola). Students who are unable to document prior history of measles will be required to provide verification of a second measles vaccine. Without such proof, students are subject to be placed on registration hold until the proper documentation has been received by the Department of Health and Counseling Services.

<u>This policy applies to all incoming students:</u> Students born before January 1, 1957, are exempt from the requirement for immunization; however, they must provide proof of age. (Either a driver's license or a copy of your birth certificate will suffice.)

Students who do not have adequate proof of immunization will be required to repeat immunization. The Oakwood University Immunization Form or a form completed by your private physician and signed by the appropriate health practitioner must be submitted prior to the time of registration to the Department of Health and Counseling Services.

**Document Title: OFFICE OF SPIRITUAL LIFE** 

Category: Spiritual Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 5, 1999

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [04/2010] [ ] [ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

### **PURPOSE**

The Office of Spiritual Life is committed to the spiritual nurture and character development of each student with the goal of 'developing servant leaders'. Although the scope of spirituality embraces the entire campus family, our primary goal is to nurture faith in the lives of our most precious and promising resource – our students. Through our Ministry of Service, we focused on the gospel through various outreach programs for spiritual enrichment. Such as; weekly Chapel services, Adventist Youth Society (AYS), Week of Prayer, Back to School Revival, residence hall worships, Student Missionary program, Chaplains Assistants and Sunday Evening Praise. The Office of Spiritual Life offers marriage/spiritual counseling in a gender sensitive confidential atmosphere and is responsible for the Chapel/Assembly programming.

The Oakwood University Chaplain is here to enrich your spiritual development by providing the following services:

- Spiritual counseling
- Grief counseling
- Dormitory visitations
- Hospital visitations
- Bible studies
- Preparation for baptism
- Temperament and/ or Spiritual Gifts Test
- Family communication liaison

#### DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SPIRITUAL LIFE

The Director of the Office of Spiritual Life is responsible to promote the spiritual life and vitality of the students, faculty, staff and campus community. He/she is to play a strategic role in providing a liaison with the Oakwood University Church pastoral staff, local pastors and churches and when appropriate denominational entities. Spiritual Live goals and activities are coordinated through the institutional Spiritual Life Committee that has representation from all campus constituencies.

The Literature Evangelism Training Center (LETC) and its student outreach and literature distribution ministry is a part of the Office of Spiritual Life and its Director serves as an Associate Chaplain.

**Document Title:** STUDENT MISSIONS

Category: Spiritual Life

Number:

Effective Date: April 19, 2010

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [ ][ ][ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [X] Addition

Purpose

The purpose of the Student Missions Program is to provide service opportunities for students seeking to broaden their education and life experience through humanitarian service. The Student Missions program supports the institutional mission by promoting service to God and humanity.

# **Program Description**

In the Student Missions Program, participants spend a summer, a semester, or a full year in humanitarian service. The range of responsibilities includes teaching, industrial/vocational work, and religious leadership.

# **Academic Requirements**

The academic requirements for student missionaries are:

- 1. At least sophomore standing (minimum of 30 semester hours);
- 2. A cumulative grade point average of C (2.0) or above, and no grade below C in all English composition and grammar courses;
- 3. A B (3.0) average or above in the subject area that they are expected to teach as student missionaries;

# **Enrollment Status**

Student missionaries in active service are considered full-time students. Students who participate in humanitarian service immediately after completing BA or BS degrees are still considered Oakwood students.

### **Social Requirements**

The institution seeks to have the best-qualified and most appropriate personnel as its national and international representatives. Therefore, applicants are screened, but not necessarily eliminated, for any prior unlawful activity, including:

- 1. A conviction, guilty plea, no contest, or formal discipline for sexual misconduct, child abuse or neglect, sexual harassment, or any other crime involving sexual activity or abuse of a child or adult.
- 2. A conviction, guilty plea, no contest, or formal discipline for any other crime or misconduct, with the exception of traffic violations

Those with official records of prior unlawful activity will be subject to further screening.

Applicants must also agree to:

- 1. Participate in pre-service training;
- 2. Refrain from all questionable activities that may in any way impede the effectiveness of the assignment;
- 3. Refrain from drinking alcohol, smoking, or using any illegal drugs;
- 4. Abstain from sexual relations, if single, and extramarital sexual relations, if married.
- 5. Be respectful of the culture in which they are serving, remembering that local norms may be different from those to which they are accustomed.

