STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS:

Alcohol Policy
The State of North Carolina prohibits the use of alcohol by persons under the age of 21. It is also illegal, in our state, for a person of legal alcohol drinking age to purchase for or provide alcohol to anyone who is underage. Methodist University fully supports and upholds the state law. The possession or consumption of any alcoholic beverage is prohibited on the Methodist University campus regardless of one’s age. Possession is defined as having any alcoholic beverage or its commercially produced container, or materials used to create consumption of alcohol such as beer bongs, funnels, and tubing, etc., on the student’s person, in the student’s room, in the student’s automobile, or among properties owned or being used by the student. Given reasonable cause, residence hall rooms, common living areas, and automobiles may be searched for alcohol. All residents and/or visitors who are found in the presence of alcohol possession or consumption are subject to the same sanctions as the individual(s) who actually brought the alcohol and/or alcohol containers into the environment or were possessing or consuming it regardless of how long they were present on the scene.

Consequences of Alcohol Related Violation
The first time that a student is found responsible for the possession, on campus, of an alcoholic beverage or a commercially produced alcoholic beverage container, he or she will be subject to the following sanctions:

1. Up to a $100 fine (The actual amount of the fine is related to the severity of the offense). Students will also be assigned up to 20 hours of community service, which must be completed within the designated time given.
2. Required participation in a substance abuse assessment and, any follow-up counseling, education, and/or treatment to be conducted by the Director of the Center for Personal Development. If a student fails to comply with the assessment, education, and/or treatment recommended by the Director of the Center for Personal Development, he or she will be subject to a minimum of an additional $500 fine, and a maximum of suspension.
3. If the student is under the age of 21, the Dean of Students will write a letter to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the student informing them that the student has been found responsible for his or her first alcohol related offense. The letter will also recommend that the parents become directly involved in an effort to create a situation that will minimize the chances of the student becoming involved in a second alcohol related incident.

The second time that a current student is found responsible for possession, on campus, of an alcoholic beverage or a commercially produced alcoholic beverage container, he or she will be subject to the following sanctions:

1. Payment of a $200 fine.
2. Additional participation in a substance abuse assessment and, if required, follow-up counseling, education, and/or treatment to be conducted by the Director of the Counseling and Psychological Services. As in the case of the first offense, if a student fails to comply with the assessment, education, and/or treatment related directions provided by the Director of the Counseling and Psychological Services, he or she will be subject to a minimum of an additional $500 fine, and a maximum of expulsion.
3. If the student is under the age of 21, the Dean of Students will write a letter to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of the student informing them that the student has been found responsible for his or her second alcohol related offense. The letter will also recommend that the parents become directly involved in an effort to create a situation that will minimize the chances of the student becoming involved in a third alcohol related incident (for students under 21).
4. Student will be placed on disciplinary probation.

The third time that a current student is found responsible for possession, on campus, of an alcoholic beverage or a commercially produced alcoholic beverage container, he or she will be subject to a minimum of suspension and a maximum of expulsion.

Alcohol and Disruptive/Destructive Acts of Behavior
Maintaining a high quality of life in our community is very important to us. For this reason, we will apply even greater consequence for acts that are disruptive or destructive to our campus that include the possession of alcohol. Such acts include, but are not limited to, supplying alcohol to minors, acts of vandalism, destruction of personal or University property, disruptive noise, public drunkenness, regurgitation in shared living areas and public areas, verbal attacks, harassment, and acts of violence. If a student is found responsible for conducting acts that are disruptive or destructive to our campus community while in the possession or under the influence of alcohol, they will be subject to the following sanctions:

First incident, an additional $150 fine
Second incident, minimum additional $250 fine, and a maximum of suspension
Third incident, a minimum of suspension, and a maximum of expulsion

If a student's disruptive or destructive acts result in damage to personal or University property, the student will also be fined the same amount that will be required to repair or replace the damaged property. Students who commit disruptive or destructive acts can also be held responsible for other violations of the code of conduct, if warranted.
Readmission after Alcohol Suspension

