

ST ANDREW'S GREEK ORTHODOX THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR RESIDENT STUDENTS 2026

1. INTRODUCTORY NOTE

- 1.1 In the College's understanding of Orthodox theology and its sacred task - the training of well-disciplined, educated, responsible and dedicated priests, religious educators and lay workers - academic excellence cannot be separated from spiritual effort, a life of personal and corporate prayer and participation in the Holy Sacraments, and from active participation in the life of the College community in general. Therefore, every student is encouraged to study the content of the Christian revelation and to appropriate that saving revelation in a personal way.
- 1.2 By the very fact of his application and acceptance to the College, each student is bound to the ecclesiastical regulations, moral standards and behaviour traditionally expected by the Orthodox Church from those who desire to minister in the Church and in obedience to which he is expected to live throughout the time of his association with the College and beyond, seeking to further cultivate the Orthodox ethos and *phronema* as a conscientious Christian.
- 1.3 Therefore, any neglect in discipline, moral lapse, crime, truancy, flagrant breach of academic honesty (such as plagiarism), insubordination to authority or actions contrary to the best interest of the College may lead to disciplinary action by the Faculty Board, and if serious enough, to suspension, expulsion from residence, revocation of financial assistance, and/or immediate dismissal from the course.

2. SPIRITUAL LIFE

2.1 Chapel

- 2.1.1 Corporate worship in the chapel is the very heart of College life. Participation in the daily, weekly and annual cycle of services is the first spiritual obligation of every College student and therefore **compulsory**.

2.1.2 Morning chapel service – 8:30am-9:15am (Mon-Thur); 9:30am start (Fri)

Evening chapel service – 4:30pm-5:15pm (Mon-Thur)

2.1.3 Students are expected to take an active part in reading, chanting and serving. Consent by the serving Priest is required if such participation is not possible on any given day. Absenteeism will be referred to the Chaplain (who is also currently the Archdiocese Chancellor, representing the College President and Dean, the Archbishop) and the College Sub-Dean. The College has a minimum expectation of ninety per cent (90%) chapel attendance.

2.2 Church attendance

2.2.1 On certain feast days which fall during the week, chapel service will be replaced by the celebration of the Divine Liturgy in the Cathedral. Students will be notified of services in advance and expected to attend. On weekends non-resident students are exempt from attending church services at the Cathedral, unless they choose to do so.

2.2.2 Resident students are required to serve in the Cathedral on Sundays, either with the choir or in the sanctuary (not merely in the congregation), unless permission is received from the Chaplain to serve at another parish.

2.3 Spiritual Formation

2.3.1 All aspects of worship, academic, communal and spiritual progress, and participation within the life of the College itself and the Church as a whole, will be regularly reviewed by the Chaplain, Sub-Dean, Student Support Officer and the Registrar.

2.3.2 All students are expected to share in the sacramental life of the church community under the guidance of a spiritual father who is available locally in Sydney. The Chaplain and the Student Support Officer are available to act in this capacity for resident students. Recourse to other spiritual fathers may be made with the express permission of the Chaplain. The identity of a student's spiritual father (or change thereof) should be made known to the Chaplain at the earliest possible opportunity.

3. ACADEMIC LIFE

3.1 Lectures

- 3.1.1 To complete a course unit, a student must participate in **ALL** contact hours, field work and other activities prescribed for the course unit component and satisfy the assessment work required. No student can satisfactorily complete a course unit if they have missed more than two weeks' worth of classes in a given unit without valid reason. In the case that a student cannot attend a class, he must inform the Lecturer involved. Absenteeism will be referred to the Sub-Dean.

3.2 Work submissions

- 3.2.1 Each assessment task has a time limit within which it must be completed. Written work is to be submitted in Moodle as per Lecturer's instructions outlined within the Course Unit Booklet.
- 3.2.2 Requests for extensions will be granted if a student has or has had a **medical or other serious misadventure** which could impair their performance in the course unit. Serious misadventure can include events such as serious illness, death in the family, and severe emotional strain.
- 3.2.3 Any student requiring an extension must follow the procedure outlined in each Course Unit Booklet, and within their Moodle course page, and provide supporting documentation. All this must be finalised **before** the original due date.
- 3.2.4 Work handed in late without permission for an extension may attract an automatic penalty.
- 3.2.5 Please note: Parish duties or excuses such as "too much work in other course units" do not constitute adequate grounds for extension. They may indicate poor planning on the part of the student.