### **Process**

Information and application materials are available in the Office of Spiritual Life. The process is coordinated by the Student Missionary Coordinator.

**Document Title:** OFFICE OF STUDENT EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (OSE)

Category: Student Employment

Number:

Effective Date: April 19, 2010

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [ ][ ][ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [X] Addition

#### Goal

The goal of the Office of Student Employment is to provide and develop employment skills and capabilities to enhance the growth of our students and provide financial assistance to accommodate our student's needs.

# **Purpose**

The purpose of the Office of Student Employment at Oakwood University is to be committed to assisting our students with employment opportunities. The Student Employment Program at Oakwood University serves three purposes:

- to provide employment for students enabling them to earn a portion of their expenses and funds while pursuing a college degree;
- to enhance the educational development and growth of students by providing employment-related learning experiences;
- to provide academically related employment experience which may be of value vocationally in post-college years

# **Employment Time Frame**

Each semester the employment period begins the first official day of classes and ends the last day of final exams.

#### **Seminars**

Seminars are held throughout the year to provide opportunities for students to meet with professionals in their career fields, design job-search strategies, and learn of future career opportunities.

# Work-Study/Federal Work Study Program

Work Study/Federal Work Study Program provides opportunities throughout the school year for qualified students. Qualifications are determined through a calculation formulated by the Federal government in conjunction with the processing efforts of the Financial Aid Department. Students are placed in employment opportunities that allow them to gain valuable, hands-on experience, preferably, in their field of study.

#### **Job Search Opportunities**

The Office of Student Employment assists students with employment search strategies, resume writing, interviewing techniques, and how and where to look for employment. As in the "Real World", a *first come first serve* mentality is adopted to reward those who display determination and responsibility.

For questions or comments about this information, please contact Office of Student Employment at 256-726-7424.

### **OSE Requirements For Receiving On-Campus Employment**

**<u>I-9 Form</u>** (also required by off-campus employers as well)

#### • What is the purpose of an I-9?

The I-9 Form is an employment eligibility verification form approved by the Attorney General. To be allowed to work in the United States, a person must show proof of citizenship or government authorization allowing him/her to work. Ensuring a person's eligibility is an employer's responsibility. If the employer fails to show proof of an employee's eligibility to work in the United States, s/he may face fines and/or imprisonment, and the institution, i.e. Oakwood University, may receive financial penalties.

### • How do I complete a 1-9 Form?

Copies of the I-9 Form are available from the Office of Student Employment. First, you need to complete Part One and sign it. Then, show OSE personnel one (or more) of the following documents:

- 1. United States Passport
- 2. Certificate of United States Citizenship
- 3. Certificate of Naturalization
- 4. Unexpired foreign passport with attached Employment Authorization
- 5. Alien Registration Card with photograph
- 6. OR you can provide one document from each column:

#### Column I

# 1. A state-issued driver's license or a state-issued I.D. card with a photograph, and information including name, sex, date of birth, height, weight, and color of eyes

2. U.S. Military Card

#### Column II

- 1. Original Social Security Number Card (other than a card stating it is not valid for employment)
- 2. A birth certificate issued by a state, county or municipal authority bearing a seal or other certification
- 3. Unexpired INS Employment Authorization

The Office of Student Employment will then sign the I-9 Form certifying your eligibility.

# • Will I have to complete an I-9 Form every time I get a job?

As long as you work for Oakwood University you will **not** have to file an I-9 Form again. The I-9 Form you filled out once, regardless of your job or position, will remain on file in the office. Do expect to fill out an I-9 for each new company you become employed by.

### W-4 Form

# • Why do I have to fill out a W-4?

Complete Form W-4 so that Payroll can withhold the correct Federal income tax from your pay. Because your tax situation may change, you may want to refigure your withholding each year.

# A-4 Form

# • What is an A-4 form?

It is important to complete the Alabama State Tax form in order to assess the amount that will be withheld from your net income. All cash student must be positioned to pay Alabama state income tax due to state laws.