Any student who is suspended for an alcohol related offense, and who wishes to be considered for readmission to Methodist University will be required to undergo a substance abuse assessment, given by a certified substance abuse counselor. The student must also successfully complete all prescribed education and treatment. The student’s substance abuse counselor must then write a formal letter to the Dean of Students that clearly indicates what specific treatment/education was administered to the student. The letter must also note that the student has successfully completed that treatment, and that the counselor recommends that the student be allowed to return to Methodist University. The student must also sign a release, for his/her substance abuse counselor, that allows that individual to freely discuss the student’s treatment and rehabilitation status with both the Dean of Students and with the Director of Counseling and Psychological Services. Once the contents of the letter are verified, the Dean of Students will inform the student, in writing, of the Dean’s decision on his/her request for readmission. Any student who is suspended for an alcohol related offense, and is eventually allowed to return to Methodist University, will be required to continue substance abuse treatment and education at the discretion of the Director of Counseling and Psychological Services. The Dean of Students may impose additional readmission restrictions on a case-by-case basis.

Drug Policy

Methodist University prohibits the use, possession, and/or the distribution /sale of illegal drugs.

The following are prohibited:

Illicit Drugs

a. Possessing or using illegal substances, as defined by federal, state, and local statutes.

b. Possessing or using controlled substances as defined by federal, state, and local statutes. (Controlled substances may be taken pursuant to a properly issued prescription, provided the controlled substance is taken as and in the amount prescribed.)

c. Distributing, selling, or possessing with the intent to distribute illegal or controlled substances, as defined by federal, state, and local statutes.

d. Possessing or using drug paraphernalia (including but not limited to pipes, bongs, etc.).

e. Being under the influence of illegal or controlled substances as demonstrated by actions and/or other evidence such as the smell of marijuana on the student’s clothing and/or person.

f. Growing and/or manufacturing any illegal substance.

Given reasonable cause, drug testing may be required of students suspected of a drug related offense. The type of drug testing will be determined by the Dean or Sr. Associate Dean of Students. Positive drug tests will result in $150.00 being assessed to the students account to cover the cost of the test. Reasonable Cause in Drug Use Situations is defined as the odor of marijuana on the student's clothing and/or person, in a campus residence, personal vehicle or any other confined space that belongs to or is assigned to the student and/or in a confined space where the student is located when the odor is detected. Refusal to participate in such testing may be used as grounds for probation, suspension or other discipline of a suspected violator regardless of how long they were present in the room or common living area. Student(s) who possess expired prescription drugs and/or unreasonable, large quantities of prescription drugs will be asked to provide independent, medical verification that the quantity and the prescription is valid. If students are unable to obtain medical verification, he or she will be subject to the sanctions outlined in this policy.

Odor of Marijuana

If the odor of marijuana is present (room, vehicle, etc.) without physical evidence, the student will be found responsible for “being in the presence of marijuana odor”. Sanctioning will include one semester of Disciplinary Probation. A substance abuse evaluation through the Center for Personal Development will be required. Additionally, students who are in the presence of marijuana odor will be offered the option of taking a drug test to clear charges with a negative drug test result. If a student is found in the presence of the odor of marijuana for a second or any additional incidents, drug testing will be required.

If students are in the presence of physical evidence, then those who are guests may be tested if they deny responsibility. The residents of the room and/or the owner of the vehicle may be found responsible for possession without being tested.

Drug Sanctions

First Offense: Any student who is found in violation of Methodist University’s policy against use, possession, and/or distribution of illegal drugs, or drug-related paraphernalia, or in violation of the University’s policy against the abuse or sale of prescription drugs or over-the-counter drugs will be subject to a minimum of probation and a maximum of expulsion. In addition, the student will be charged a $150.00 fine. A substance abuse evaluation through the Center for Personal Development will be required. When large quantities (1.5 ounces or more of marijuana) of illegal drugs are involved or there is evidence of drug distribution, the implicated student will be subject to immediate suspension to expulsion regardless of whether it’s the first offense or criminal arrest and will face prosecution by civil authority. All students, who are present at a time that illegal drug possession or consumption is established are subject to the same sanctions as the individual(s) who brought the drug into the environment or were possessing it or consuming it.

