

Lifestyle Expectations

Indiana Wesleyan University desires:

- its students to be active learners, not passive;
- its campus to be a community of care and love for each other; for students to willingly submit to small group and individual accountability;
- to gain identity in Christ, not in the world's perspective of popularity, achievement, money, clothing, etc.;
- to be people of integrity; choosing sexual purity;
- to serve others through out-reach and lifelong ministry;
- and its students to become committed leaders for the future of our churches, society and the home.

Practices Governed by Scripture

By electing to be a member of this community, each IWU student needs to embrace the Biblical elements which guide the conduct of responsible Christians. We believe these basic tenets of the Christian faith are foundational for the IWU community to complete its work:

- loving God and being accountable to Him;
- committing and ministering to relationships with one another through the strength of the Holy Spirit as a member of Christ's body;
- endeavoring to bring all things including evangelism and social justice under the dominion of Christ;
- and using the Bible as our infallible, inerrant authority for establishing principles for personal and community conduct.

A Word of Caution

If you cannot commit to these values, you may have selected the wrong university. It is not at all that other colleges are inferior, but your fit with our campus and fellow students is critical to your academic and social achievement. However, if you are struggling with one of these values in your life, but truly desire to change, then let us work together to reach new levels of accomplishment in your future and ours.

No longer do we live in a predominantly Christian culture. We believe we are called to be different in our values and life style than the secular culture. What we watch or listen to, how we dress and act, or how we spend our time and money should be noticeably different than the behaviors of popular culture.

The following behavioral expectations are binding on members of the Indiana Wesleyan University community and systems are set in place to help hold each of us accountable.

Exercise Self-Control

Those acts which are expressly forbidden in Scripture, including theft, lying, dishonesty, gossip, slander, profanity, vulgarity, adultery, homosexual behavior, premarital sex, drunkenness, gluttony, immodesty, and occult practice will not be practiced by members of the Indiana Wesleyan University community, either on or off campus.

Greed, jealousy, pride, lust, needless anger, an unforgiving spirit, and harmful disagreements will be avoided by members of the Indiana Wesleyan University community (Jeremiah 9:3-9, Mark 7:20-23, Galatians 5:19-21). Although by their very nature more difficult to discern, they are potentially as destructive to the community.

We are dedicated to supporting individuals who may come to University personnel for change and healing in these areas of sin. This can only occur if the student is committed to total abstinence from the resulting behaviors during counseling and restoration. Without this commitment, continued enrollment is not possible.

Premarital Sex/Pregnancy

As a result of many personal and negative societal forces, students often struggle with the temptation of engaging in premarital sex. Anyone being tempted in this way is strongly encouraged to seek help from the Student Development Office. Our university community is committed to the sanctity and preservation of life. As a result, if a pregnancy occurs, the University will not seek formal institutional discipline if:

1. the student(s) voluntarily come to the Student Development Office seeking assistance;
2. an abortion has not been performed;
3. the student(s) vow to abstinence and begin personal counseling; and
4. the student(s) voluntarily step down from co-curricular activities, including intercollegiate athletics, from being candidates for positions of honor, from holding office or any other responsible position in organizations or being a university representative to the public.

Due to the importance of appropriate prenatal care and well-being issues, University housing for the mother-to-be will not be available beginning with the second trimester.

Abstain from Substance Abuse

Members of the community recognize the danger to one's physical and psychological well being in the use of certain products. And, since the body of the Christian is the temple of the Holy Spirit, deserving respect and preservation of its well being, the possession and use of tobacco in any form and the possession and use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.

Indiana Wesleyan University prohibits the unlawful possession, use or distribution of cocaine, narcotic drugs, marijuana, hash oil, hashish, alcohol, controlled substances or paraphernalia (including "rolling" papers) by students on or away from campus. Students are expected not to abuse the use of legal prescriptions.

The following is a summary of the laws in Indiana that pertain to substance abuse. Dealing cocaine, marijuana, hash oil, hashish, narcotic drugs, a controlled substance or paraphernalia is also a felony. Alcohol possession or illegal consumption for minors (under the age of 21) is a misdemeanor offense.

