

# Code of Responsibility

**PREAMBLE**

St. Andrews is a church-related, coeducational, residential, liberal arts college. It exists to liberate men and women socially, intellectually, and religiously. Its purpose is to develop men and women whose leadership and service are an expression of their critical, creative and disciplined minds and lives and their humane concern. The effectiveness of such an educational process is determined by the quality of the total life of the college community.

The College recognizes that excessive conformity prevents community and forbids individuality. Similarly, extreme individualism not only prevents individual growth, but denies the individual's responsibility for his brother's good in community. Therefore, the College endeavors to hold in meaningful and balanced tension both independence and interdependence. To give its members an opportunity for maturation it advocates freedom; to ensure the existence of a viable community it insists upon the exercise of responsibility. It believes that its educational purposes can best be accomplished in an atmosphere of responsible freedom and commitment rather than by means of superficial conformity to a set of detailed rules and prohibitions. It believes that responsible maturity is more likely to develop when each member of the community is both free and obligated to struggle with principles of conduct and to accept full responsibility for his own actions and decisions.

To honor these commitments of St. Andrews, this Code is subscribed to and honored by the entire College community: Board of Trustees, administration, faculty and students. It is recognized that every particular will not apply equally to each of these segments of the College. Nevertheless, the spirit of the whole does apply, and each segment should embrace the particulars in ways appropriate to its conditions and needs.

**Honor System.** Each member of the College community is expected to subscribe to the St. Andrews Honor Code: "As a member of the Honor Community of St. Andrews, I pledge that I will not lie, cheat or steal, nor will I tolerate this conduct in any other member of the community. I will do all within my power to uphold the high standard of integrity and honor of St. Andrews."

**Academic Responsibility.** Students have the right to take reasoned exception to selected data or views offered in courses and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion. They are, therefore, protected against prejudiced or capricious academic evaluation. Professors have a responsibility to inform students concerning course expectations and criteria for performance evaluation and to maintain office hours for conferences with students who need counsel and advice regarding their progress in the course. Students are responsible, however, for learning the content of any course in which they are enrolled; and they are responsible for maintaining standards of academic performance established for each course in

which they are enrolled.

Knowledge of student views, beliefs, and political associations which professors acquire in the course of their work as instructors, advisors, and counselors are considered confidential.

**Academic and Disciplinary Records.** The College maintains one official copy of the student's academic record and one copy of his non-academic record. These records are confidential, and their contents are not revealed to others, with the exception of parents and guardians, without a written request from the student or a court order. Academic transcripts contain only academic data except that all withdrawals prior to graduation, voluntary or involuntary, are considered relevant and are recorded on the transcript. Upon departure from the College only academic and official disciplinary records are retained; all others are destroyed. The College will establish for each student a placement file in accordance with professional standards.

**Freedom of Expression and Assembly.** All members of the community are free to examine and to discuss all questions of interest to them and to express their opinions privately and publicly. They are free to support causes by non-violent, orderly means which do not disrupt the regular and essential operation of the institution. All authorized organizations of the College have the right to invite and to hear any person whose ideas can contribute to their understanding of the world in which they live, provided that the event and the speaker are properly scheduled by the Calendar Committee and that the occasion is conducted in a manner appropriate to an academic community. In all such activities the sponsors have an obligation to make it clear that the opinions expressed are not the official position of the College.

**Media.** The College newspaper, other publications, and the radio station are recognized as valuable aids in establishing and maintaining an atmosphere of free and responsible discussion and of intellectual exploration on the campus. The quality of such output is expected to reflect the kind of intellectual production normally associated with an academic community: intellectual integrity, judicious perception of the pros and cons of any position, rational argument and careful scholarship. They shall have freedom of expression within the context of the following limitations:

a. Recognition on the part of authors, editors and commentators that freedom entails corollary responsibilities to be governed by the canons of responsible journalism, such as avoidance of libel, slander, indecency, undocumented allegations, attacks on personal integrity, and the technique of harassment and innuendo.

b. The right of any person in the community who thinks that he or the College has been abused in any of the ways mentioned to appeal to the proper authorities for redress: (1) if the author is a student, appeal to the Student Judiciary Board; (2) if the author is a professor, appeal to the Faculty Personnel Committee.

c. Recognition that if a per-

son outside the College brings legal action which results from statements made by a student in student media, the College may also bring charges against such a student to the Student Judiciary Board.

d. Each of the media will carry the statement that the opinions expressed by it are not necessarily those of the College.