Second Offense: Any student who is found in violation of Methodist University’s policy against use, possession, and/or distribution of illegal drugs, or drug-related paraphernalia, or in violation of the University’s policy against the abuse or sale of prescription drugs or over-the-counter drugs for a second time will be subject to a minimum of suspension and a maximum of expulsion. When large quantities (1.5 ounces or more of marijuana) of illegal drugs are involved or there is evidence of drug distribution, the implicated student will be subject to immediate suspension to expulsion or criminal arrest and will face prosecution by civil authority. All students, who are present at a time that illegal drug possession or consumption is established are subject to the same sanctions as the individual(s) who brought the drug into the environment or were possessing it or consuming it.
Alcohol and drug usage causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses significantly impair judgment and coordination and ability to retain and recall information. Very high doses cause respiratory depression and death. Repeated use of alcohol and drugs can lead to dependence. Sudden cessation of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations, and convulsions. Long-term consumption of large quantities of alcohol and drugs particularly with poor nutrition, can also lead to permanent damage to vital organs such as the brain and liver.

Readmission after Drug Suspension

Any student who is suspended for a drug related offense, and wishes to be considered for readmission to Methodist University, will be required to undergo a substance abuse assessment, conducted by a certified substance abuse counselor. The student must also successfully complete all prescribed education and treatment and must pass periodic drug testing during the period of their suspension, as directed by the Dean of Students.

Health Risk and Effects:

Alcohol and drug usage causes a number of marked changes in behavior. Even low doses significantly impair judgment and coordination required to drive a car safely. Low to moderate doses of alcohol also increase the incidence of a variety of aggressive acts, including domestic violence and date rape. Moderate to high doses of alcohol cause mark impairments in higher mental functions, severely altering a person's ability to retain and recall information. Very high doses cause respiratory depression and death. Repeated use of alcohol and drugs can lead to dependence. Sudden cessation of alcohol intake is likely to produce withdrawal symptoms, including severe anxiety, tremors, hallucinations, and convulsions. Long-term consumption of large quantities of alcohol and drugs particularly with poor nutrition, can also lead to permanent damage to vital organs such as the brain and liver.

Tobacco Policy

Smoking is strictly prohibited in all campus buildings, and there is no smoking allowed within fifty (50) feet of any campus building. This prohibition extends to all hallways, lobbies, stairwells, restrooms, offices, classrooms and residence halls and apartments. The use of smokeless tobacco, to include eCigarettes and Water Vapor cigarettes, is also prohibited in all of the above places. Hookahs are not allowed on campus.

Tobacco Sanctions

Students who violate the community's policy against the use of tobacco will be subject to a minimum of a warning and a maximum of a $100 fine.

OTHER VIOLATIONS:

Animals on University Property

The presence of animals on university property can have an effect on the normal operations of the University, including disruption and bodily harm. The purpose of this policy is to outline the appropriate control of animals on campus.

This policy does not apply to service animals or approved emotional support animals. For more information about service animal or emotional support animal policies and procedures, please contact the Office of Disability Services (910.630.7151/7402).

For the purposes of this policy, a pet is an animal that is sufficiently tame enough to live with a family and be kept as a companion as well as interact with the public.

- No person owning or handling any pet will bring that animal onto University property without being leashed or otherwise suitability controlled (e.g. kenneled, crated, or held).
- A person owning or handling any pet must be in control of that animal for the entirety of its time on campus and may not tether it or leave it unsupervised
- A person owning or handling any pet on campus must clean up after the animal, including disposing of any excrement into available University trash cans on campus
- No person will bring any animal into any University building or permit any animal on any University vehicle
  - Exceptions will be made for:
    - Service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act
Approved emotional support animals in the residence halls only
Fish in small aquariums in the residence halls only
Approved pets in private and/or professional residences owned by the University

- Events that may include animals must be registered with the Department of Public Safety (910.630.7098)
  - Animals may not be used in ceremonies or pranks by events, organizations, or anyone associated with the University or on University property
  - Animals are not permitted in the seating areas or within close proximity to the playing surfaces of outdoor athletic fields and other athletics areas. Animals are not permitted in Monarch Stadium during Home Varsity Football games.

The owner of any animal or pet on Methodist University property is solely responsible and liable for any damages or injuries to a person(s) or property. Unattended animals may be seized by animal control or law enforcement. Owners may be fined for unattended and/or unleashed animals. Methodist University reserves the right to request that an animal be removed from campus immediately for the health and safety of its residents and community.