Students should be aware of the health risks associated with the use and abuse of alcohol and illicit drugs:

1. Drinking and driving is a leading cause of injury and death.
2. Alcohol can react dangerously with many medicines (both prescription and over-the-counter).
3. Drinking and/or using drugs during times of emotional stress only makes problems worse.
4. Drinking and/or using drugs can cause problems with law enforcement.

For students who are dealing with alcohol and drug abuse problems IWU's Center for Student Support Services has professionally trained counselors that can assist students in the beginning stages of a substance abuse problem. Student Support Services will use the assessment services of the Cornerstone Professional Treatment Services, Substance Abuse Center or the Wabash Addictions Center. Students will be referred to these community agencies if they are assessed as needing more intensive outpatient treatment or residential treatment. The Student Support Services staff members are not specialists in the treatment of substance abuse and will usually work in conjunction with these agencies.

Sanctions will be imposed on students using or abusing substances as outlined in the Student Handbook. These sanctions will range from citizenship probation to dismissal and referral for prosecution of the violation of local and state laws.

Respect Authority

In keeping with scriptural admonitions to be under the authority of government, members of the Indiana Wesleyan community are expected to uphold the local, state, and federal laws, except for those occasions in which obedience to the civil authority would require behavior that conflicts with scriptural teachings. It is expected that students will respect those in authority over them at IWU as well.

Honor the Sabbath

Scripture teaches that the God we serve is worthy of all honor, praise and worship. Members of the community are to revere the name of God and observe the Lord's Day by divine worship and spiritual edification and renewal for tasks ahead.

Abstain from Gambling

Scripture teaches the stewardship of God-given resources. Therefore, we forbid gambling (the exchange of money and goods by betting or wagering) in its various forms. For the

same reason, we encourage the University community to boycott lottery sales and similar operations.

Do Not Discriminate

Because of our scriptural belief in the worth and dignity of persons, each member of the community is expected to be sensitive to special needs existing in our society and on our campus. Therefore, discrimination against others on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, socioeconomic status, or handicap is a violation of our Biblical principles.

Abstain from Verbal and Physical Altercation

Demeaning gestures, threats or violence, or physical attacks directed toward another person are not allowed.

Abstain from Pornography

In violation of the scriptural teaching concerning personal dignity and moral purity, individuals are exploited and degraded by the immoral and inhumane action of the pornographic industry. With computer networks and even CD ROM saturated with pornography, this temptation runs well beyond videos and magazines. Therefore, viewing, possession, and distribution of such materials is prohibited.

Live Above Repute

God calls us to a lifestyle characterized by honesty and integrity. Members of the community, therefore, should be truthful in all situations and refrain from activities involving personal and academic dishonesty. All members of the community are expected to comply with day-to-day policies and procedures as listed in the appropriate handbooks, and comply with a reasonable and lawful request by University personnel acting in performance of their duties.

Practices Governed by Consent of the Community for Its Common Good

In addition to behavioral obligation set forth in Scripture, members of this community choose to impose upon themselves the following rules for behavior out of the conviction that they serve both the long-range interests of this institution and the immediate good of its individual members. Violations, therefore, must be regarded as a serious breach of integrity with this community to which each member has voluntarily chosen to associate.

Commuter students (who have never lived in the residence halls) are required to abide by this standard when they are on the Indiana Wesleyan University campus or in the presence of a resident student or while attending university-related events.

Former resident students (those who have lived in the residence hall for a least one semester) who have elected to live off campus during their senior year and/or age 23, will continue to be responsible for upholding the following rules and expectations even though they no longer live in the residence halls. Compliance with these expectations through academic vacation periods including summer months while enrolled is expected as well.

