

## **Sexuality**

### **Sexual Morality**

In an age in which secular society is increasingly confused about sexual identity and sexual purity, Northwest University strives to be clear and consistent with students and employees about expectations regarding the highest standards of Biblical purity in interpersonal relationships.

We believe that God's design for the gift of sexuality is that it is to be exercised and enjoyed only within the covenant relationship of marriage between one man and one woman. We believe that God has expressly condemned sexual activity outside of the marriage covenant. This prohibition applies to marital infidelity, sexual relationships between unmarried men and women, and homosexual practice. It is God's expectation that the unmarried will live pure and celibate lives, refraining from sexual intimacy.

We believe God's intention is that those who enter marriage will seek, in mutual love and respect, to live in Christian fidelity as long as both live. While divorce is not God's will, we understand that the Bible makes provision for divorce and remarriage for victims of adultery and abandonment (which can take many forms including abuse).

Northwest University's approach to homosexuality and gender identity is grounded in our longstanding institutional religious beliefs, which are derived from the teachings of the Bible as understood in the University's [Community Affirmation Statement](#).

Northwest University assumes that all members of the community desire meaningful involvement in the process of Christian higher education as they seek to express their faith in the context of an Assemblies of God university. Faculty and staff members commit themselves to be facilitators and learners in this educational endeavor. Students, by enrolling, join with them in accepting the responsibilities of membership in this community.

We affirm that God's original and ongoing intent and action is the creation of humanity manifest as two distinct sexes, male and female. (Gen. 1:26-28; Matt. 19:4-5)

Thus, as a Christian residential institution of higher learning, we will make institutional decisions in light of our biblical convictions concerning human sexuality and gender when it comes to behavioral expectations, housing, student admission and retention, employee hiring and retention, and other matters.

### **Homosexuality**

Northwest University students may not engage in homosexual behavior. However, merely experiencing same-sex attraction does not violate University standards. The university's [Wellness Center](#) has confidential counseling services available as a safe place to talk through questions and receive resources.

### **Gender Identity**

We do not support or affirm the resolution of tension between one's biological sex and one's experiential perception of gender by the adoption of a psychological identity discordant with one's original sex. Similarly we do not support or affirm attempts to change one's original biological sex

via medical intervention in favor of the identity of the opposite sex or of an indeterminate identity. Biological sex and gender identification must remain unchanged throughout the duration of enrollment at Northwest University.

The University expects students to enroll honestly and asks all students to agree to abide by the lifestyle expectations in the Community Handbook. Because of these institutionally-held beliefs, students are not to behave in opposition to their biological sex. All non-family university housing is designated single-sex. The university's [Wellness Center](#) has confidential counseling services available as a safe place to talk through questions and receive resources.

### **Pregnancy**

Scripture urges believers to seek wise and Godly counsel when faced with significant or difficult life choices. Therefore, should a Northwest University student become pregnant while unmarried, the students involved are encouraged to communicate with the Dean of Student Development or the Director of the Wellness Center. These offices are prepared to stand with both the mother and the father as they consider the results of their actions, deal with the consequences, and experience the forgiveness that comes through repentance.

The university is committed to responding in a redemptive manner, seeking to balance compassion with accountability. Students can expect to be treated with Christian love as they deal with their new circumstances. Every effort will be made to ensure confidentiality, but the life and health of the mother and child and the spiritual well-being of the parents are our primary concerns. While some students in these circumstances may choose to leave the university temporarily, it is our hope that any student who chooses to continue in classes during pregnancy will find Northwest University to be a supportive and redemptive community during this crucial time.