**Personal Privacy and Safety.** Each person has a right to safety in his person and belongings, to privacy in his residence, to freedom from offensive, riotous, unruly or disruptive conduct on the part of others, and to the maintenance of an atmosphere conducive to study. Likewise, each person has a responsibility to help provide and protect this right for the other members of the community; and each person has a responsibility to respect the property of the College. It is the responsibility of the College to provide a security system to protect persons and property. It is a collateral responsibility of the members of the community to respect and cooperate with the Security Officers in the interest of community wellbeing.

The College reserves the right to inspect residence halls periodically for the purpose of assuring fire prevention, sanitation, safety, and the maintenance of the College plant. It also reserves the right to search a room for a specific purpose provided the following conditions are met: (a) that the reasons therefor and the objects or information sought have been clearly specified by or to the Dean of Students in writing and kept on file; and (b) that justifiable cause to conduct the search is found to exist by the Dean of Students; and (c) that reasonable effort is made to notify the student involved and his presence sought during such search; and (d) that the search

is conducted by a college official, a student, and such other persons as the Dean of Students may designate. Inspection and search by representatives of law enforcement agencies will be governed by local, state, and federal laws in the same manner that these apply to other segments of society.

**Alcoholic Beverages.** St. Andrews strongly disapproves the use of alcoholic beverages prevalent in our society and affirms, consistent with the frequently reiterated position of the church, the appropriateness of voluntary abstinence as the norm. The College will not tolerate alcoholic consumption which produces loss of self-control, abuse of the person or rights of others, excessive disturbance, or destruction of property. Such conduct is subject to disciplinary action. Compliance with local and state laws concerning the purchase, possession, transportation, and consumption of alcoholic beverages is expected.

**Drugs.** It is recognized that all non-prescription drugs are not equally harmful or addictive, yet some are mortally so and all are prohibited by law. Therefore, the College prohibits the possession, sale, and use of all illegal drugs by members of the St. Andrews community.

**Firearms.** The possession and use of firearms in a campus community constitute a serious hazard. Therefore, the possession and use of firearms must be considered a privilege rather than a right, and will be permitted only under the most explicit conditions, the violation of which warrants appropriate disciplinary action.

Firearms are to be maintained and stored in accordance with state and federal law, and college regulations. Specifically, only members of the Gun

Club may possess and use firearms, they may only be used according to Gun Club regulations, and they must be stored in a place designated by the College and the Gun Club.

**Social Relationships Between Men and Women.** St. Andrews expects and encourages the development of social and intellectual relationships between men and women in the College community. If private conduct adversely affects the College community, the community has a responsibility to take appropriate disciplinary action.

**Financial Responsibility.** Members of the St. Andrews community are expected to demonstrate financial integrity and responsibility and to meet their financial commitments. The College will serve neither as a collection agency for debts incurred elsewhere nor as a shelter from creditors. However, the College has a responsibility to inform a student of his indebtedness to the College in advance of his departure, and the student must remove such indebtedness in order to be graduated or to receive transcripts from the College.

**Disciplinary Action.** Members of the College community have the right of due process in matters involving disciplinary action. Such procedures are defined in the present Student Association Constitution and Faculty By-Laws.

**Code Implementation and Amendment.** The Faculty and the Student Senate shall jointly assume responsibility to devise ways and means for this Code to become increasingly an expression of St. Andrews community life, to continue to review it for adequacy, and collectively to become the instrument by which future revisions are recommended to the Board of Trustees.



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