**Arson and Fire Safety**
It is a violation of the Code of Conduct to tamper with fire alarm systems, fire extinguishers, or other fire protection equipment or to intentionally light a fire in a University building. Violators will receive a minimum of probation and may receive a maximum of expulsion from the University along with a fine of $100.00. Local and State Fire Codes to include Local/State penalties and fines will also be enforced by the City of Fayetteville and the State of North Carolina Fire Marshal Office.

**Assault and Battery**
For purposes of this policy, assault is defined as a verbal threat to do harm to another. Students who commit assault on another member of the Methodist University community or who are defiant or belligerent toward a University staff member, including students acting in a supervisory capacity, will receive a minimum of probation and may receive a maximum of expulsion from the University. Also for purposes of this policy, battery is defined as a physical attack upon another and/or an attempt to do harm to another. Unwanted physical contact by one person on another person may also constitute battery in certain situations. Students who commit battery on another member of the Methodist University community will receive a minimum of probation and may receive a maximum of expulsion from the University. Assault, battery, physical abuse, or verbal harassment of any person on the campus is prohibited.

**Bias-Related Intimidation or Harassment**
Demeaning or degrading comments, gestures, inscriptions, symbols, etc. regarding race, religion, creed, gender, age, ethnicity, national origin, physical disability, or sexual orientation are prohibited. Students who commit these offenses will receive a minimum of a verbal warning and may receive a maximum of expulsion from the University.

**Breaking and Entering**
Breaking and entering is unlawful entry to a building or a room. Unlawful entry into a locked or an unlocked exterior door is prohibited and will not be tolerated. Breaking and entering is an offense punishable under criminal law and under campus rules and regulations. Students who commit breaking and entering will be charged the cost of repairs, will receive a minimum of probation, and may receive a maximum of expulsion from the University.

**Bullying**
Any on-going behavior directed at or about a student that is degrading, humiliating, malicious, or defamatory. Behaviors may occur in person, in print, via electronic means or through social networking (cyber-bullying). Examples include, but are not limited to: ongoing pranks or ridicule directed against an individual, graffiti, posting insults against a student in a public setting or on any website. Sanctions vary in relation to the violation.

**Complicity**
It is expected that students remove themselves from any situation in which violations of the Code of Conduct are occurring or are anticipated. Furthermore, it is the expectation of the University that Methodist students will be good citizens and as leaders, speak out against University violations by their peers. This code prohibits condoning, supporting or encouraging a violation of University policy. Sanctions vary in relation to the violation.

**Contempt**
Contempt is defined as disobedience of a Code of Conduct order, to include using violent or profane language or threatening any individual associated with the Code of Conduct system. Students who bribe, intimidate, or threaten anyone associated with the Code of Conduct system before or after a meeting or a hearing will also be found in contempt. Students found in contempt will receive a minimum of probation and may receive a maximum of expulsion from the University.

**Criminal Arrest, Charges or Conviction**
Students who are charged, arrested or convicted for violating local ordinances, North Carolina law or federal law may be subject to disciplinary action by the University up to expulsion from the University.

**Defenestration**
Throwing objects from windows of any campus building is prohibited. Sanctions vary in relation to the violation.

**Disorderly Conduct**
Disorderly Conduct is behavior which Methodist University regards as speech or action which 1) is disrespectful, offensive, and/or threatening,
2) interferes with the learning activities of other students, 3) impedes the delivery of University services, and; or 4) has a negative impact in any learning environment or social environment which include all areas within the residence halls. Disorderly Conduct includes physically, verbally (profanity of any kind) or psychologically harassing, threatening, or acting abusively toward faculty, administrators, staff, resident assistants or any student acting in a supervisory capacity in the performance of their duties. A student who engages in disorderly conduct will receive a minimum of probation and may receive a maximum of expulsion from the University.

Failure to Comply with the Direction of a University Official
Failure to comply with the direction of a University official is defined as the disobedience of or disregard for a reasonable request by a University official. A University official is defined as faculty, staff, or students acting in a supervisory capacity in the performance of their duties. Students who do not comply with the direction of a University official will receive a minimum of probation and may receive a maximum of expulsion from the University.

