



**DIVINE WORD**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

**Divine Word University**  
**Student Affairs Division**

**Circular No.1, 2024**

**Policies on use of Alcohol, Drug, Cybercrime, Vandalism and Occult Practices as approved by the University Council at its Meeting held in July, 2019.**

Over the years, and especially in the 2023 academic year; many students have totally disrespected the Charter, its Education Philosophy and the Core Values which form the basis of the culture of Divine Word University.

The members of the Papua New Guinea province of the Society of the Divine Word, in partnership with the Missionary Sisters, Servants of the Holy Spirit, have established this university to be a place of learning with the development of students as creative, intellectual persons in a religious environment. A religious environment is where there is peace and harmony, respect for fellow staff and students and other members of the community. **It is not a place for people who come to consume alcohol, take drugs, terrorize others, destroy properties and disturb other students. Furthermore, it is not a place to engage in occult practices and disrupt those who want to study and have peace of mind.** Such activities are not welcome and not acceptable on all DWU campuses.

In the recent past, a large number of students have chosen to ignore the Zero Tolerance policy on Alcohol and Drugs. They have brought alcohol and drugs from outside into the dormitories, consumed them and caused disturbances including causing a lot of damage to the University property. The actions taken by the Student Discipline Board to correct those who have committed the offence and to refer them to the Pastoral Care team to counsel them have not deterred them or others from continuing to commit those offenses. Many have shown total disrespect for the rules and regulations and have brought disrepute to the University. Such behaviors are not within the spirit of the University Charter, Education Philosophy and its Core Values and they are not acceptable in a Christian Higher Learning Institution like Divine Word University.

In order for the University to uphold its Charter, its Education Philosophy and uphold its Christian ethics and values; the University Student Disciplinary Board will continue to deal with students who engage in committing those serious offences in relation to Alcohol and Drug use and abuse, Cybercrime and Vandalism and/or Malicious damage to properties of the university. In July, 2019 an additional policy on Occult practices was introduced to deter students from practicing it.

These policies, including others are to be applied on all DWU campuses.

1. Under Section **5.5 Category D Offenses (Alcohol and Drug Related)** of the Student Discipline Policy and Processes; the following revised policies have been approved for implementation in 2018 and beyond.
  - a. Consumption or production of alcohol on campus is strictly prohibited
  - b. Possession or use of alcohol during all functions sponsored by the University or others such as ceremonies, dances, picnics, sporting events, etc. is prohibited.
  - c. Drunkenness off and on campus is unacceptable behavior for a DWU student and it is strictly prohibited, even smuggling it into the University.
  - d. Consumption of alcohol in non-licensed public areas is a criminal offence and therefore prohibited.
  - e. Possession or use of an illegal drug or drugs on or outside of Campus is strictly prohibited.
  - f. The overall involvement including use, sale or possession of drugs on or off University premises is strictly prohibited.
  - g. Being impaired by the use of drugs or alcohol on University premises is prohibited.

2. Under Section **5.6 Category E Offences (Cybercrime Offences)** of the Student Discipline Policy and Processes, the following have been revised and has been approved for implementation in 2018 and beyond.

Cybercrime is an offence that is committed against individuals or groups of individuals with a criminal motive to intentionally harm the reputation of the victim or cause physical or mental harm, or loss, to the victim directly or indirectly using modern telecommunication networks such as Internet (networks including but not limited to Chat rooms, emails, notice boards and groups) and mobile phones.

One example of cybercrime is sniffing or hacking into the IT network and stealing information from staff and students as experienced in 2017.

**Cyber offences:** Failure to comply with the Cyber Crime Code Act 2016 of the Parliament of Papua New Guinea as set out in sections 6 to 28 of the Code Act and as Published on the Intranet is in breach of the cyber offense.

3. Under Section **5.7 Category F Offences (Malicious damage)** of the Student Discipline Policy and Processes, the following policy has been approved for implementation in 2018. Malicious damage/ vandalism to University property is a criminal act and any student committing this offense and is caught must face termination/suspension from studies.
4. Under Section **5.8 Category G Offence – (Occult Practices)** of the student disciplinary policy, Occult practices are forbidden at any DWU campus.

The Penalties for breaking policies under 1, 2, 3 and 4 above as shown under Section 6.3: Sanctions for Category D, E, F & G Offences in the Student Discipline Policy and Processes are indicated below. The penalties are:

- a) Termination or suspension of enrolment in the university
- b) Any student found guilty of any of the Categories: **D, E, F & G** offense and is terminated will not be allowed to appeal the decision unless due process has not been followed to take such a decision.

**Important Note:**

It is absolutely important that students read the Student Disciplinary Policy and Process placed on the student intranet and understand its implications. If any student is not sure of any aspects of this policy, he or she must make every effort to call in and seek clarification from the following people:

**Mrs. Betty Marlpo, Vice President Student Affairs: email for appointment: [bmarlpo@dwu.ac.pg](mailto:bmarlpo@dwu.ac.pg)**

**Mrs. Evelyn Tekepa, Director Student Services: [etekepa@dwu.ac.pg](mailto:etekepa@dwu.ac.pg)**

**Mrs. Maria Court, Registrar: email for appointment: [mcourt@dwu.ac.pg](mailto:mcourt@dwu.ac.pg)**

**Mr. Shepherd Kia, Executive Officer, Student Affairs Division: email for appointment: [skia@dwu.ac.pg](mailto:skia@dwu.ac.pg)**

All students must make it their personal responsibility to uphold the policy and to refrain from committing those offenses because the implications are huge if you are found in breach of them.

**The Student Disciplinary Policy and Processes**

The Student Disciplinary Policy and Processes document is placed on the intranet and each student can download and keep a copy to read at any time they wish.



**Mrs. Betty Gali Marlpo**  
**Vice President, Student Affairs**

23 November 2024