**Document Title:** HARASSMENT-FREE POLICY

Category: Legal Issues

Number:

Effective Date: April 5, 1999

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [4/2010] [ ] [ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

#### **OBJECTIVE**

Oakwood University is committed to providing a workplace free of unlawful harassment and discrimination affecting employees of the University, students or members, of the public.

**Harassment Prohibited:** Federal law and this policy prohibit harassment and discrimination based on one's sex, race, color, age, national origin, disability, or veterans' status. Prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- A. Conduct or language derogatory to race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, or veteran status, including jokes, pranks, or epithets.
- B. Written or graphic materials that denigrates or shows hostility or aversion toward an individual or group because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, or veteran status that is placed on the walls or bulletin boards or otherwise circulated in the workplace.
- C. Verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature in which a submission or rejection of such conduct is used as the basis for any decision with regard to the harassed individual.
- D. Unwelcome sexual advances or touching; requests for sexual favors; sexual jokes, comments, or innuendoes; other conduct of a sexual nature which a person might find offensive; hazing horseplay, or practical jokes based on an individual's sex; and visual materials such as posters, cartoons, calendars, or picture of a sexual nature or depicting partially clad or nude individuals.

### **Definition of Terms contained in Criminal Code of Alabama**

**Domestic Violence** – Any incident resulting in the abuse, assault, harassment, or attempt or threats thereof, between family, household, or dating or engagement relationship members.

**Harassment** – The striking, shoving, kicking, or otherwise touching or making physical contact in this regard to another for the purpose of harassing, annoying or alarming; and/or directing abusive or obscene language or making an obscene gesture towards someone for the purpose of harassing, annoying, or alarming.

**Sexual Misconduct** – Committing sexual abuse, sexual assault, sexual conduct, sexual contact and sexual excitement as defined by state law as contained in the Criminal Laws of Alabama, sections 38, 15, and 13A.

Rape is defined as engaging in sexual intercourse with a member of the opposite sex by forcible compulsion.

# PROCEDURES FOR DEALING WITH DOEMESTIC VIOLENCE HARASSMENT AND SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

#### Harassment and Sexual Misconduct

#### **Informal**

The offended student shall report the matter to A or B below, if the offender is a student. If the offender is an employee of the University, the offended student should report the matter to the Vice President for Student Services or designate.

- A. On campus students shall report this to the Residence Hall Director.
- B. Off campus students shall report to the Office of Student Services or Public Safety Office.
  - 1. The Residence Hall Director and or Director of Residential Life, in consultation with the Assistant Vice President for Student Services will take action to clarify the situation, explain University policy, and enlighten the offended student regarding the informal procedures for filing such complaints.
  - 2. If the student wishes to settle the matter informally, the Residence Hall Director and or Director of Residential Life, in consultation with the Assistant Vice President for Student Services, shall arrange a meeting with a counselor from the Department of Health and Counseling Services who will act as a mediator.
  - 3. The mediator shall meet with the offended student, discuss the situation, and note pertinent details, including the name of the offending party.
  - 4. The mediator shall arrange a meeting with the offending party to discuss the matter and work toward a reconciliation of the parties.
  - 5. If agreed, all parties shall meet together to effect the reconciliation. A written guarantee shall be given by the accused not to repeat the offensive behavior with the offended party or with anyone else as long as he or she is matriculating at the University.
  - 6. The written guarantee shall be placed in the offending student's file in the Office of Student Services to be used only as evidence where similar behavior is manifested in the future.
  - 7. If subsequent harassment behavior should occur, the offending student shall be referred to the Assistant Vice President for Student Services for appropriate action.
  - 8. If during step (5) the accused denies complicity in the matter and refuses to accept responsibility, the mediator shall recommend formal procedures.

#### **Formal**

- 1. The offended student shall lodge a complaint with A or B below.
  - A. Residence Hall Director if an on-campus student.
  - B. The Vice President for Student Services or designate for off-campus student.
- 2. The Residence Hall Director in consultation with the Assistant Vice President for Student Services, shall hear the case, note pertinent details, and explain fully the University's policy as it relates to the issue. In matters of sexual misconduct, the offended student shall be informed of the option of pressing legal charges against the accused.
- 3. If legal charges are brought, the University may place the accused on Citizenship Probation until the case has been fully adjudicated.

