

Seminary Code of Conduct

(rev. 12.02.2022)

As a faith-based Christian institution, the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary is committed to the highest levels of Christian conduct and expects its faculty, staff, and students to adhere to the highest academic, moral, and ethical standards of conduct at all times. Our behavior often serves as a living testimony to the church, the community, and to the entire world of the committed and true relationship we have with Jesus. Therefore, it is imperative that we maintain and reflect Christian maturity consistent with biblical principles and the highest professional standards at all times in our social media presence, sexual behavior, classroom conduct, and dress code, inside and out of the institution. (See Andrews University [Code of Student Conduct](#)). As a Seventh-day Adventist institution, we fully respect and follow the standards of Seventh-day Adventist beliefs and behavior, as expressed in the “[28 Fundamental Beliefs of Seventh-day Adventists](#)” and the “[Pastoral Ethics](#).”

Social Media Presence

Social Media (SM) offers great opportunities for ministry. However, careless use of SM platforms can be detrimental to the image, character, and Christian influence of the user and the institution. Making proper and careful use of SM across all platforms is essential for all faculty, staff, and seminary students. Therefore, it is important to remember the following points:

- *Posts are permanent.* Even after a post is deleted, it can be screenshot and shared by others. Due to the ease with which a post can be disseminated, one should treat any post with the same vigilance and discretion as one does with face-to-face communication. As an integral part of the Seminary family, your social media presence represents the Seminary community, both directly and indirectly. Therefore, be mindful of your views and opinions shared on SM.
- *Social Media is not private.* Use good judgment when posting and replying to comments online. For example, refrain from participating in argumentative, inflammatory, or derogatory discussions, posts, or videos. And do not share personal and copyrighted material without permission from the holder.
- *What should not be posted.* Posting or storing content contrary to Christian values of morality and professional standards will not be tolerated. They include but are not limited to obscene, pornographic, defamatory, racist, sexist, and bullying content in any form. If something is not appropriate to say or perform in public, do not post it.

Sexual Misconduct

Today, there is greater awareness and reporting of sexual misconduct in the marketplace and in ministry. Fraternizing and fellowshiping with others in and out of the Seminary needs to be built on a foundation of respect, moral purity, and Christ-like conduct of love. Sexual misconduct includes a broad range of behaviors. It includes but is not limited to nudity, kissing, sexual touching, stalking, and sexual suggestions, jokes, or innuendoes. Therefore, it is imperative for all members of the Seminary family to refrain from any type of behavior and advances that could be construed by those on the receiving end as sexual misconduct or harassment.

- *Words.* Refrain from using words that lack respect or may create uncomfortable sexual situations. Communication is the foundation of interpersonal relationships. Therefore, as a member of the Seminary family and as a pastor/chaplain, always be mindful of the possible erotic intentions, meaning, and ramifications of the words you choose to use with others.
- *Physical Contact.* Touching people can be a sign of endearment and care. However, when misplaced, misguided, or misunderstood, it can be a form of sexual misconduct or harassment to those on the receiving end. It is expected of all seminarians to behave within the parameters of respect and biblical morality in all their interpersonal relationships. All members of the Seminary family must take upon themselves the responsibility to uplift each other and those with whom they come in contact.
- *Reporting and dismissal.* When provided with actual knowledge and evidence of sexual misconduct, the Seminary administration will act swiftly in accordance with Andrews University policy and corresponding government regulations.

Academic Integrity

University learning thrives on the rigor of individual investigation, the authentic exchange of ideas, and a corporate commitment to integrity and mutual respect. It requires all members of the academic community to behave honestly—speaking truthfully to colleagues, co-learners, and teachers and completing all homework, tests, papers, and projects with integrity. Click here for the [Academic Integrity](#) statement and the [Student Handbook](#) of Andrews University.

Classroom Conduct

The Seminary encourages all students and professors to engage in meaningful dialogue and interchange of ideas that promote intellectual, professional, spiritual, and social growth—especially in the context of class participation and learning. The Seminary is home to a diverse community. For that reason, all lectures, presentations, and discussions must be carried out with a view to creating mutual harmony and respect and honoring different points of view.

- *Classroom discussion.* Classroom discussion should be civil so that it is respectful to everyone and relevant to the topic at hand. Classroom discussion is meant to allow students to hear a variety of differing viewpoints, as everyone is entitled to their opinion. This can only happen if we respect each other and our differences.

- *Electronic devices.* Since every student is entitled to full participation in class without interruption, all students are expected to come to class prepared, on time, and remain for the full class period. All wireless phones, games, players, and other electronic devices that generate sound, play video images, or pictures unrelated to class material must be turned off during class. And all online behaviors—including but not limited to chatting, texting, social media participation, shopping, and playing games— must be avoided unless they are part of the classroom instruction.
- *Disruptive behavior.* Disruptive behaviors, including excessive talking, arriving late, eating, and sleeping, during class are not permitted. This also includes but is not limited to fighting, using profanity, personal or physical threats or insults, and damaging property. Such behavior may result in removal from class in accordance with policies and procedures outlined in the AU student handbook.

Dress Code

As members of the Seminary family, you are expected to groom and dress in modest, neat, and clean attire. Because our work environment mostly consists of us serving others in professional capacities, appropriate casual or semi-formal attire is essential. People often make decisions about our character and professionalism based on our appearance.

- *Good Judgment.* Seminary family members are expected to demonstrate good judgment and professional taste. Therefore, please be mindful of your professional image to others by dressing in appropriate professional attire.
- *Appropriate attire.* Examples of appropriate attire include suits, pants, jackets, shirts, skirts, and dresses that, while they may not always need to be formal, are appropriate for a professional environment.
- *Inappropriate Attire in the Seminary.* Apparel displaying vulgarity or vulgar graphics and flamboyant or immodest clothing that draws attention to oneself is considered inappropriate.

I read this document and promise on my honor as a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary learning community at Andrews University that I will faithfully adhere to the Seminary Code of Conduct described above, including both the University [Code of Student Conduct](#) and the [Academic Integrity](#) statements which are part of the Student Handbook. I understand that if, in the judgment of the Seminary or the University, I am in violation of any of the above, I may be admonished privately, brought before conduct committees, or removed from the Seminary.

Name _____ Date _____

Signature _____