

Applicant's Name: _____

Standards of Professional and Ethical Behavior

Applicant Signature and Acknowledgement Form

School of Social Work at Arizona State University

Please carefully read the policy statements below. Applicants are required to acknowledge these statements by signing their name at the end of this document. This document will become part of your permanent student record. By signing this document, you are indicating your willingness to follow these policies, as well as the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics, at the Arizona State University School of Social Work (ASU-SSW) upon admission, during, and after your program of study at any level of the curriculum (B.S.W., M.S.W., or Ph.D.).

Statement of the ASU-SSW Values

Attainment of professional identity and skill as a social worker is a multifaceted process. Students are expected to participate centrally and meaningfully in the wide array of educational activities and to apply professional standards within all requirements of the ASU-SSW curriculum.

At the ASU-SSW, we value and respect every member of our community. This community is made up of individuals from both sexes, all races and ages, many ethnic groups, nationalities, and religions, representing a wide range of physical and mental abilities, gender identities and expressions, and heterosexual, bisexual, gay male and lesbian sexual orientations. The ASU-SSW is proud to affirm its commitment to a community in which all students, staff, and faculty are accepted and perceived as individuals, independent of ancestry, social background, physical characteristics, or personal beliefs.

Primary Goal of the ASU-SSW

The primary goal of the ASU-SSW is to educate social work students during their transition to a professional life. The ASU-SSW has an obligation to evaluate students pursuing the B.S.W., M.S.W., and Ph.D. degrees as thoroughly as possible for their cognitive abilities, their academic and professional knowledge and skills, their integrity, and their suitability for the practice of social work.

Accordingly, the Standards of Professional and Ethical Behavior detailed in this document have been developed to guide the behavior of **professional degree-seeking** students of the ASU-SSW and to prepare the social work student to meet the ethical standards of the social work profession.

Professional Integrity and Competencies

Social work students must acquire competencies in professional concepts, knowledge, and skills which the faculty determines to be essential. These competencies shall be utilized to care for the disenfranchised and to promote the health and welfare of society. Social work students shall recognize a responsibility to participate in activities contributing to an improved community.

The social work student is expected to be thoughtful and professional when interacting with faculty, other students, and colleagues in field practicum placements. This expectation extends to other members of the community whenever the student's behavior may influence the perception of others about the profession of social work or ASU-SSW.

The social work student shall be willing to admit errors and take appropriate corrective action. He/she must not mislead others regarding social work practices or studies, or promote himself/herself at the expense of the field agencies or persons being served. This includes any public statements made in person or any other electronic medium (i.e. email or the Internet).

It is unethical and harmful for a social work student to disparage, without sufficient evidence, the professional competence, knowledge, qualifications, or services of a colleague (including instructors) to anyone. It is also unethical to imply without reliable evidence – by word, gesture, or deed – that a client is being mistreated by a colleague or agency. If the student believes he/she has evidence of conduct in violation of the NASW Code of Ethics, the student should consult with superiors at the agency, NASW, or ASU-SSW to facilitate appropriate reporting or intervention.

Professional relations among all members of the social work community shall be governed by respect and civility. Each student shall recognize and facilitate the contributions of others in the ASU-SSW community; slanderous comments and acts are not acceptable. Social work students shall interact with other social work professionals, staff, and community members in a considerate manner and with a spirit of cooperation.

Academic Dishonesty

Examples of academic dishonesty include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Plagiarism: the use by paraphrase or direct quotation of the published or unpublished work of another person without fully and properly crediting the author with footnotes, citations or bibliographical reference; unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials; or unacknowledged use of original work/material that has been produced through collaboration with others without release in writing from collaborators.
2. Use of any unauthorized assistance in taking quizzes, tests, or examinations;
3. Dependence upon the aid of unauthorized sources in writing papers, preparing reports, solving problems, or carrying out other assignments;

4. Acquisition or possession without permission of tests or other academic material belonging to a member of the University faculty or staff;
5. In any way giving assistance to others who are participating in any of the three preceding types of behavior; or
6. Falsifying attendance records or other official documents.

Assessment of Personal Competence (Self-Evaluation)

Social work students shall seek consultation and supervision whenever their ability to care for the client or provide adequate services to the field placement agency is inadequate because of lack of knowledge or experience.

Students are expected to respond to constructive feedback by appropriate modification of behavior.

It is unacceptable for a social work student to provide any form of therapy or counseling without supervision.

Impairment

The social work student will not use alcohol or drugs in ways that impair his/her ability to perform the work of the profession, or that results in compromised client care.

It is the responsibility of every social work student to strive to protect the public from an impaired colleague and to assist that colleague whose capability is impaired because of alcohol or drug use.

“By signing this document, I am stating my willingness to follow these policies, as well as the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics, at the Arizona State University School of Social Work (ASU-SSW) upon admission, during, and after my program of study at any level of the curriculum (B.S.W., M.S.W., or Ph.D.) at the ASU-SSW.”

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Date _____