- A. If convicted, the accused shall be expelled from the University.
- B. If acquitted, the accused shall be fully reinstated as a matriculating student with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto. (The reinstatement of the vindicated party shall be published for the benefit for the University community.)
- 4. If the offended student declines and/or refuses to pursue legal charges against the offender, he/she shall write a formal complaint and submit it to the Assistant Vice President for Student Services.
- 5. Upon receiving the complaint, the Office of Student Services, in collaboration with the University President, will appoint a committee to investigate the complaint and make recommendations for its appropriate disposition.
- 6. The accused shall be presented with a copy of the complaint and required to submit a written response within 24 hours.
- 7. The committee shall study the documents in hand, note any discrepancies in the narratives, and take steps to clarify any questions that may arise. This may include meeting with the antagonists separately, together, or with any witnesses until the complaint has been investigated to the committee's satisfaction.
- 8. If the committee vindicates the accused, the Assistant Vice President for Student Services shall proceed according to Step 3, parts b and c as stated above.
- 9. If the committee finds that the accused is indeed guilty as charged, the Assistant Vice President for Student Services shall proceed to implement the sanction(s) as stipulated by the policy and/or in accordance with the decision(s) of the committee. These sanctions include, but are not limited to, expulsion and/or dismissal.
- 10. The findings of the committee shall be documented in a formal report addressed to the Vice President for Student Services. Copies shall be sent to the President of the University and to each of the parties in the dispute.

#### **Sexual Assault**

**Sexual assault** is defined as the intentional and unwelcome touching of an individual's intimate parts or the intentional touching of the clothing covering the intimate parts, accompanied by use of force, the threat of force, or coercion. "Intimate parts" includes the primary genital area, groin, inner thigh, buttocks or breast of an individual.

All allegations of sexual misconduct including sexual assault should be immediately reported to the University Department of Public Safety and will be processed according to required federal, state and local guidelines. The university will also process reported sexual misconduct allegations according to appropriate Student Code of Conduct guidelines.

#### PROTECTION OF VICTIM AND ACCUSED

When investigating an alleged incident particularly of Domestic Violence, Harassment, and Sexual Misconduct, it shall become necessary to take precautions to protect those persons involved in the alleged incident.

# Protection of victim and supporting witnesses:

• Investigation shall be initiated with the knowledge of the victim who shall be informed of steps taken during the investigation.

- Reasonable action shall be taken to assure that the victim and witness suffer no retaliation as a result of their involvement.
  - 1. Incident shall be kept in the utmost confidentiality
  - 2. All parties involved shall be closely monitored and supervised (students shall be required to report their whereabouts to the residence hall director on duty).

#### Protection of the accused:

- At the time of the incident, as well as during the investigation, the accused shall be informed of the allegations, the extenuating circumstances, and the identity of the victim and the witnesses.
- The confidentially of the accused shall be sustained.
- The accused shall be given ample opportunity to prove whether the allegations are just or unjust.
- In the event that the allegations are unsubstantiated, reasonable steps shall be taken to restore the reputation of the accused if damages are incurred.
- A person found to have been intentionally dishonest and/or malicious in making allegations shall be subject to University discipline.

# **Protection of both parties:**

- To the extent possible, the investigation shall be conducted in such a way as to protect the confidentially and interest of both parties.
- When the investigation has been completed, both parties shall be informed of the facts made known during the course of the investigation. Also, both parties shall be informed within thirty (30) days regarding the disposition of the case.

# **SANCTIONS**

- 1. Depending on the severity of the sexual offense, a student found in violation of university, Federal or State policy will receive appropriate disciplined which could include expulsion and/or dismissal.
- 2. An employee found in violation of university, Federal or State policy will be disciplined according to employee handbook guidelines which could include termination of employment.

Document Title: OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY COUNSELING CENTER MANDATORY

ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUG REFERRAL PROCESS

Category: Legal Issues

Number:

Effective Date: April 5, 1999

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

Document Status: [4/2010] [ ] [ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

# Part A

Oakwood University has developed a set of corrective measures, which will be taken when a student is suspected of using alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs or the misuse prescription drugs. Continued enrollment at Oakwood University is dependent upon the student's compliance to the Drug-Free Campus Policy. The following responsibilities will ensure prompt identification, notification, evaluation and follow-up.

