

MAJOR PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS' CODE OF ETHICS

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK | UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

Academic Performance and Conduct Which May Result in a Review and Possible Dismissal from the UW Tacoma MSW Program

Students may be terminated from the UW Tacoma MSW Program for any of the following:

1. Failure to meet or maintain academic grade-point requirements as established by the University of Washington and the UW Tacoma MSW Program. (This is automatic and may take place without a review or further procedure.)
2. Academic cheating, lying, or plagiarism.
3. Behavior judged to be in violation of the NASW Code of Ethics or unprofessional conduct as specified by RCW 18.130.180 Unprofessional Conduct set down in the Regulation of Health Professions—Uniform Disciplinary Act (below).
4. Documented evidence of conviction of a criminal act occurring during the course of study, or which occurred prior to admission to the UW Tacoma MSW program and became known after admission.
5. Failure to meet the Essential Skills, Values and Standards of Professional Conduct for Admission to and Continuance in the School of Social Work.

Washington State RCW 18.130.180 – Unprofessional Conduct

The text of this law is available online at www.leg.wa.gov/RCW and is also available in the UW Tacoma MSW Program manual.

Other Important Policies

The UW Tacoma MSW Program is an academic community dedicated to the ideals of social justice. As part of that commitment, the program is working to ensure that it is an environment in which discriminatory and harassing behavior does not occur to any person nor property, based upon race, color, religion, sexual orientation, political orientation, gender, disability or national origin. Procedures exist within the program and the University for preventing and eliminating harassing and discriminatory behavior.

University of Washington Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment

Sex discrimination in the form of sexual harassment, defined as the use of one's authority and power, either explicitly or implicitly, to coerce another into sexual relations or to punish another for his/her refusal, or as the creation by a member of the University Community of an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or educational environment through verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature, shall be a violation of the University of Washington human rights policy (UW Handbook, Vol. IV).

University of Washington Policy Against Discrimination

The University of Washington, as a standing policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, or status as a disabled veteran or Vietnam-era veteran. Any discriminatory action can be a cause for disciplinary action. This policy applies to all University programs and facilities, including, but not limited to, admissions, educational programs, employment, and patient and hospital services. Such discrimination is prohibited by Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Age Discrimination in Employment Act Amendments of 1978, Vietnam-Era Veterans' Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, other federal and state statutes and regulations, and University policy. Coordination of the compliance efforts of the University of Washington with respect to all of these laws and regulations is under the direction of the Director for Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, Torrey Tiburzi, University of Washington Equal Opportunity Office, Box 351240, 231 Gerberding Hall, Seattle, WA 98195, 206-543-1830 or eoaa@uw.edu.

MAJOR PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS' CODE OF ETHICS

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK | UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON TACOMA

The NASW is the major professional organization for social workers. The following is an outline of the major principles of the NASW Code of Ethics to which students in the UW Tacoma MSW Program are also expected to adhere.

I. The Social Worker's Conduct and Comportment as a Social Worker

- A. Propriety – The social worker should maintain high standards of personal conduct in the capacity or identity as a social worker.
- B. Competence and Professional Development – The social worker should strive to become and remain proficient in professional practice and the performance of professional functions.
- C. Service – The social worker should regard as primary the service obligation of the social work profession.
- D. Integrity – The social worker should act in accordance with the highest standards of professional integrity.
- E. Scholarship and Research – The social worker engaged in study and research should be guided by the conventions of scholarly inquiry.

II. The Social Worker's Ethical Responsibility to Clients

- F. Primacy of Client's Interests – The social worker's primary responsibility is to clients.
- G. Rights and Prerogatives of Clients – The social worker should make every effort to foster maximum self-determination on the part of the clients.
- H. Confidentiality and Privacy – The social worker should respect the privacy of clients and hold in confidence all information obtained in the course of professional service.
- I. Fees – When setting fees, the social worker should ensure that they are fair, reasonable, considerate, and commensurate with the service performed and with due regard for the clients' ability to pay.

III. The Social Worker's Ethical Responsibility to Colleagues

- J. Respect, Fairness, and Courtesy – The social worker should treat colleagues with respect, courtesy, fairness, and good faith.
- K. Dealing with Colleagues' Clients – The social worker has the responsibility to relate to the clients of colleagues with full professional consideration.

IV. The Social Worker's Ethical Responsibility to Employers and Employing Organizations

- L. Commitments to Employing Organizations – The social worker should adhere to commitments made to the employing organization.

V. The Social Worker's Ethical Responsibility to the Social Work Profession

- M. Maintaining the Integrity of the Profession – The social worker should uphold and advance the values, ethics, knowledge, and mission of the profession.
- N. Community Service – The social worker should assist the profession in making social services available to the general public.
- O. Development of Knowledge – The social worker should take responsibility for identifying, developing, and fully utilizing knowledge for professional practice.

VI. The Social Worker's Ethical Responsibility to Society

- P. Promoting the General Welfare – The social worker should promote the general welfare of society.

PLEASE NOTE: The complete text of the NASW's Code of Ethics is available in the UW Tacoma Library or by writing the national office at NASW, Att: Publication Sales, 7981 Eastern Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910.