

Gateway Seminary is an educational institution of the Southern Baptist Convention and operates within its parameters — expressed through its legal documents, convention decisions, and adopted resolutions. The Seminary assumes each student is a ministry leader, has a proven record of Christian conduct, and has the unqualified endorsement of a local church. The Seminary expects student conduct to meet standards normally expected of ministry leaders in Southern Baptist churches and mission organizations.

The behavior of every student is subject to review at all times during the full duration of enrollment in the Seminary. The Seminary reserves the right, at any time, to investigate student conduct and terminate the enrollment of any student who does not meet the Ethical Conduct Standard. Students are accountable to meet the requirements of the Ethical Conduct Standards until they are approved for graduation and the public graduation ceremony at their respective campus has been conducted. When a violation of these standards occurs near graduation, disciplinary actions by the seminary may include delaying or denying conferring of a degree and participation in a graduation ceremony. These ethical standards are articulated, but not limited to, the following statements:

1. **Academic misconduct** — including violation of academic policies, plagiarism, or cheating.
2. **Controlled substances** — including possession, use, or sale of illegal drugs and recreational marijuana; use of tobacco or nicotine products (including e-cigarettes); and use of alcoholic beverages (see additional statement below).
3. **Sexual misconduct** — including any form of extramarital sexual intercourse, inappropriate displays of affection or attention, lewd and indecent language or conduct, and homosexual behavior.
4. **Making false statements** to the Seminary (verbal or written) - including matters related to admission, registration, residential status, other official records, or any forgery/falsification of documents.
5. **Financial impropriety** — including mismanagement of ministry funds, non-payment of Seminary accounts, and failure to practice Christian stewardship.
6. **Assault and threats** — including fighting, other acts of aggression, abusive behavior, verbal or physical threats, or any disorderly conduct deemed reckless or dangerous.
7. **Theft** — including theft of Seminary or personal property, unauthorized entry of Seminary or personal property, or abuse of Seminary property.
8. **Harassment** — including demeaning speech or actions, inappropriate racial/ethnic/cultural comments, or disrespectful behavior toward anyone.
9. **Criminal conviction of any kind.**

**Further statement on alcohol use**

The Seminary requires abstinence from alcoholic beverages for the following reasons:

1. **Deference** — the Seminary is owned by the Southern Baptist Convention, which has repeatedly adopted resolutions calling for abstinence among believers.
2. **Stewardship** — the Seminary will not devote staff time or financial resources to resolve the issues that would inevitably arise if it sanctioned alcohol use.
3. **Example** — the Seminary recognizes most Southern Baptist churches and mission organizations require abstinence by their leaders and expect the same from future leaders.
4. **Wisdom** — the Seminary recognizes alcohol is a destructive force in society and abstinence is a wise choice to avoid unnecessary negative consequences.
5. **Safety** — the Seminary attempts to create a safe environment for family life and learning without unnecessary distractions caused by alcohol consumption.
6. **Employment** — Seminary graduates who seek employment with Southern Baptist entities must have a track record of abstinence prior to and during employment.

Specific questions or concerns related to these Ethical Conduct Standards should be directed to the Dean of Students or Regional Campus Director.

**I understand and will comply with these standards while I am actively enrolled at Gateway Seminary. I understand any violation of these standards will result in disciplinary action or procedures as set forth or referenced in the Student Handbook and/or Seminary Catalog.**

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Name (please print)

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Signature

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Date