# Resident Assistant's responsibilities:

- Confront the student regarding the incident immediately.
- Contact the Resident Hall Director or Public Safety immediately.
- Secure all evidence (involve security as required, never handle or move contraband, avoid handling paraphernalia like syringes, etc.)
- Make sure incident is kept confidential from those who have no need or right to know.

#### Residence hall director's responsibilities:

At initial meeting at the time of the incident:

- Conduct a safety check
- Secure all evidence (involve Public Safety as required, never handle or move contraband, avoid handling paraphernalia like syringes, etc.) Take pictures
- Make sure Public Safety has been contacted
- Complete an incident report
- Contact HEMSI for ambulance transport to the hospital in severe cases
- Request that the student informs his/her parent(s) within 24 hours and that the parent(s) call to confirm
- Obtain blood alcohol content/urine specimen through Student Health Services or other means (if applicable). Students are responsible for all medical and laboratory charges incurred.
- Receive a written statement from the student telling about the incident (e.g., when, how much was used, where) and confirming blood alcohol content (if applicable)

By the following day these items should be completed by the Residence Hall Director:

- Refer to the Counseling Center. Explain to the student:
  - 1. That an appointment must be made before the end of the next business day
  - 2. That he/she should plan to follow the recommendations of the counseling Center staff

- 3. That there will be consequences for failure to comply
- Complete the Counseling Center Referral Form along with the Release of Information Form
- Other information pertaining to the circumstances of the referral (e.g., incident reports) should also be sent to the Counseling Center
- Check with the student by the end of the next business day to determine his or her compliance
- Check with the student regarding any missed appointments and laboratory analysis results
- Report failure(s) of compliance to the Assistant Vice President for Student Services
- Make sure incident is kept confidential from those who have no need or right to know

# Student's responsibilities:

- Submit to Breathalyzer or urinalysis or other drug test if requested by the Residence Hall Director, the Assistant Vice President for Student Services, or Counseling Center staff
- Write a statement of the incident (e.g., when, how much was used, where) at the time of the initial meeting with the Residence Hall Director
- Sign the Release of Information Form for the Counseling Center (and any other treatment center involved)
- Inform parents within 24 hours
- Make an appointment with the Counseling Center by the end of the next business day
- Meet with the Counseling Center and/or other designated treatment center personnel in order to complete an assessment
- Follow-up as recommended (may include scheduling changes to accommodate appointment, charges for substance abuse treatment and/or drug test, or provision of own transportation to 12-step meetings)

# **Counseling Center staff responsibilities:**

- Meet with the student to conduct a preliminary assessment and/or refer to a substance abuse program for an assessment as deemed necessary
- Coordinate treatment services if another center is involved in treatment
- Inform Residence Hall Director of the following:
  - 1. Any missed appointments
  - 2. Assessment outcome and recommendations (written)
  - 3. Continuing progress or completion or services
- Provide services (e.g., individual counseling, substance abuse education) and/or refer to a substance abuse treatment center or other service as appropriate

#### Part B

Treatment recommendations will depend upon the assessment outcome, and are determined on a case-by-case basis. The University may choose to discipline the student with sanctions up to and including dismissal. Following are the assessment categories and their usual treatment recommendations:

A. Occasional social or experimental use: The student will attend weekly counseling and education sessions for 7 weeks, and attend three meetings of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), Narcotics Anonymous (NA), or other substance abuse prevention support group approved by the University. Students who have a more significant problem, or have significant problems surface

during assessment, may benefit from counseling more than information; thus counseling may involve a longer period of time.

- B. Substance abuse, or problematic use, which has not yet developed to dependency: The student will be referred to a community based intensive outpatient educational/treatment program at his or her expense. Oakwood University Counseling Center will follow-up on that program's discharge recommendations. Such follow-up may include individual counseling with the Oakwood University Counseling Center staff as well as regular substance abuse prevention support group attendance.
- C. Chemical dependency: The student will be asked to withdraw from Oakwood University for at least one semester and seek appropriate inpatient treatment to establish a solid recovery program. Upon readmission to Oakwood University, the student and his/her parents (as appropriate) must sign a contract of commitment to his/her ongoing recovery program, which may involve counseling, AA/NA, and/or attendance at some other substance abuse prevention support group approved by the University. The student should be prepared to participate in spot-checking by laboratory analysis when requested to do so by the Residence hall director, the Assistant Vice President for Student Services, or other personnel involved in treatment.