Dancing

A number of evangelical denominations have historically taken a stand against social dancing as an expression of their commitment to the Christ-exalting life. Our community, considering itself in the mainstream of the evangelical tradition, and recognizing the temptations inherent in the sensuous and erotic nature of some social dancing, disapproves of social dancing by members of the community. Some forms of performance choreography as it relates to the public presentations of drama, music and cultural performances are permitted by the artists involved. Celebratory, folk, ethnic or group dance at wedding receptions is acceptable as long as it remains wholesome and avoids any hint of sensuality. Performances on campus are carefully screened and exclusively selected by University personnel as educational and appropriate to the performance.

Worship

Corporate worship enhances community building and support of the body of Christ. We gather as a community at special times for nurturing and admonition in the things of God. These activities include compulsory chapel, spiritual care weeks, and other university-related religious events. Members of the community should participate in these gatherings and those of their own churches.

Entertainment

Scripture teaches that all our actions (work, study, play) should be performed to the glory of God. We endeavor, therefore, to be selective in choices of entertainment and recreation, promoting those which strengthen the body of Christ and avoiding those which would diminish sensitivity to Christian responsibility. Particular attention should be given to movies and music lyrics contrary to Christian principles.

MEDIA POLICY

General Perspective

The entertainment industry may be one of the most significant influences in American culture today. Unfortunately, Judeo/ Christian values have all but disappeared as the industry continues to search for new ways to generate profits at the expense of morality. Although some would argue that movies, music, magazines, television, Internet and video games are purely entertainment, in truth, they are powerful teachers introducing us

to values, lifestyles and behaviors otherwise outside of our personal experience. Often this is healthy, causing us to think more deeply or understand more fully. But sometimes this is unhealthy, causing us to be intrigued with sin issues and/or building images and addictions that will haunt us for the rest of our lives. Young people, including college students, who are targeted by media, are often even more susceptible to the lures of “entertainment”. Without purposefully building critical thinking skills, especially in a college environment, consciences can be badly damaged and thoughtful selection almost non-existent.

This policy has been developed to help our student community positively deal with this issue. At its core, IWU hopes to challenge students to develop discernment, evaluate and ultimately select entertainment that allows for meaningful learning and wholesome fun. Believing Scripture teaches that purity of heart is influenced by the eyes and the mind, our point of reference is based on Philippians 4:8: “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.”

Music, Magazines, Television, Internet, and Video Games

Students are generally permitted to use any of these mediums unless they contain sexually explicit or pornographic material, excessive profanity, excessive violence, promote or celebrate the demonic/occult, devalue a particular gender or race, or devalue the worth of God. (See Rating Levels below for specific discernment guidelines). Music and video games with warning labels or ratings for mature audiences should be specifically avoided.

Movie/Video/DVD

While the external rating systems (G, PG, PG-13, R, NC-17) are inadequate for developing discernment, in the absence of any other early warning system, they can at least be a starting point. At IWU, students are generally permitted to view films including those rated PG-13 unless they contain sexually provocative, explicit or pornographic material, excessive profanity, excessive violence, promote or celebrate the demonic/occult, devalue a particular gender or race, or devalue the worth of God. (See rating levels below for specific discernment guidelines). Movies with PG and PG-13 ratings should be selected thoughtfully, with consideration for both personal conviction and community impact. Using movie critic reviews or guide sources to evaluate the appropriateness of a movie BEFORE viewing is one of the best ways to make informed selections.

Movieguide.org, Crosswalk.com, and Screenit.com are three such sources offering reviews even before the movie is released. Critical thinking and discernment skills grow as information is collected and pondered.

Although an “R” rated movie rarely provides the educational or redeeming value which would warrant its viewing, we have developed a system for students to request specific

movie exceptions to the “R” rated exclusion based on educational, historical or social value. For students wishing to view an “R” rated film on their own, or for the University to consider a public showing, a Movie Review Team, made up of students, faculty and administrators is assigned the responsibility of evaluating requested movies according to a specific set of criteria. The team would first read the critical reviews of the film to determine its likelihood of being approved. If it appears the movie has redeeming value, the team would go view the film (or rent it if available) and each member would rate it. A ten-day response to requests would be the goal of the team. The team would keep a current record of approved films and denied films, including denied PG-13 films.