3.3 Library

- 3.3.1 As part of the nurturing of sound academic progress, library hours 9:30am to 4:30pm during the semester are provided for students to utilise learning resources.
- 3.3.2 There is a limit to the number of items that a student may borrow at any one time. Please consult the library brochure for further details. Students are advised to use the library's resources wisely and effectively.

- 3.3.3 A student identification card should be presented in order to borrow items.
- 3.3.4 Fines may apply on overdue items. Academic results will not be released at the end of a semester, nor graduation procedures enacted at the end of a course of study, until all overdue items have been returned and relevant fines are settled.
- 3.3.5 Items lost or damaged will need to be replaced or restored at the student's expense.

4. RESIDENTIAL LIFE

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 All resident students are clearly engaged in full time theological study and reflection. No student may undertake employment of any sort without the knowledge and permission of the Chaplain and the Sub-Dean.
- 4.1.2 Residential accommodation is a privilege and provided at the College's expense. It may be revoked at any time and will be regularly reviewed on a semester basis taking into account the student's academic and spiritual progress and compliance with all regulations and expectations especially chapel and class attendance (including Modern Greek and Byzantine chant), participation in the formation program and social integration into College life.
- 4.1.2 Residential accommodation is only provided during the academic period, and students are expected to vacate their rooms soon after the completion of the academic period. Any exception to this may only be granted by the Chaplain.
- 4.1.3 The College feels responsible for the well-being, safety and good progress of each student. All resident students must observe a curfew, generally understood to be around 10:00pm. Exceptions to this, with valid reason, must be referred to the Chaplain.

4.2 Cleaning Duties

- 4.2.1 In the spirit of Christian brotherhood, every resident student of the College is expected to give a portion of his time for cleaning and library duties as assigned. The timetable itself allows time for this task. Duties are to be carried out according to the instructions provided by the Chaplain or Registrar.
- 4.2.2 The kitchen is to be left clean at all times. For reasons of hygiene this basic rule of cleanliness is of paramount importance. Any

utensil or item used must be washed, dried, and put away as soon as you finish eating/drinking as common courtesy dictates. Students are expected to cooperate to clean the kitchen area and empty the garbage bin.

- 4.2.3 Garbage is to be disposed of responsibly and regularly in the garbage bins.
- 4.2.4 Unless otherwise advised, all plastic and paper waste are to be disposed in the garbage. No plastic or glass bottles are to be left to accumulate in the student kitchen, refectory, upstairs TV room, or in student rooms.
- 4.2.5 Periodic inspections of dormitory rooms and all common areas, with prior notice, will be carried out by the Chaplain or the Registrar.
- 4.2.6 Negligence in these matters will be referred to the Dean.

4.3 Maintenance

- 4.3.1 St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College was built from funds and labour generously donated by good-willed members of the Greek Orthodox community wishing to realise the dream of establishing a tertiary institution for Orthodox Christian education. As a mark of honour and appreciation to these forbearers, and in consideration of the future generations who will become a part of the life of the College, St Andrew's requires all students and staff to be mindful of the care of all college and dormitory facilities.
- 4.3.2 Any person found to have committed an act of violence or vandalism against College property will be required to explain their actions to the Dean and summarily pay compensation for the damage caused. Such acts may result in the revocation of student accommodation privileges.

4.4 Interstate travel for resident students

- 4.4.1 Permission is required from the Chaplain before any travel plans are made. No student is permitted to make travel arrangements that will affect their regular participation in College life and study. Students are required to remain at the College during any short non-teaching periods prescribed by the College.