If the student fails to comply with the drug and alcohol assessment, any part of the treatment recommendations, or returns to use, he or she may be required to withdraw from school immediately.

Students will be encouraged to make recovery their highest priority and return to campus **only** after at least one semester of intensive recovery work. Before re-applying to Oakwood University, they will need to provide a written program review from the treatment facility and a statement of compliance with the recovery program plan. Students who have had chemical dependency treatment can expect to be in contact with the Counseling Center and comply with the requirements for abstinence throughout their time at Oakwood University.

#### Part C

If a student approaches a faculty/staff member or a resident assistant, requesting assistance with an alcohol or other drug problem, those individuals' responsibilities are as follows:

- Ask the student to contact the Counseling Center staff before the end of the next business day
- Inform the student that he/she will need to sign a Release of Information Form with the Counseling Center in order to assure the faculty/staff member/R.A that he/she is receiving help and to allow the faculty/staff member/R.A. to be a part of the helping process.
- Inform the student that failure to meet with his/her appointments or to comply with the treatment recommendations will obligate the faculty/staff member/R.A. to notify the appropriate University Official who will then approach the problem as a mandated referral (as described in parts A and B above).

**Document Title:** STATEMENT ON DRUG-FREE CAMPUS

Category: Legal Issues

Number:

Effective Date: April 5, 1999

**Authority: VP for Student Services** 

Document Status: [4/2010] [ ] [ ] Revision Dates [ ] Replacement [ ] Addition

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Oakwood University is committed to providing a drug-free workplace for its faculty, staff and students. Therefore, the University reserves the right to suspend, expel, or dismiss any student found in violation of University regulations regarding substance abuse. The Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 requires Oakwood University in Huntsville, AL, to provide the following statement of the University's Drug-Free Workplace Policy to all persons employed by the University.

1. It is forbidden to manufacture, distribute, sell, possess, or use any controlled substance unlawfully in the University workplace. The term "controlled substance" means any drug listed in the federal statutes and regulations and includes, but is not limited to, heroin, marijuana, cocaine, LSD, PCP, and "crack." The term includes "legal drugs" when not prescribed by a licensed physician.

Additionally included within the parameters of these guidelines are alcoholic beverages such as beer, liquor, wine, drug paraphernalia and any substance represented to be a drug.

2. The following sanctions shall be imposed for violation of the policy:

Any of the disciplinary actions described in the Oakwood University Faculty, Staff and Student Handbooks up to and including immediate dismissal.

- 3. Any person employed by Oakwood University must, as a condition of employment:
  - A. Abide by the University's Drug-Free Workplace Policy
  - B. Notify the University, through its Department of Human Resources, within five (5) days of his or her conviction under criminal drug statute for a violation occurring in the University workplace. A conviction means a finding of guilt (including a plea of nolo contendere) or the imposition of a sentence by a judge or jury in state or federal court.
- 4. Oakwood University will provide drug-free awareness programs, as well as make available counseling and treatment services through its counseling office and other agencies in the Huntsville area.

**Document Title:** OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY STUDENT MEMORIAL

Category: Miscellaneous

Number:

Effective Date: October 15, 2002

**Authority:** VP for Student Services

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#### **Purpose**

The student memorial is established to commemorate/memorialize students of Oakwood University. The student memorial is located in theOakwood University Memorial Gardens.

Criteria for placement of Name on Strudent Memorial

- 1. Enrolled student in current academic year (1st or 2nd semester)
- 2. Student who dies in the summer will be added if she/he is registered or planned to return to Oakwook University

System for Inclusion on the Student Memorial

- 1. Archives will maintain record of student deaths supplied by Public Relations.
- 2. The Office of Public relations is responsible for ensurring the correct name is included on the Memorial.

#### **Process**

- 1. Name will be added to the Student memorial at the commemoration of the service conducted by the Office of spiritual Life in conjunction with the Vice president of Student services.
- 2. Parents will be informed off the addition of the name with a certificate prepared by the Office of Public relations, sent by the Presidents's Office
- 3. Refer to other protocols as they related to bereavement.