

Lifestyle of Light

The words of Jesus that called his earliest disciples to be the “salt of the earth” and “light of the world” still set the standard for Christ followers today as they embrace the portrait of the Christian life painted in scripture as one that makes a uniquely positive impact on the world. One of the distinctive features of this Christian lifestyle is a sense of stewardship for the human body.

The apostle Paul, one of the most influential voices in the early church, wrote explicitly about this sense of stewardship on more than one occasion. To Christians in Corinth struggling with immorality he wrote, “Do you not know that your body is a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have from God. You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore *honor God with your body*” (1 Cor. 6:19-20 HCSB). To Roman Christians facing similar struggles he said, “Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather, offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and *offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness*” (Rom. 6:13 NIV).

At Lipscomb University we embrace this principle of stewardship for the human body as the basis for our alcohol and substance policies as well as our expectation of the healthy use of food.

Legal Considerations

Tennessee state law is explicit in its prohibition of alcohol for persons under the age of 21, tobacco for persons under the age of 18, illegal drugs and unauthorized use of prescription drugs. All students must abide by Tennessee law related to the purchase, possession, consumption, use and distribution of alcohol, tobacco and illegal or unauthorized drugs. Tennessee law prohibits:

- The purchase, possession, or consumption of alcoholic beverages by a person under 21 years of age or tobacco and/or tobacco paraphernalia by a person under 18 years of age;
- Being intoxicated or under the influence of alcohol or drugs in a public place to the degree that one poses a danger to him/herself, endangers other persons or property, or unreasonably annoys people in the vicinity;
- Furnishing alcohol to a person under 21 years of age or tobacco to a person under 18 years of age. For purposes of this policy, Lipscomb defines “furnishing” as purchasing for, giving to, or making available. This includes, but is not limited to, creating a situation where there is a risk that a person under 21 years of age may be provided with or obtains alcohol or a person under 18 years of age may be provided with or obtains tobacco;
- Driving under the influence of alcohol or any intoxicant, marijuana or narcotic drug.

University Community Expectations

While observance of state law is a fundamental requirement for our community, at Lipscomb we have higher expectations than mere compliance. Lipscomb University is dedicated to providing a safe campus that is alcohol, illegal substance, and tobacco free. The following guidelines present the University’s expectations.

Alcohol

- Alcohol possession and/or consumption is prohibited on campus
- Alcohol possession and/or consumption is prohibited for all traditional undergraduate students
- Providing alcohol to underage students or traditional undergraduate students or hosting events where underage drinking occurs is illegal and prohibited
- Alcohol possession and/or consumption is prohibited at any University-sponsored event
- Intoxication is prohibited for all members of the Lipscomb community on and off campus at all times
- In no case will other adult members of the Lipscomb community serve or consume alcohol in any situation in which traditional undergraduate members of the Lipscomb community are or are likely to be present

Drugs

- The purchase, possession, use, or sale of any illegal drugs or controlled substances is prohibited on or off campus
- Students must not possess materials that may be considered drug paraphernalia
- Use of prescription drugs outside of their prescribed use is illegal and prohibited
- Students suspected of drug use may be asked to submit to testing. Refusal of or attempts to evade testing will be interpreted as evidence of drug use, and will result in disciplinary action
- Students who test positive for drug use will be responsible for the cost of the test

Tobacco

- Use of tobacco products on campus is prohibited
- Tobacco products discovered in residence halls or other university buildings will be confiscated and disposed of

Safety

- All members of the Lipscomb University community must show respect to themselves and others at all times
- Behavior that indicates a student is a threat of harm to themselves or others is prohibited
- Any act or threat that imposes any kind of emotional trauma, intimidation, or physical harm to another person is prohibited

Possible Sanctions

Informal Actions (may/may not be accompanied by formal action)

- Probation to the Deans
- Loss of residence hall privileges

- Loss of rights and privileges to participate in student activities
- Loss of institutional aid
- Modification or suspension of housing arrangements
- Payment of fines, or monetary restitution
- Discretionary sanctions
- Denial of, or conditional, readmission

Formal Actions

- Disciplinary Probation
- Deferred Suspension
- Suspension
- Dismissal

Education

Lipscomb University attempts to avert alcohol, substance and other abuse by educating students about the personal and societal consequences associated with drug abuse. Educational programs coordinated through Lipscomb's counseling center and residence life program seek to promote prevention strategies as well as employing "social norming" an approach that calls for transparent dialog about actual (rather than perceived) rates of use. While Lipscomb aspires to provide an alcohol and drug free learning environment, honest and transparent discussion of potential student use is part of a successful intervention strategy. As an institution of higher learning we embrace the responsibility of equipping our students to make good decisions that will reach far beyond their time at Lipscomb. We challenge our students to embrace their responsibility to conduct themselves in a way that is both God honoring and conscious of their influence on others.