Although it is difficult to specify precise criteria for evaluating a film, the following is a list of criteria to be considered. The levels in italics indicate the point at which a movie becomes prohibited, although it is our prayer that students carefully determine for themselves whether preceding levels are even too liberal for them. (The categories were adapted from Sophisticated Films Movie Guide.)

Violence

- A. No violence.
- B. Some implied violence.
- C. Some overt violent scenes necessary to the progression of the plot.
- D. Violent, implicit, and/or bloody scenes; explicit scenes.
- E. Excessive, gratuitous violence unnecessary to the plot.

Profanity/Blasphemy/Obscenity

(Profane - not concerned with religion or religious purposes; serving to debase or defile what is holy.

Blaspheme - to speak of or address with irreverence.

Obscene - disgusting to the senses; repulsive; abhorrent to morality or virtue; designed to incite to lust or depravity.)

- A. No profanity, obscenity, or blasphemy.
- B. Infrequent use of profanity. Occasional use of God's name to express surprise, awe, or disgust as heard on network television.
- C. More frequent, or stronger use of some obscenity. Occasional use of God's name to shock or surprise.
- D. Frequent use of the above language and worse. Frequent use of God's name to shock or surprise.
- E. Profanity, obscenity, or blasphemy pervasive throughout the entire movie. Most characters, most scenes.

Nudity

- A. No nudity or implications to suggest such.
- B. No nudity, but occasional scenes with a person scantily clad or in underwear.
- C. Limited and brief non-sexual glimpses of nude backside exposure or side.
- D. Some exposure of backside or breast as part of a sexual act or frontal nudity.
- E. Frontal nudity or exposure of backside or breast as part of a sexual act or frontal nudity.

Sex

- A. No sex or implied sexual situations.
- B. Some minor, implied sexual situations, including verbal suggestions.
- C. Some implied and infrequently overt sexual situations.
- D. Fairly strong sexual situations, such as in bed together in a provocative scene.
- E. Explicit sexual scenes shown.

Coarse or Objectionable Content

(Improper sexist, racist, sacrilegious comments or situations, and crude references to anatomy or sexual situations.)

- A. None. Supportive or neutral to Christian worldview.
- B. A few minor comments or situations. Secular worldview.
- C. Several crude or overt references (or frequent use by anti-hero). Secular worldview.
- D. Frequent coarse language or situations. Anti-Christian worldview.
- E. Coarse or objectionable content pervasive throughout the entire movie.
Most characters, most scenes. Intentionally contrary or abusive to Christian worldview.

Gender

- A. No derogatory gender references.
- B. A few minor negative gender comments.
- C. Several negative comments but most in character context or essential to plot.
- D. Several derogatory comments or expressions of a particular gender as sexual object.
- E. Frequent derogatory comments or purposeful depiction of gender as sexual object.

Final Comments

We recognize that defining a Media Policy is limiting at best. In a perfect world, this wouldn't be needed at all. The truth of the matter is that we don't live in a perfect world, and given human nature to push the limits, the world continues to redefine morality more and more loosely everyday. The perspective of "garbage in, garbage out", as it relates to the power of media, is unfortunately true.

Because we care about our community and especially our students, we have tried to offer this policy as a compromise. If the University didn't push back on this issue, it is unlikely that significant discerning of any media selection would occur. It is our prayer that with this policy creating a higher level of expectation, students will be challenged to think and converse, and thus make selections above and beyond the pressure of pop culture, or media marketing ploys.

Appropriate Appearance and Attire

The University is concerned about attire and etiquette. Part of this concern is based on moral issues (the Christian values of modesty and simplicity) and part is based on a

desire to help students function in the world of work after college. As a Christian, what is worn should not be immodest, provocative, or call undue attention to one's self. As individuals preparing for the world of work it is important to learn to make decisions about what clothing, hair style, or adornment is appropriate in different settings. Awareness of the appropriate attire for each occasion is an essential element in the social maturity of the individual.

Scripture does not specifically address a detailed code of dress because of the rapidly changing styles in culture. Therefore, the following are some general guidelines that reflect the values of the Indiana Wesleyan community. In those areas not discussed, the student is challenged to make decisions about his or her attire that would be consistent with values behind these guidelines.

