

Worden School of Social Service Student Code of Conduct

The Worden School of Social Service admits students who show academic excellence and professionalism to actualize the Worden Mission in the classroom and the community. To assist students to achieve their maximum potential as both students and future social workers, the faculty utilize this Student Code of Conduct to ensure that all students are familiar with the standards by which all students are expected to adhere. These standards align with the NASW Code of Ethics, which can be found at <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Ethics/Code-of-Ethics/Code-of-Ethics-English> and are set forth in the Student Code of Conduct policy, which can be found in both the BSW and MSW Student Handbooks. Please initial all the sections below and then sign and date at the bottom.

_____ **Exhibits Professional Behavior and Follows Ethical and Legal Considerations:** The Worden School of Social Service Faculty uphold the NASW Code of Ethics for themselves, field education instructors, and students. Students are expected to abide by the NASW Code of Ethics and its tenets. The NASW Code of Ethics includes, but is not limited to, honesty; acceptance; representing qualifications clearly; maintaining professional boundaries; avoiding conflicts of interests; and treating peers, agency staff, and faculty with respect, courtesy, fairness, and good faith.

Students aspiring to join the profession of Social Work, which is guided by the NASW Code of Ethics, are expected to conduct themselves with respect and dignity, demonstrate awareness of personal values, and refrain from imposing personal values on others. This conduct is expected in all settings including the classroom, field education settings, and social media.

Students completing Field Education are expected to safeguard confidentiality of clients and agency information that is not public knowledge. This means students should not discuss information acquired as a result of their placement that would be deemed private or confidential by the agency without appropriate permission. This includes sharing or posting about clients and agencies on any social media in which confidentiality could be breached.

_____ **Displays Multicultural Competence:** Accepting differences and new ways of seeing the world is part of this readiness and is based on the NASW Code of Ethics. This includes a recognition of strengths within all cultures and readiness to serve all people, regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, disability, religion, creed, age, or socioeconomic status.

_____ **Open to New Ideas:** Social workers continually strive to increase their professional knowledge and skills in various settings with diverse populations. This includes openly discussing diverse perspectives other than their own in a respectful manner consistent with the NASW Code of Ethics. Ongoing self-awareness of personal values in conjunction with openness to diverse viewpoints and perspectives is essential to competent, professional social work practice.

_____ **Aware of Own Impact on Others:** Students will recognize how their own words and actions impact others and demonstrate respect towards their peers, supervisors, instructors, faculty and/or staff. Students will take responsibility and demonstrate awareness and concern of their role in problems. Students will understand professionalism in line with the NASW Code of Ethics which includes, but is not limited to, honesty; acceptance; representing qualifications clearly; maintaining professional boundaries; avoiding conflicts of interests; and treating peers, staff, instructors, faculty, and supervisors with respect, courtesy, fairness, and good faith. Students are expected to conduct themselves with respect and dignity when using social media such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Students will practice appropriate self-advocacy and understand that assaultive or threatening behavior will not be tolerated at Worden, in classes, through email, on the phone or other virtual communication or on campus, during any learning activities, or at field internship sites in any capacity. This is not acceptable whether it is directed at peers, clients, colleagues, staff members, instructors or supervisors. This includes verbal hostility, intimidation, abusive verbalization, profanity in all its forms, and any physical threats, intimidation, or abusive behaviors.

_____ **Responsive, Adaptable, and Cooperative:** Students will be able to adjust behaviors in response to changes in professional & interpersonal contexts, tolerate change in programmatic, academic, clinical, field, or supervisory settings, be thoughtful and reflective in responses and open to compromise and collaboration while refraining from reactionary and defensive responses. Students must engage in learning in all coursework and assignments in a manner that demonstrates a willingness and readiness to acquire new knowledge and skills deemed vital to professional social work practice.

_____ **Receptive to and Uses Feedback:** In order to achieve effective performance, students will be responsive, open and receptive to feedback. Students are expected to demonstrate sufficient levels of effective performance and evidence of progress by incorporating and implementing feedback and refrain from responding with defensiveness, anger and/or denial to constructive criticism. Maintaining such levels of effective performance will help the student achieve and master the necessary skills for interpersonal and professional helping.

_____ **Responds to Conflict Appropriately:** Students will strive to actively participate in problem-solving efforts. When faced with conflict, students will examine their own role in the conflict and maintain an awareness of how to address conflicts with individuals directly involved. When conflict does arise, students will appropriately and professionally express emotions and behaviors. Assaultive or threatening behavior, as a result of conflict or in any circumstance, will not be tolerated at Worden. This includes behavior in classes, through email, on the phone or other virtual communication, or on campus in any capacity. This is not acceptable whether it is directed at peers, clients, colleagues, staff members or instructors. This includes verbal hostility, intimidation, abusive verbalization, profanity in all its forms, and any physical threats, intimidation, or abusive behaviors

_____ **Accepts Personal Responsibility:** Reflection is a large part of the learning process. During and after conflict, it is important for students to reflect on the role they played in the problem. Students should show a willingness to admit mistakes, examine their own contributions to problems and identify corrective action. Academic success or failure is largely dictated by a student's own actions. Lying, minimizing, or embellishing the truth to extricate themselves from a problem is not acceptable.

_____ **Expresses Feelings Effectively and Appropriately:** Students are expected to express their own feelings, including negative ones, appropriately, as well as recognize and acknowledge the feelings of others. Students are in the role of a learner and should take constructive feedback or recommendations to address concerns as opportunities for growth.

_____ **Dependable in Meeting Obligations:** Students must abide by attendance policies in the respective BSW & MSW Student Handbooks and the BSW & MSW Field Education Manuals. Students are expected to arrive on-time for all scheduled program obligations (e.g., classes, meetings, advising, field internship), to meet all deadlines on or before the due date, and to fully complete all required paperwork, applications, and other instructions. When something arises that impedes this ability, students should notify the appropriate persons in advance whenever possible.

As a social work student in the Worden School of Social Service, I will uphold and abide by this Student Code of Conduct and the NASW Code of Ethics. In addition, students are expected to be familiar with and abide by any applicable state codes of conduct. By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand this document. If I do not abide by the above standards, the Worden Student Code of Conduct Policy will be followed; this policy can be found in the BSW & MSW Student Handbooks, as well as the BSW & MSW Field Manuals.

Student Signature

Date

Printed Student Name

Student ID