Fans’ Code of Conduct
Methodist University encourages and promotes good sportsmanship. Fans of organized sports and intramurals are encouraged to support the participants and officials in a positive manner. Profanity, racial or ethnic comments, intimidating actions, or physical violence directed at officials, visiting teams, student-athletes, coaches, or team representatives will not be tolerated. Students who violate the fans’ code of conduct will receive a minimum of a verbal warning and may receive a maximum of expulsion from the University.

Falsifying Information
Providing statements, actions or representation that is false, misrepresents the truth, and/or is intended to deceive another is prohibited. This code is not intended to apply to academic related offenses. Sanctions vary in relation to the violation.

Fire Safety
Methodist University has installed fire alarm systems in each residence hall. Fire extinguishers are available on each floor, and smoke alarms have been installed in every residence hall living area (including individual rooms). It is a serious violation of University standards and state laws for students to tamper with fire protection equipment. Students who tamper with fire protection equipment will be fined $100.00, and will receive a minimum of probation, and may receive a maximum of expulsion from the University. Furthermore, it is also a federal offense to pull a fire alarm if there is not a fire.

Gambling
Gambling is defined as the playing of games of chance or betting for money. Gambling is illegal in the state of North Carolina. Students who gamble will be given a minimum of a verbal warning and may receive a maximum of expulsion from the University.

Hazing
As used in this policy, hazing is defined as any act committed against a student by another student, acting individually or in concert with others, or aiding or abetting such acts in connection with pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization, team, or group affiliated with Methodist University where such acts, either intentionally or unintentionally, has the effect of physically injuring, humiliating, harassing, intimidating, demeaning, or endangering the physical or the emotional health of any student. A violation of the hazing code can occur on or off campus. Methodist University will treat any act of hazing involving Methodist University students either on or off campus in precisely the same manner. Under North Carolina state laws, hazing is defined more narrowly as follows: “to subject another student to physical injury as part of an intimidation, or as a prerequisite to membership, into any organized school group, including any society, athletic team, fraternity or sorority, or other similar group.” N.C. Gen. Stat. 14-35. Such acts are criminal (Class 2 Misdemeanor) under this statute. In addition to disciplinary action for acts of hazing as defined more broadly by the University, a student who violates the state law definition of hazing is subject to prosecution by local or state authorities.

Students who are found in violation of the Methodist University Hazing Policy will be given a minimum penalty of probation and may receive a maximum penalty of expulsion from the University. As stated above, any student who violates the North Carolina statute on hazing may also face criminal charges.

Keys/Access Cards
Unauthorized possession, duplication or use of a University key or access card is prohibited. Violators of this regulation shall receive a minimum of probation and may receive a maximum of expulsion from the University.

Littering
No student shall dispose of trash, food, and refuse of any kind except in proper trash receptacles. No student shall in any way dispose of tobacco products except in receptacles properly designated for them on University property. Sanctions vary in relation to the violation.

Off-campus Conduct
Although the University is not legally responsible or financially liable for the behavior of students off campus, it does reserve the right to take disciplinary action against students when their off-campus behavior violates University expectations and policies or when the behavior affects the University community. This rule applies whether or not the University sponsors the off-campus activities.

Public Indecency
Behaving in a lewd or indecent manner in public (e.g. public urination, indecent exposure) is prohibited and inconsistent with the values of the University. Students found responsible for public indecency will receive a minimum of a $25 fine.

Reckless Endangerment
Intentionally or recklessly endangering, threatening, or causing physical harm to any person and/or their property is prohibited. Trespassing in
areas that are posted, off-limits and/or restricted is a violation. Sanctions vary in relation to the violation.

**Responsibility for One’s Actions**

Being a student at Methodist University is a privilege. All of our students must abide by the regulations published in the Methodist University Student Handbook. Those whose behavior puts themselves or others at risk or which unreasonably disrupts the University environment will not be allowed to continue the privilege of being a student at Methodist University.

Every student is responsible for his or her actions at all times. Being under the influence of alcohol or other drugs is no excuse for improper action and, in fact, makes the violation more serious. Students are also responsible for their actions during off-campus trips.