- a. Neatness and cleanliness are basic to wholesome appearance and are expected of all students. Student employees, compensated student leaders during the term of their responsibility, athletes, and those representing Indiana Wesleyan University in a public way are expected to adhere to more specific guidelines as deemed appropriate by the university personnel overseeing the group. For example: men's hair length no longer than the collar; removal of earrings for men, removal of all other piercings for men and women etc.; and avoidance of hair or clothing style extremes.
- b. Classroom buildings and chapel (not including the residence halls, Student Center or Baldwin dining room) are your place of work and business. While we understand the importance of being comfortable in times of warm weather, students are expected to use discretion and to dress appropriately for chapel and the learning environment. A sloppy appearance lends itself to undisciplined learning and an atmosphere that is contrary to the goals of the classroom. For this reason, grubby, tattered or immodest clothing must be avoided throughout campus. In addition, shorts are not permitted in chapel or on Sunday in the Baldwin dining room. The faculty will outline what is appropriate attire in the classroom.
- c. Be modest. Students may not wear abbreviated clothes, tight-fitting garments, clothes of sheer material, extremely short shorts, halters, etc.
- d. Male students are to wear shirts in all public places indoors and out. Shirts should not reveal the torso or be tight in nature.
- e. Female students may not wear skirts or skirts with slits that are above the finger tip length, when arms are at their side. Strapless dresses and dresses with spaghetti straps are not appropriate. Low-cut dresses (i.e. cleavage revealed) or dresses and shirts revealing more than a third of the back are also not appropriate. Tank tops must have two-inch straps (bra straps should not be showing). Blouses made of sheer material which reveal under layers are not appropriate. At no time should the navel be showing (arms at side or raised). Midriff shirts are not appropriate. Female students should wear appropriate underclothing (i.e. slip, bra) to maintain a modest appearance.
- f. Any extreme in hairstyle, clothes design, and ornamentation that attracts attention to itself usually detracts from a learning or worship experience and should be avoided as general campus wear.

Inappropriate Supervision

Sexual temptations are becoming more powerful in today's society. Students must have authorized supervision in order to spend the night off campus with the opposite sex in another housing facility (separate rooms). Authorized supervision is a married couple, parent or parents or family member over the age of 23.

Interference

No student shall deliberately obstruct or restrain the lawful movement or normal functioning of another member of the University community, or remain in any facility of the University after closing hours without authorization.

Marriage

Students planning to marry during the academic year should notify the University Chaplain in Student Development at least 60 days in advance. Resident students who wish to marry during the school year (and remain in school) must experience a series of marriage counseling sessions with the University Chaplain, College Church pastor, or a marriage counselor of their choice

Emotional/Psychological Illness

Although many life issues can be resolved with counseling while a student maintains enrollment, there are times when continued enrollment only hampers growth or threatens the well being of the community.

Dis-enrollment

The University reserves the right to dis-enroll students who:

- exhibit little or no control in adhering to University policies,
- are unable to carry out the normal routine of campus life,
- threaten to harm self or others,
- or place consistent unrealistic expectations on the time and energy of other students, faculty or staff.

Dis-enrollment decisions are only made after prayerful and appropriate professional evaluation considering the nature and extent of care required, the severity of the problem, and the level of the student's cooperation, prognosis and willingness to change.

Solicitation

Students, student groups and off-campus persons selling commercial products or services are not permitted to sell door-to-door in the residence halls. The rooms and facilities of IWU are not to be used to hold parties, demonstrations, shows or ventures for the purposes of selling or soliciting. The University will not assist commercial agents in

contacting students, nor will it make student directories or campus postal facilities available.

Copyright Infringement

The Internet has become a dangerous depository of illegal copyrighted music, text, pictures and books. It is a violation of University expectations to download, and retrieve copyrighted MP3 music files, and other material from the Internet. To avoid disciplinary or criminal consequences, be very careful to investigate any material obtained via the Internet to be sure it is legal before copying.