

## GRADUATE STUDENT STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

Biola University is a community of Christians committed to the principles of Christian living found in the Bible and holds that these biblical standards are vital to our individual and corporate relationships.

Consistent with the example and command of Jesus Christ, we believe that life within a Christian community must be lived to the glory of God, with love for God and for our neighbors. Being indwelt by the Holy Spirit, we strive to walk by the Spirit, "crucifying the flesh with its passions and desires" (Galatians 5:24). To this end, members of the Biola community are not to engage in activities, which Scripture forbids. Such activities include, but are not limited to, dishonesty, thievery, fornication, adultery, homosexual practice, drunkenness and unscriptural divorce. Scripture also condemns other "deeds of the flesh" such as covetousness, jealousy, pride and lust-sins which the maturing Christian should put off, and replace with "fruit of the spirit": love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (e.g., Luke 10:27; Galatians 2:20, 5:14-24; Ephesians 2:3; 1Corinthians 6:9-10).

When the Bible is not clear regarding a specific behavior, we will be guided by our desire to glorify God in our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), and will discern if any of our brothers or sisters in Christ would stumble in their faith (1 Corinthians 8; Romans 14). If our Lord is not glorified or another Christian is harmed or offended by our behavior, then we will freely abstain from that activity, both on and off the campus of Biola. We know that many behaviors are lawful, but not all are profitable (1 Corinthians 10:23-33). Therefore, we will constantly be teachable regarding those activities where the Bible is not clear and will evaluate them in light of our pursuit of holiness and love for our Lord and each other. Living with this sort of intentionality clearly demonstrates that personal liberty is not the highest principle of conduct but love is (1 Corinthians 8:1, cp. 9-11)!

It is important to note that students studying at the Biola Campus in La Mirada are at various ages, varying levels of Christian maturity and have varying levels of understanding regarding Christian conduct in neutral areas. As in the passages referenced above, some can practice liberties in good conscience while others following their example could be caused to stumble in their faith. The principle that regulates conduct in morally neutral matters therefore seems to apply: glorify God by seeking the welfare of others. This is imitating the self-sacrificing example of Christ (1 Corinthians 10: 31-11:1). For this reason and for the sake of undergraduate students studying at the campus, among others, graduate students age 21 and over are asked to follow the same standards of conduct as are followed by faculty and staff at Biola.

Graduate students age 21 and over are required to abstain from the use of tobacco products, the use of alcoholic beverages, and gambling activities while on the Biola campus, at off-campus University buildings or residence housing sites, or at functions (such as social gatherings, departmental meals, meetings, seminars, conferences, athletic competitions, etc.) where participants are primarily drawn together by nature of their relationship to Biola. Biola students *under the age of 21* are required to abstain from the use of tobacco products, the use of alcoholic beverages and gambling activities at all times while enrolled.

These standards apply to the student while enrolled in any of the schools or programs of the University on and off campus. Biola therefore reserves the right to discipline or dismiss any student who in its judgment, does not conform to these conduct standards or to other expressed principles, policies, programs and expectations of the university governing student conduct.