**Title IX Policy and Procedures**

*(See MU website)*

**Telephone Long-Distance Codes**

Selected members of Methodist University’s staff and faculty have been assigned telephone codes to be used to charge official long-distance phone calls. These codes can only be used for official business. Long-distance calls that are made using these codes are charged to Methodist University. Methodist University students are prohibited from using these codes for personal purposes or providing these codes to any other student. Students who are found responsible for the unauthorized use or disclosure of the University's long-distance phone codes will be required to reimburse the University for the cost of their calls and will receive a $100 fine. Students may also be given a minimum of probation and may receive a maximum of expulsion from the University.

**Theft**

Any person found guilty of theft or possessing on campus property that he or she knows or should know is stolen will receive a minimum of probation and may receive a maximum of expulsion from the University, and possible criminal prosecution.

**Traffic Violations**

Students who habitually violate vehicle and traffic regulations shall receive a minimum of paying all fines and probation and may receive a maximum of loss of vehicle privileges from the University. Violators of campus parking privileges who receive four or more citations in one semester will have their vehicles restricted from campus parking. The University reserves the right to lock the wheels of vehicles and tow vehicles at the owner’s expense if restricted vehicles are found on campus.

**Trespassing on University Property**

Persons who violate University policies, regulations, or rules or pose a threat or risk to the safety and security of the University community or University property may be advised to leave by a University official. In addition, persons present on University property without justification or legitimate reason may be advised to leave.

**Unmanned Aircraft Systems**

The University requires all users of UAS to comply with the permitting requirements set forth by the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Both of these agencies require operators of UAS to obtain certain permits prior to operating a UAS. No UAS may be flown on University property unless the user has these permits. *(Note: Recreational use of UAS on campus, even if legal “hobby” use under state and federal rules, is not permitted on University property.)*

Persons wishing to operate on University property must contact the University’s Department of Public Safety at least three days in advance of the desired flight time and provide the following: proof of any required FAA permit, proof of any required NCDOT permit, and a detailed flight plan to include specific time and specific location. To schedule a UAS flight on campus or make an inquiry concerning this policy call the Department of Public Safety to reach the Chief of Police at (910) 630-7149.

**Vandalism**

Vandalism is defined as the destruction of another person’s or the University’s property. Any student who commits vandalism will owe full restitution and will receive in addition a minimum of probation, and a maximum of expulsion from the University. Removal from campus housing may also be a penalty for vandalism and may face criminal prosecution.

**Violation of Sanctions**

Any student who fails to fulfill the expectations or conditions of sanctions imposed by the Dean of Students, Student Community Court or the Review Board shall be given a minimum of suspension and may receive a maximum of expulsion from the University.

**Visitation Policy**

The residence halls are open for visitation from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday nights and 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m. Friday and Saturday. Each residence hall has the right to set its own visitation times within these hours.

**Consequences of visitation violations**

- Failure to sign in/out a visitor $25.00
- Failure to escort his/her visitor or be escorted $25.00
- Late check-out or early check-in of a visitor (1-30 min) $50.00

Students who have more than two visitation fines during the academic year will face code of conduct action. Penalties range from a minimum of disciplinary probation to a maximum of removal from the residence halls.
**Weapons Policy**

A weapon is defined for the purposes of this policy as any item that can be used to intimidate, threaten or harm another person. A weapon may include, but is not limited to, firearms (to include firearm imitations), explosives of any size or type (to include fireworks), ammunition, air guns, explosive-like noisemakers, and knives of any type. Methodist University policy, state law, and federal law prohibit possession or use of any weapon on campus. The only exception to the possession of a knife is for students who live in apartment style residence hall rooms with kitchens. These students may possess commercially produced kitchen knives, but these knives must be maintained within the student's apartment at all times. If students are found in the possession of a kitchen knife outside of their residence hall apartment, they will be in violation of the University's weapon's policy. Possession is defined as having a weapon (see above) on the student's person, in the student's room, automobile, or any other property he or she owns or uses. Students who violate the weapons policy will receive a $200 fine and in addition a minimum of probation and may receive a maximum of expulsion from the University. The possession of weapon may lead to other criminal charges by law enforcement personnel.