4.5 Personal hygiene

- 4.5.1 In the interests of general health and quality of living, each resident student is asked to maintain a high level of personal hygiene and

care of their respective dormitory room. Each student is expected to make use of laundry facilities once a week.

5. OTHER GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 5.1 During College hours, students are not to wear shorts, sleeveless body shirts or undershirts, T-shirts with inappropriate inscriptions, or thong-style sandals. During Cathedral or chapel services students are expected to wear their cassocks with black shoes. All official functions have a standard dress code: dark suit/pants, plain white shirt (with collar), College tie (to be provided to new students upon commencement), black cassock. Students who are ordained clergyman should dress accordingly.
- 5.2 No student is permitted within the Archdiocese Office area unless they have particular business or a specific appointment with a member of the staff.
- 5.3 When visiting the Archdiocese Office, students are to observe the same dress code as that stipulated in the first sentence of paragraph 5.1 above.
- 5.4 No food or drink is to be consumed in the lecture rooms.
- 5.5 Smoking (including vaping) is banned in all enclosed/indoor places and extends to outdoor areas within 4 metres of entrances/exits to any part of the College, Archdiocese, or Cathedral buildings. Students confronting this issue should seriously consider consulting their medical practitioner.
- 5.6 Possession, consumption or supply of illicit drugs is strictly prohibited.
- 5.7 No alcohol is to be consumed or stored in the dormitories. Moderate amounts are permitted only in the downstairs common room.
- 5.8 Doors to the College's hall entrance, courtyard, and upstairs corridor are to be kept closed at all times for security purposes, especially after lecture hours.
- 5.9 A bond of \$120 may be required for the use of a dormitory room key (tbc). This will be forfeited if the key is lost. The bond will be fully refunded after the key is returned.
- 5.10 Visitors are expected to leave College premises by 9:00pm.
- 5.11 From 10:00pm there is to be silence in the dormitory area out of basic courtesy to fellow resident students, and as private study, prayer and personal reflection require this. Quiet discussion is permitted in the upstairs TV room and in the downstairs refectory and common room areas.

- 5.12 For the purpose of fire prevention, oil lanterns, candles, incense burners as well as cooking devices are not permitted in the dormitory rooms, or anywhere in the dormitory area, unless prior permission has been given by the Chaplain and the Building Manager.
- 5.13 No items are to be hung on walls or doors in any fashion without the permission of the Chaplain, except an icon for devotional needs.
- 5.14 Personal television sets and refrigerators are strictly not permitted in the dormitories. Personal computers or laptops, radios, devices, are permitted but consideration must be shown towards fellow resident students when using these items.
- 5.15 Wi-Fi is available throughout the dormitory building. The I.T. Officer assists students with connectivity issues and related queries.
- 5.16 Usage of social media platforms is guided by the College's Social Media Usage Policy as outlined on the College's website.
- 5.17 At the end of the academic year, each resident student will be required to hand in their room and college keys to the Chaplain or Registrar.
- 5.18 Students with private vehicles are not permitted to leave them on the premises during the long summer or winter vacation breaks. Interstate resident students may leave their vehicles on the premises during the short mid-semester recesses only after consultation with the Chaplain and Registrar.
- 5.19 The Faculty Board of St Andrew's Greek Orthodox Theological College may in any given case, in the best interests of the student, the College or the Church, vary, dispense with or suspend any requirement of, or prescription by, these guidelines.

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All students are ambassadors of the Theological College and of the Orthodox Church in general. They are to keep this in mind by keeping a sensible code of dress and responsible behaviour both within and outside the Theological College, and when engaging with social media, as is befitting students of this sacred study and calling.

KEY ROLES LISTED IN THESE GUIDELINES

President & Dean

His Eminence Archbishop Makarios of Australia

Chaplain

His Grace Bishop Christophoros of Kerasounta

Sub-Dean

Assoc. Prof. Philip Kariatlis

Student Support Officer

Very Revd Fr Anastasios Bozikis

Building Manager

Mr Michael Moshos

Registrar

Revd Fr Anastasios Kalogerakis

[Last Updated: 10 December 2025]