

Ethical Principles / Guidelines for UA Social Work Students

[Adapted for use by the Social Work Program from the Code of Ethics of the National Association of Social Workers and Code-of-Ethics/Standards of Practice of the State of Arkansas Social Work Licensing Board.]

Basic Conduct/Integrity

- The UA Social Work Student should not participate in, condone, or be associated with dishonesty, fraud, deceit, or misrepresentation.
- The UA Social Work Student should not misrepresent professional qualifications, education, experience, or affiliations.
- The UA Social Work Student should not exploit professional relationships for personal gain.
- The UA Social Work Student should avoid relationships or commitments that conflict with the interests of clients.
- The UA Social Work Student should not exploit relationships with clients for personal advantage.
- The UA Social Work Student should under no circumstances engage in sexual activities with clients.
- The UA Social Work Student should not engage in any action that violates or diminishes the civil or legal rights of clients.
- The UA Social Work Student should use with scrupulous regard, and only for the purpose for which they are intended, the resources of the employing, volunteer or field agency.
- The UA Social Work Student must not provide social work services while under the influence of alcohol, other mind-altering or mood-altering drugs, or physical or psychological illness, which impairs delivery of such services.

Confidentiality

- The UA Social Work Student should respect the privacy of clients and hold in confidence all information obtained in the course of professional service.
- The UA Social Work Student should obtain the client's informed written consent before releasing confidential information except when required by law or judicial order or for the purposes of professional supervision and/or consultation.

Values and Ethics

- The UA Social Work Student should uphold and advance the values, ethics, knowledge, and mission of the profession.
- The UA Social Work Student should take action through appropriate channels against unethical conduct by any other member of the profession.

Nondiscrimination, Respect for Diversity, Social Justice

- The UA Social Work Student should not practice, condone, facilitate or collaborate with any form of discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, marital status, political belief, mental or physical handicap, or any other preference or personal characteristic, condition or status.
- The UA Social Work Student should act to prevent and eliminate discrimination against any person or group on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, age, religion, national origin, marital status, political belief, mental or physical handicap, or any other preference or personal characteristic, condition or status.
- The UA Social Work Student should act to expand choice and opportunity for all persons, with special regard for disadvantaged or oppressed groups and persons.
- The UA Social Work Student should promote conditions that encourage respect for the diversity of cultures which constitute society.
- The UA Social Work Student should advocate changes in policy and legislation to improve social conditions and to promote social justice.
- The UA Social Work Student should encourage informed participation by the public in shaping social policies and institutions.

Responsibilities to Clients, Colleagues and the Profession

- The UA Social Work Student should regard as primary the service obligation of the social work profession.
- The UA Social Work Student should serve clients with devotion, loyalty, determination, and the maximum application of professional skill and competence.
- The UA Social Work Student should seek advice and counsel of colleagues and supervisors whenever such consultation is in the best interest of clients.
- The UA Social Work Student should treat colleagues with respect, courtesy, fairness, and good faith.
- The UA Social Work Student should not exploit a dispute between a colleague and employers to obtain a position or otherwise advance the student's interest.
- The UA Social Work Student should extend to colleagues of other professions the same respect and cooperation that is extended to social work colleagues.
- The UA Social Work Student who anticipates the termination or interruption of service to clients should notify clients promptly and seek the transfer, referral, or continuation of service in relation to the clients' needs and preferences.

- The UA Social Work Student should protect and enhance the dignity and integrity of the profession and should be responsible and vigorous in discussion and criticism of the profession.
- The UA Social Work Student should take responsibility for identifying, developing, fully utilizing and keeping current with knowledge for professional practice.

Research and Scholarship

- The UA Social Work Student engaged in study and research should be guided by the conventions of scholarly inquiry.
- The UA Social Work Student engaged in research should consider carefully its possible consequences for human beings.
- The UA Social Work Student engaged in research should ascertain that the consent of participants in the research is voluntary and informed, without any implied deprivation or penalty for refusal to participate and with due regard for participants' privacy and dignity.
- The UA Social Work Student engaged in research should protect participants from unwarranted physical or mental discomfort, distress, harm, danger, or deprivation.
- The UA Social Work Student who engages in the evaluation of services or cases should discuss them only for the professional purposes and only with persons directly and professionally concerned with them.
- Information obtained about participants in research should be treated as confidential.
- The UA Social Work Student should take credit only for work actually done in connection with scholarly and research endeavors and credit contributions made by others.

My signature below acknowledges that I have read, understand and agree to abide by the Ethical Principles/Guidelines for UA Social Work Students and the NASW Code of Ethics.

Signature _____ Date _____