

## 3 FORMATION GUIDELINES

### 3.1 SEMINARY POLICIES (regarding Communication Technologies)

*last updated on June 26, 2019*

#### **Acceptable Use of Technology** *(source: CS Seminarian Handbook, 2016-2017, p.18)*

As a seminarian in training for a life of Christian discipleship, while preparing for a potential life as a Catholic priest, one should be accountable for how he uses information technologies. In order to assist in striving to be accountable, the seminary reserves the right to monitor its internet, e-mail, networks and other information technologies. Also, the seminary abides by all state and federal laws concerning the use of the internet. Such laws protect the seminary community, and the seminary cannot shield anyone who breaks such laws, e.g. child pornography or illegal trafficking of any sort. The seminary's policy regarding information technologies is set out in the Policy for Acceptable Use of Technology Resources.

A seminarian is accountable not only to God but also to his bishop, the seminary formation staff, and also to those he will serve in the future. While Formation Advisors and Spiritual Directors will bring internet use into discussion at times, a seminarian should also be courageously willing to bring forward anything he is struggling with at any time, including inappropriate internet use. Hidden problems and weak nesses only grow greater, so it is best to bring them to light immediately and have the aid of one's Formation Advisor and Spiritual Director in striving to overcome any issue.

A seminarian's Formation Advisor and Spiritual Director assist in all areas of formation; however there are times when the more focused care of a psychologist or counselor is not only prudent, but necessary. Such circumstances may include when a seminarian is struggling with problems such as addictions, substance abuse, sexual addiction or obsession, pornography, or other problems affecting the seminarian's mental and behavioral health and well-being. The seminary formation team or the seminarian himself may request such counselling. The Rector and the designated representative of the seminarian's sponsoring diocese must be consulted prior to the beginning of any counselling. Although some may perceive the need for counselling as a weakness, it should never be misconstrued that such a need discounts someone from discerning a priestly vocation; rather counselling should be viewed as an opportunity to assist the seminarian in an important aspect of formation. Note that pre-approved professional counselling or psychotherapy costs will be confidentially covered in accord with the requisite policies of the seminarian's sponsoring dioceses. The seminary will work cooperatively with the seminarian and therapists to determine if he can remain in formation while addressing these issues.

#### **Electronic Devices** *(source: Faculty Handbook, revised Feb. 2018, p. 46)*

Electronic devices may be used for note taking in class; no other documents or digital applications are to be opened during class time. It is a distraction as well a sign of disrespect to fellow students, to the professor, and to oneself to be involved in activities other than class participation and note-taking. Phone use is prohibited in class as well.

**Electronic Devices** *(source: TS Seminarian Handbook, 2016-2017, p.16)*

Seminarians must develop proper habits with regard to the use of electronic means of communication, such as cellular telephones, computers, or any other handheld electronic devices.

- 1) Seminarians are permitted to have cellular telephones.
  - a. A seminarian should use his cellular telephone in such a way as to avoid disturbing others living in the residence halls.
  - b. Seminarians should not make or receive telephone calls after the curfew hour.
  - c. Cellular telephones, smart phones etc. are not to be used in the classroom.
  
- 2) Seminarians are expected to be responsible for the proper use of both his personal computer and computers in public spaces.
  - a. A seminarian should monitor the amount of time spent using computers. Too much time spent on the computer risks becoming isolated from the community.
  - b. A seminarian is not permitted to plug his personal computer for internet usage into a public internet or telephone jack.
  - c. The use of the internet should be very carefully controlled. Its use should be only for moral purposes.
  - d. All computer usage must be consistent with the policies of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

**Internet Use in the Classroom** *(source: Syllabus Template, SharePoint)*

While the internet is a valuable source of information that can facilitate the learning process, it can often be a distraction within the classroom setting. Therefore, unless explicitly permitted by the instructor, students in the classroom are not permitted to connect to the internet.

**No Cell Phone in Class** *(source: Memorandum from College Dean of Students, Jan. 2018)*

Starting Monday, January 22, 2018 we will be starting a new formation policy in the college seminary for our seminarians. This new policy is very important to their formation as future priests. Cell phones will no longer be allowed in our college classes. The men have been informed of this policy. So, the seminarians have been asked to leave their cell phones in their dorm rooms or when they come to class to shut off their cell phones and place them in a basket that we will have in each classroom. If you see a seminary bring out his cell phone during class please tell him to place it in the basket and at the end of the class bring it to my office. They have been informed of the consequence for not following this new policy. If there not consequences then, they will not follow the policy. We really need your support in enforcing this formation policy.

\*\*\*\*\*