



## ADVANCE MINISTRY PREPARATION ETHICAL CONDUCT STANDARD

The ADVANCE Ministry Preparation program, sponsored by Gateway Seminary, is an institution of the Southern Baptist Convention and operates within its parameters – expressed through its legal documents, convention decisions, and adopted resolutions. Gateway Seminary assumes each student is a ministry leader, has a proven record of Christian conduct, and has the unqualified endorsement of a local church. The Seminary expects student conduct to meet standards normally expected of ministry leaders in Southern Baptist churches and mission organizations.

The behavior of every student is subject to review at all times during the full duration of enrollment in ADVANCE. The Seminary reserves the right, at any time, to investigate the student conduct and terminate the enrollment of any student who does not meet the Ethical Conduct Standard. Students are accountable to meet the requirements of the Ethical Conduct Standards until they are approved for graduation and the public graduation ceremony at their respective campus or ADVANCE Center has been conducted. When a violation of these standards occurs near graduation, disciplinary actions by the Seminary may include delaying or denying conferring of a diploma and participation in a graduation ceremony. These ethical standards are articulated, but not limited to, the following statements:

1. **Academic misconduct** – including violations of academic policies, plagiarism, or cheating
2. **Controlled substances** – including possession, use, or sale of illegal drugs and recreational marijuana; use of tobacco or nicotine products (including e-cigarettes); and use of alcoholic beverages.
3. **Sexual misconduct** – including any form of extramarital sexual intercourse, inappropriate displays of affection or attention, lewd and indecent language or conduct, pornography and homosexual behavior.
4. **Making false statements** to the Seminary (verbal or written) – including matters related to admission, registration, other official records, or any forgery/falsification of documents.
5. **Financial impropriety** – including mismanagement of ministry funds, non-payment of ADVANCE accounts, and failure to practice Christian stewardship.
6. **Assault and threats** – including fighting, other acts of aggression, abusive behavior, verbal or physical threats, or any disorderly conduct deemed reckless or dangerous.
7. **Theft** – including theft of ADVANCE Center, Seminary, or personal property, unauthorized entry of ADVANCE Center, Seminary, or personal property, or abuse of ADVANCE Center or Seminary property.
8. **Harassment** – including demeaning speech or actions, inappropriate racial/ethnic/cultural comments, or disrespectful behavior toward anyone.
9. **Criminal conviction of any kind.**

Specific questions or concerns related to these Ethical Conduct Standards should be directed to the Dean of Students or Local ADVANCE Director.

**I understand and will comply with these standards while I am actively enrolled in ADVANCE. I understand any violation of these standards will result in disciplinary action or procedures as set forth or referenced in the Student Handbook and/or Seminary Catalog.**